

At a meeting of the HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 13th OCTOBER, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Walker in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, A. Hall, Maddison, Old, Padgett, Shattock, D. Smith and Snowdon and Mr. Alan Patchett.

Also in Attendance:-

Councillor Tate	-	Chairman of Management Scrutiny Committee
Bev Atkinson	-	South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust
Gordon Booth	-	South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust
Karen Brown	-	Sunderland City Council
Val Elsy	-	South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust
Carol Harries	-	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
Brent Kilmurray	-	South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust
Lorraine Lambert	-	South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust
Helen Ray	-	South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust
Joanne Stewart	-	Sunderland City Council
Ken Wild	-	Northumbria Tyne and Wear NHS Trust
Carron Yeouart	-	Northumbria Tyne and Wear NHS Trust

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Chamberlin and N. Wright.

Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 15th September, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15th September, 2010 be confirmed and signed as correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Transforming Community Services

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) informing the Committee about how the transition on Transforming Community Services would take place and allowing Members the chance to discuss the change in management arrangements.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Lorraine Lambert, Chief Executive South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, and her colleagues to the Committee and invited them to present the report.

Ms. Lambert thanked the Committee for giving them the opportunity to attend and discuss the ongoing changes with regards to management arrangements and the impact this would have on service provision in Sunderland.

She advised that the Government had launched the Transforming Community Services programme in 2009 which confirmed that all PCT's should increase the separation between commissioning and providing parts of the organisation which the NHS White Paper had then gone on to strengthen by giving the responsibility of purchasing services to GP's.

The new model of partnership working would take up its role overall from 1st April, 2010 and partners were working hard to ensure that from that date access would be available to the same services needed and that every opportunity to make improvements in how services are provided were embedded. Partners were aware that this was a big transaction to be going through but were confident they could achieve service continuity and improvement by working closely together.

Councillor Shattock commented that the services to be affected were extremely important and it was imperative that the patient did not notice any changes in the service they received. She asked how teams would work in the future model and whether they would be working in different locations or over a number of sites? Ms. Lambert advised that they anticipated that from 1st April, 2011 there would be no change to where patients were treated or accessed services as the changes would be to the leadership management and not to service provision. Patients would continue to receive exactly the same package of care but they would be being asked for their suggestions as to how anything may be improved.

Ms. Bev Atkinson, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, commented that it would be a struggle to ensure that relationships built by each of the three organisations would not be lost when combined into one. The change would offer huge opportunities as the shift was on how to keep patients out of hospitals and in their own homes and if the service provision could support a move towards that it could only be an improvement.

Councillor Hall welcomed the sense of optimism shown but commented that there was sure to be difficulties or problems during the transition. Ms. Lambert advised that they would be leading the process and had found that the biggest difficulty they faced was in the short term as they needed to ensure that everyone involved fully

understood the changes that were to be implemented, when and why it was happening and how as a service user they should continue to experience business as usual.

Mr. Patchett asked if there would be consultation undertaken with the District Nurses as to how they operate and any concerns they may have and Ms. Lambert advised that they were being involved as part of the service review which was being undertaken, which was a huge consultation process as part of the next stage of the process. They would also be consulted on how to best make sure that their patients continue to have the same level of care to ensure there was an obvious level of continuity in services being provided across Sunderland which had never been in place in the past to help in standardising the role.

In response to a question from Councillor Old regarding any financial impact the changes may have Ms. Lambert advised that there would be no financial savings made as part of this process and it was simply to improve the leadership management. The NHS faced making significant changes in the near future as further pressures were placed on the revenue available to them and there was a need to look at how services could be provided more efficiently in a similar way to the process Local Authorities were going through.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for attending the Committee and wished them a smooth transition, and it was :-

2. RESOLVED that the information about the model of care and the development of the services in the future be received and noted.

Environmental Improvements to Wearmouth View, Monkwearmouth Hospital

The Chief Executive, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust submitted a report (copy circulated) to advise Members on the environmental improvements that were to be made to Wearmouth View at Monkwearmouth Hospital.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Ken Wild, Divisional Manager Older People's Services and Ms. Carron Yeouart, Service Manager, Older People's Services presented the report and informed Members that as part of a programme of upgrading patient environments the Trust were about to embark on a refurbishment programme that would deliver an improved environment for people using the service. As the work was to be very disruptive, experience had shown that decanting current patients to another ward area was the best approach, which would mean that eight patients had agreed to move to Palmer Hospital, Jarrow for a period of up to six months and Members of the Committee were more than welcome to visit either site.

Councillor Shattock raised her concerns at moving patients to Jarrow and asked why that site had been agreed and if there had been any complaints from carers, as it would inevitably mean them having to travel significantly further. Mr. Wild appreciated the concerns raised and advised that the site at Jarrow had been

chosen as it had the relevant facilities available for the patients and that carers had been fully involved in any discussions around the options available. Ms. Yeouart advised that there was a very good Ward Manager at the Wearmouth Site who has good relationships with all of the patients and carers and would have been informed of any concerns either had. The Ward Manager had spoken with individual carers and patients and had no concerns to share on their behalf.

When asked if carers would be given help with travel arrangements to visit Jarrow, Mr. Wild advised that each case would be reviewed on an individual basis.

In response to a query from Councillor Padgett regarding the Monkwearmouth Site providing a lower level of service over the next six months, Ms. Yeouart advised that the Palmer Hospital was a similar type of facility to that of Wearmouth View and that the patients would continue to receive the same level of care. The move was a positive thing as initially they would move the skill mix so that it would remain the same for each hospital to manage.

Councillor Walker asked what the improvements to Wearmouth View would entail and was advised that the work was expected to take three to four months and consisted of removing a large forecourt that was in the middle of the ward to enable those with more complex needs or who were more frail, to have less restrictions to their mobility around the ward.

In response to Councillor Shattock's question around staff movements, Ms. Yeouart advised that as well as the Ward Manager going to Jarrow, there would also be seven members of staff going who were of mixed skill base, both qualified and unqualified, to help in providing a continuity of service to the patients.

Mr. Patchett asked if, upon completion of the works the ward would remain a 16 bed ward and was advised that that was the intention.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Wild and Ms. Yeouart for their report it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the Committee support the positive improvements being made to Wearmouth View in line with the modernising environments across Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust.

Equity and Excellence : Liberating the NHS White Paper – Update Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide members with an update in relation to the 'Equity and Excellence in Health, liberating the NHS white paper' and its associated consultation papers.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Brown, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report, advising that the consultation responses endorsed at the Scrutiny Committee held on 15 September, 2010 had been submitted to the North East Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee on 16 September, 2010 and the collective regional scrutiny response was attached as an

annex to the report for Members information. Ms. Brown took Members through the key points identified in the collective response.

She advised Members that this Committee had been represented at a CfPS meeting of Health Scrutiny Chairs and Scrutiny Officers held on 20th September, 2010 in London where the discussion had focussed on 'How might transparency and accountability be achieved in the Health White Paper proposals?' The event had provided useful discussion to inform the next steps for HOSCs in responding to the consultation and interpreting those consultation responses and taking part in the implementation of specialist aspects of the reforms.

Councillor Shattock thanked Ms. Brown for the rundown of the collective response and commented that she was in favour of the wording of the document. It stressed the importance of Elected Members continuing to be involved in the scrutiny of health and wellbeing.

In relation to a query from Councillor Smith regarding the GP Consortia, Ms. Brown advised that discussions would need to start early on around how they would be set up and held accountable. Relationships would need to be set between the Consortia and the relevant committee or forum to ensure they were scrutinised and held fully accountable.

Having thanked Ms. Brown for attending the CfPS meeting of Health Scrutiny Chairs on behalf of the Committee, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the Committee noted the update report and further updates on the white paper developments be submitted to the Committee as and when necessary.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st October, 2010 – 31st January, 2011

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1st October, 2010 – 31st January, 2011.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Old requested further information on Item number 01436 – To agree for the Council to assist with and facilitate the transfer of NTW's learning disability homes to a registered Social Landlord.

A briefing had been circulated to Members since the last meeting on the issue of Personalised Budgets and Councillor Shattock requested that this be a future item on the agenda.

5. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted and additional information be provided to Members.

Annual Work Programme 2010 - 11

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) for the Committee to receive an updated work programme for the 2010-11 Council year.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

6. RESOLVED that the Committee note the updated work programme.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and support.

(Signed) P. WALKER,
Chairman.