

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

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE THURSDAY 19 MAY 2016

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

J R Barfoot, S A Batson, R H Beeching, F Button (substituting for D Hart), D J Hewitt, S L C Johnston, L Kercher, S Quilty (Chairman), R G Tindall, C J White

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A Alder (East Herts), S Deakin-Davies (substituting for J Green (North Herts), K Hastrick (Watford), D Lambert (Hertsmere), J Maddern substituting for F Guest (Dacorum), M McKay (Stevenage), G Nicholson (Broxbourne), A Scarth (Three Rivers), F Thomson (Welwyn Hatfield)

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed new Members of the Committee Angela Alder and Alison Scarth and noted apologies from Brian Gibbard.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 and 31 March 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC PETITIONS (Standing Order C11)

None

PART 1 ('OPEN') BUSINESS

| ACTION

1. HEALTH ORGANISATION RESPONSES TO THE

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INFORMATION REQUESTS RESULTING FROM THE HSC BUDGET AND QUALITY OF CARE SCRUTINY CAFE

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

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| 1.1 | The Committee received a report providing the Committee with the responses to its requests for additional information arising from the Health Organisations' Budgets and Quality of Care Scrutiny. | |
| 1.2 | With regard to the responses from the East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST), Members requested that at least one year of past data and data from statistical neighbours be provided in addition to current data in order to provide context and allow comparison. | C Weir |
| 1.3 | With regard to paragraph 1 under question 9 of the paper submitted by EEAST (Appendix 1a of the report), it was agreed that officers would request the new communications and engagement strategy, due to be published in July 2016, be circulated to the Committee. The Committee also requested an update on the discussions with CCGs about the capacity gap referred to in paragraph 2 under question 24 on page 5 of the EEAST submission. | C Weir
C Weir |
| 1.4 | It was agreed that the deadline for responses would be set earlier next year in order to allow time to collate and format the responses so that they can be navigated and compared more easily. | C Weir |
| 1.5 | Members discussed the fact that some budget information had been deemed to be confidential by particular Health Organisations due to an ongoing tendering process. Members felt that it should have been possible to present some level of detail, even if that was not the most detailed information. Officers agreed to check what data was in the public domain. | C Weir |
| 1.6 | Members highlighted the need to focus on specific need in different areas rather than providing answers for Hertfordshire as a whole. Officers agreed to report this feedback to the EEAST. | C Weir |
| 1.7 | It was agreed that officers would ask EEAST why the elderly had not been included in the list of stakeholders provided. | C Weir |
| 1.8 | With reference to paragraph 3 under question 4 of the EEAST submission (Appendix 1a of the report), it was agreed that officers would ask the reason for the lack of alignment in current systems with the GPs and acute hospitals and request further information on what could be done in this area. | C Weir |

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| 1.9 | In general discussion, Members highlighted the significant amount of money spent on temporary staff and the introduction of the agency rate cap. It was highlighted that the submission from West Herts Hospital Trust (WHHT) did not include the number of temporary bank staff. Officers agreed to request an update on the current situation regarding temporary staff and a further update in 6 months to be provided to the committee. | C Weir |
| 1.10 | With regard to the submission from Herts Urgent Care (HUC), Officers agreed to find out why the JSNA was not being used and the number of successful triage call outs and referrals to hospital. | C Weir |
| 1.11 | In relation to the response to information requests from Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG), it was agreed that officers would request an update on the target that discharge summaries to GPs (from WHHT) would all be electronic by the end of June 2016. It was also agreed that officers would establish whether the target for implementation of the new service to commission a GP at the front of the A&E department at Watford Hospital by June 2016 (page 6, under question 4) had been met. | C Weir |
| 1.12 | With regard to the response submitted by Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust (HPFT) (Appendix 1e and 1f of the report), Members asked officers to request an update to include more detailed information. | C Weir |
| 1.13 | It was agreed that the Committee would be provided with further information on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). | C Weir |
| 1.14 | In reference to the East and North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group's (ENHCCG) submission (Appendix 1g, page 2, under question 6), Members requested an update regarding concerns around cuts to pharmacies. | C Weir |
| 1.15 | The inclusion of Domestic Violence in the submission from ENHCCG was welcomed and a Member of the Committee suggested this be included in the questions for both CCGs in future. | |
| 1.16 | Officers agreed to seek further information on the fines imposed on the ambulance trust for delays and the cost of back office resource needed to process the costs for each call and how often the list of charges is updated. | C Weir |
| 1.17 | With regard to mobilising GP triaging, officers agreed to provide an update to the Committee in 6 months. | C Weir |

Conclusions

1.18 The Committee noted the responses to the information requests made as a result of its scrutiny of the Health Budgets and Quality of Care 2016.

2. **WEST HERTFORSHIRE HOSPITALS TRUST (WHHT): ONE YEAR ON FROM THE CQC INSPECTION**

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

2.1 The Committee was provided with a progress report and a powerpoint presentation (appendix 1 and 2 of the report) that provided an update on the changes that had been implemented over the last year since the CQC inspection.

2.2 The Committee welcomed the update and commended the areas of improvement, positive news and the openness of trust representatives. The good quality of care being provided at WHHT was also noted by Members.

2.3 With regard to delayed transfer of care (DETOC), Members noted that there was a need for continued work in that area and highlighted that a topic group on the subject of supported discharge was on the scrutiny work programme and it would be important to focus on making the work of the topic group as meaningful and helpful as possible to all involved.

2.4 Members discussed staffing and noted the background situation where a significant number of nursing staff had left the trust in 2014 but no recruitment drive had been put in place at that time so nurses were replaced by agency staff, which had caused concern to the CQC.

2.5 With regard to the fact that the amount of investment that would be needed at the Watford Hospital site to put it right would be £100million and that 80% of the hospital sight is considered poor/unacceptable, Members enquired about plans regarding estates. It was noted that the lead time for a new hospital was around 10 years and that investment in the upkeep of the estate had not been made in the past.

2.6 Officers agreed to provide further information on the 'Health Campus' to the committee.

C Weir

2.7 Members highlighted the impact of difficulties in care homes to remain profitable and challenges around recruiting care workers on the hospital trust.

2.8 Officers agreed to liaise with colleagues at WHHT in order to explore the potential of a site visit for Members to the dementia unit.

C Weir

- 2.9 The Committee noted that the CQC Report monitoring of WHHT scrutiny topic group was due to meet on 27 May and would report back to the Committee in the Autumn following on from its summary meeting.

Conclusions

- 2.10 The Committee noted the report and agreed that the Chairman write a letter to the relevant minister on behalf of the Committee to express concern regarding the 50% reduction in central government funding for West Herts Hospital Trust.

3. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

- 3.1 The Committee considered its work programme 2016 – 2017 noting those scrutinies recently concluded and those scheduled for the forthcoming period.

- 3.2 The work programme considered at the meeting reflected the decision made by the Committee as to those scrutinies that remained on the work programme and those that would be removed. There were no scrutinies removed from the work programme at this meeting of the Committee.

Conclusions

- 3.3 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