

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4th December 2009 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Mrs Field (Chairman), Dr Bloom, Mr Coleman, Mrs Knight, Mrs Mills, Mr A.R.H Smith, Mrs Waight, Dr Walsh, Mrs Whitehead (WSCC), Cllr Gilroy (Crawley Borough Council), Cllr Hotton (Adur District Council), Cllr Mrs Landriani (Mid Sussex District Council), Cllr Dr Skipp (Horsham District Council), Mr Davies, Dr King and Miss Smith (LINK).

Apologies for absence were received from: Mrs Bennett (WSCC) Cllr Ms Bradley (Worthing Borough Council), Cllr Mrs Smee (Arun District Council).

Declarations of Interest

106. In accordance with the code of conduct, Dr Bloom declared the following personal interest as a part time salaried GP in Crawley. His wife is also an employee of NHS West Sussex.

Minutes

107. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2009 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) on Fit for the Future (FFF)

108. The Chairman reported that six resolutions had been agreed at the meeting of the JHOSC on 2nd December which would be encapsulated in a press release. NHS West Sussex had set aside all its Fit for the Future decisions, and JHOSC had fulfilled its role and was now dissolved. The Chairman reported that any proposals for changes in the provision of services for inpatient paediatrics at Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust or elsewhere across the county, would be scrutinised by the West Sussex HOSC. The Chairman thanked members and health organisations for their roles and input to the JHOSC.

West Sussex Strategic Commissioning Plan (SCP)

109. The Committee received a report by the Head of Policy and Democratic Services and a presentation by NHS West Sussex on the NHS West Sussex Strategic Commission Plan Refresh (copies attached to the signed minutes). Key points from the presentation included: -

- The 12 goals of the Strategic Commissioning Plan based on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) had been retained. The health needs of the local population were key indicators and policy drivers hence the overlap between the SCP and JSNA.
- Three possible financial scenarios were reported: no real terms growth, marginal reduction and significant financial shift which could result in a £77 million loss to the NHS locally. Any of the three

scenarios would result in a challenging financial environment for NHS West Sussex.

- NHS West Sussex Board had met recently with the West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) Cabinet. A concordat had been agreed to work together to avoid the risks of cost shunting, to take advantage of opportunities for joint commissioning in children's services and services for older people, and to consider opportunities for pooling budgets.
- There are eight proposed productivity/decommissioning goals. £300 million in savings had been achieved in the north-west through similar interventions. The focus of savings in the north-west was largely on acute services, whereas in South East Coast region the focus will be on 'care pathways'. One of the proposed productivity/decommissioning goals is estates rationalisation to make more efficient use of hospital and GP premises. The aim of the Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) is to secure capital for new buildings. WSSCC is a joint signatory to the LIFT process.
- Partnership working and the relationship between NHS West Sussex and WSSCC is very important, also public engagement, particularly the public's understanding of the challenging financial environment.

110. The Committee discussed the presentation. Members asked questions and made comments, including those that follow: -

- The following issues, recommendations of the previous HOSC task force, should be retained in the SCP:- tackling childhood obesity, stroke patients should receiving a scan in less than 24 hours, access to non-emergency services in rural areas, improvement for mental health services for children and adults along the coastal plain. *Sarah Creamer (Director of Strategy – NHS West Sussex) confirmed that all these issues would continue to be included in the SCP, she was pleased to report on significant improvements in target results for stroke patients.*
- Asked about the latest situation regarding the funding for the East Arun Community Hospital (Littlehampton), particularly how secure financial arrangements (Express LIFT) were if they had not been agreed/signed by the time of the General Election. *Sarah Creamer confirmed that there was cross party commitment to 'Express LIFT and that although she could not categorically confirm that the project would be progressed, she re-assured the Committee that pressure to move the project forward would be kept up.*
- Asked about the policy on locating a Linear Accelerator (LINAC) providing radiotherapy services in West Sussex. *Sarah Creamer advised that the issue of where to locate a LINAC was a complex one. Discussions were being held with relevant NHS Trusts in Brighton, Guildford and Portsmouth. and National Cancer Network guidance would have to be taken into account.*

- Asked about the policy on working with social landlords. *Sarah Creamer advised that a project on this issue was been worked on by the Public Health and Wellbeing team (Judith Wright and Catherine Scott). She agreed to ask them to provide members with further information on this work. **Action Sarah Creamer.***
- Asked about End of Life Care and the choice for West Sussex residents to die at home. *Sarah Creamer confirmed that a work stream was in place and changes were being made which would improve patient choice in the last few hours of life.*
- Expressed concern about the apparent conflict between reducing costs and reducing the risk of Health Care Acquired Infections. *Sarah Creamer advised that cost savings would not be achieved from reducing standards of cleanliness. The cost of treating a patient with infection was significant so the policy was to prevent infection. The emphasis was on quality of care for patients.*

111. Resolved – That ,

- (1) the Committee notes the presentation by NHS West Sussex (at Appendix B), setting out plans to refresh its SCP;
- (2) the Committee agrees to set up a short-term Task Force to consider the SCP refresh in detail and report back to the Committee at its meeting on 21st January, when the Committee's formal response will be agreed;
- (3) Mr Coleman, Dr. Walsh, Mrs Whitehead and Mrs Landriani are appointed to the Task Force;
- (4) the Committee agrees the draft Task Force Terms of Reference set out in para 3.2; and
- (5) the Task Force to take into account any comments on the SCP made by Committee.

Proposed merger of South Downs Health with West Sussex Health NHS Trust

112. The Committee received a report by NHS West Sussex on the integration of West Sussex Health and South Downs Health NHS Trust (copy attached to the signed minutes).

113. Brian Hughes, Assistant Chief Executive – NHS West Sussex introduced the report which set out the process for integration. Members asked questions and made comments, including those that follow: -

- Emphasised the importance of staff working in the place where they have local knowledge of the community, time and money is wasted if staff have to travel long distances to patients. *Andy Painton, (Chief Executive – South Downs Health NHS Trust) advised that it was important that services were embedded in local communities. There*

was potential to make savings in other ways, e.g .reduce administration costs. He advised that there were no plans at present to develop a pan Sussex service.

- Were concerned that there is inequality in service provision across West Sussex – both in terms of health and social care. *Brian Hughes agreed this was a key issue for NHS West Sussex to address in its role as the commissioner as services.*
- Requested that the Committee receive an update report at the appropriate time, to focus on the impact of the changes to community health services on the care of patients. **Action Rosemary Pugh**

114. Resolved – That the Committee notes the report.

Out of Hours Service

115. The Committee received a mid- year report by NHS West Sussex on the General Practitioner Out of Hours Service, (copy attached to the signed minuted).

116. Members asked questions and made comments, including those that follow: -

- Asked about supervision and career stage of additional staff (GP Registrars) enrolled in August 2009. *Ann Smith (Regional Director South Coast - Harmoni) advised that the additional staff had been enrolled as a response to the Swine Flu pandemic. She confirmed that only Registrars who had completed their training were enrolled and that they were supervised.*
- The Committee welcomed the improvements in the service and reported on some positive feedback from the public who have used the service.
- Questioned whether the communication with patients was good enough as there was a perception that patients remain confused by the Out of Hours Service. *Pat Radley Head of Primary Care and Community Contracting & Performance NHS West Sussex, advised that NHS West Sussex were working closely with Harmoni on improving communication. Harmoni would welcome the Committee's comments on its literature and would forward examples for circulation to HOSC.*

Action Harmoni

117. Richard Brown (Surrey and Sussex Local Medical Committee (LMC)) expressed concerns about clinician involvement in the Out of Hours Service and that there was risk of system failure over the Christmas Bank Holidays. *Ann Smith re-assured the Committee that Out of Hours GP staff had regular feedback and contact with lead clinicians. She stated that Harmoni welcomed factual comments from GP staff and encouraged dialogue to discuss issues. Ann Smith was confident that there was sufficient staff to cover the Christmas Break.*

118. The Chairman encouraged Harmoni and the LMC to maintain a dialogue to discuss any differences.

119. The Committee agreed that future Out of Hours Service monitoring reports would be considered by the Business Planning Group (BPG), should any particular issues be identified by the BPG, these would be discussed by the full Committee. All members of the Committee would receive the monitoring reports.

Action Rosemary Pugh

120. Resolved – That the Committee notes the report.

Accountability of Foundation Trusts

121. The Committee received and noted letters sent to the West Sussex County Council appointed Governors of two NHS Foundation Trusts, (copies attached to the signed minutes).

122. The Chairman reported that to date no responses had been received. The Committee agreed that pressure should be kept up to encourage Foundation Trusts to hold their Board meetings in public.

Liaison Member Reports

123. The Committee received a feedback liaison report following a visit by Liaison Members to the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's Harold Kidd Unit.

124. The Committee welcomed the positive feedback report on the visit, however members had noted that a door hook identified as a potential ligature point by the Care Quality Commission in April 2009, had still not been removed.

125. Sarah Creamer agreed to report this to colleagues in the Mental Health Commissioning Team. The Liaison Members for Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (Mrs Knight and Mr Weekes) will also raise this at their next liaison meeting..

Action Sarah Creamer

126. Resolved – That the Committees notes the Liaison Member Report.

Date of Next Meeting

127. The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday 21st January 2010 at County Hall, Chichester. The agenda is likely to include: -

- Presentation on Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Trust's plans to become a Foundation Trust
- Mental Health Service reconfiguration
- North-East Review
- Primary Angioplasty

The meeting ended at 12.40 p.m.

Chairman