

# Minutes



To: All Members of the Health Scrutiny Committee, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services  
Ask for: Fiona Corcoran  
Ext: 25560

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## HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 12 NOVEMBER 2015

### MINUTES

#### ATTENDANCE

#### MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

#### COUNTY COUNCILLORS

J R Barfoot, R H Beeching, D Hart, D J Hewitt, S L C Johnston, L Kercher, S Quilty (Chairman), R G Tindall, C J White

#### DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

J Green (North Herts), B Gibbard (St Albans), F Guest (Dacorum), K Hastrick (Watford), G Nicholson (Broxbourne), N Symonds (East Herts), F Thomson (Welwyn Hatfield)

#### CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was noted that G Silver had stood down as a Member of the Committee and a representative from Hertsmere would be appointed in due course.

#### MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1 October 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### PUBLIC PETITIONS (Standing Order C11)

None

#### CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

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**PART 1 ('OPEN') BUSINESS**

ACTION

**1. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE LANDSCAPE**

[Officer Contact: Iain MacBeath, Director, Health & Community Services Tel: 01992 556363]

- 1.1 The Committee received a presentation (see following link [Health Scrutiny Committee Papers 12 November 2015](#)), including a video from the King's Fund, which provided a summary of the Health and Social Care Landscape which the County Council works within. The presentation highlighted changes to the health and social care commissioning landscape since the implementation of the Lansley reforms, the impact of the Better Care Fund and an outline of how the County Council were currently working to improve services.
- 1.2 With regard to the Better Care Fund and pooled monies, the Committee heard that Hertfordshire had chosen to pool a greater amount of funds than was required and therefore had one of the biggest Better Care Funds in the country. The Committee also noted that integration projects were mostly aimed at older people and people with long term conditions.
- 1.3 Members welcomed the clear overview provided in the King's Fund video.
- 1.4 Members highlighted potential problems such as bed shortages that could arise if patients were not able to leave hospital despite being clinically ready, particularly in winter. It was noted that the 'home from hospitals' service, providing support and care to people returning home from hospital had been piloted for a year and would continue in future. There was discussion of carer recruitment and it was noted that officers were aware of key factors such as salary and career progression.
- 1.5 In response to a question from a Member about home adaptations and equipment, the Committee noted that officers were working to improve speed of response and ensure there were sufficient staff and vans. The importance of beginning assessment of patients as soon as they arrived in hospital rather than starting this process when they were ready to be discharged was highlighted.
- 1.6 The Committee welcomed the work being carried out across a

**CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS**

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wide range of services and officers agreed to return to the Committee with a further update in 2016.

I MacBeath

### **Conclusions**

1.7 The Committee noted the report.

## **2. WEST HERTFORDSHIRE STRATEGIC REVIEW**

[Officer Contact: Charles Weir, Scrutiny Officer  
Tel: 01438 843630]

2.1 The Committee was provided with a presentation from David Radbourne, Herts Valleys CCG and Dr Richard Pile, Member of CCG Board (see following link: [Health Scrutiny Committee Papers 12 November 2015](#)) and a report providing an update on the West Hertfordshire Strategic Review and the following papers:

- *Improving health and social care in West Hertfordshire – A new vision for the future*
- *Working together for a healthier West Hertfordshire – The case for change*

2.2 The importance of prevention was emphasised and the Committee noted that there was public support for this approach. The impact of factors like education, housing, employment on health and wellbeing was highlighted and the need for more education in schools about health and wellbeing was noted.

2.3 The area of mental health was highlighted by Members and it was noted that the CCG had invested in advice and support in this area but financial challenges were a consideration. It was noted that it was essential to ensure people were always provided with the appropriate information and contacts to obtain a referral.

2.4 In discussion of communications and signposting, it was noted that there were plans to build a community navigator approach. Members raised the issue of NHS and other information systems not being able to share data and noted that a shared care record was part of the plan but there was still detailed work to be completed in this area.

2.5 In response to questions from Members, it was noted that the vision presented would share some aspects with plans for the other CCGs in the county but each area would have specific

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priorities. Members heard that nationally the transformation funding came from NHS England.

- 2.6 With regard to acute care, the Committee heard that modelling was being carried out on the following three options:
- New build on a new site
  - Redevelopment across Watford and St. Albans
  - Redevelopment of Watford

2.7 There was discussion of the potential demands on unpaid carers and the importance of ensuring they were considered in the plans.

2.8 Members commented on the need for more standardisation and consistency in names for services across the county, for example, Rapid Response/Home First.

### 2.9 **Conclusions**

The Committee noted the report and agreed for Herts Valleys CCG to return to update the committee in the new year.

C Weir

### 3. **PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL TRUST**

[Officer Contact: Charles Weir, Scrutiny Officer  
Tel: 01438 843630]

3.1 The Committee received a report providing an update on the service currently provided by Princess Alexandra Hospital and plans for the future. Marc Davis, Director of Pathways and Partnerships presented the update to the Committee.

- 3.2 Some of the key challenges for the hospital trust were highlighted, such as:
- Increase in numbers seeking emergency care in Harlow (due to change in emergency provision at QE2 and Chase Farm.)
  - The emergency (not profitable) side of the business is growing at the expense of the market share of the non-emergency surgery which is profitable.
  - Workforce challenges due to proximity to London and shortage of qualified professionals
  - Age of the estate and legacy of modular/'temporary' builds
  - Expected increase in births in the area

3.3 The Committee heard that the hospital trust's purpose was to sustain care and provide necessary services in the area and

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their view would be that investing in the existing site would not be the right choice.

3.4 Members highlighted the importance of ensuring Broxbourne residents had access to services locally especially taking into account the reduction in services at Chase Farm.

3.5 With regard to the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection report, Members heard that there would be Member and Officers representation to observe the Hertfordshire at the Essex County Council Health Scrutiny Committee meeting when the report is considered and feedback on this would be provided to the Committee in due course.

C Weir/S Quilty

3.6 It was noted that the Committee welcomed the proposal for a new local hospital to serve the population of West Essex and East Hertfordshire as outlined in paragraph 3 of the report.

3.7 It was suggested that a joint scrutiny topic group, involving Members from Essex and Hertfordshire be set up to review plans and work being carried out to ensure improvements in response to the CQC report.

C Weir

3.8 Members raised the question of reputational challenges and it was noted that as a trust there was a need to improve communications highlighting areas of excellence and promoting successes.

### **Conclusions**

3.9 The Committee agreed to note the report.

## **4. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2015-2016/17** [Officer Contact: Charles Weir, Scrutiny Officer] Tel: 01438 843630]

4.1 Members were asked to consider the Committee's Work Programme for the period 2015/16. Attention was drawn to the following

4.2 Members agreed that scrutiny of dentistry and opticians be added to the Work Programme.

F Corcoran

4.3 It was noted that the WHHT CQC Monitoring scrutiny topic group were due to meet on 15 December 2015.

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**Conclusions**

4.4 The Committee's Work Programme was noted.

**PART II ('CLOSED') BUSINESS**

There were no items of Part II (Confidential) business.

**Kathryn Pettitt**  
**Chief Legal Officer**

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