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MEETING	SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTH SCRUTINY BOARD
DATE	11 MAY 2006
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS CUTHBERTSON (in the Chair), ASPDEN, FAIRCLOUGH (Substitute for Cllr Nimmo), FRASER, HOPTON and LANCELOTT
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS NIMMO and WILDE

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#### **56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

Councillor Fairclough declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in relation to agenda item 4 (NHS Finances in York and North Yorkshire) as a member of York Hospital Trust.

#### **57. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

#### **58. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the council's public participation scheme.

#### **59. NHS FINANCES IN YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE**

Members examined a report which asked them to consider how to respond to financial problems within local NHS trusts and proposals for financial recovery.

Officers updated that KPMG had been appointed as agents to turn round the Selby and York PCT and to put in place measures to return their finances to balance by the end of the 2006/07 financial year. It was confirmed that a meeting of the PCT Board would be taking place on 24 May when details of the proposed measures would be outlined. It was also confirmed that consultations would be undertaken in the future with partners as difficult decisions would have to be made by the Board.

Mike Proctor, representing the NHS York Hospital Trust, confirmed that the Selby and York PCT had to make a £23m saving this financial year and that the next few weeks would be a critical time. He pointed out that the PCT would be examining various areas including the following

- their duty as a provider to make sure that any alternative provider gave as good clinical care
- their position as a commissioner purchasing services
- one of the major problems for the PCT was that York GP's had a high referral rate to secondary care
- elective work and appropriate thresholds also emergency care. All data would be benchmarked by comparison with other PCT's.

He confirmed that consultations would be undertaken with stakeholders regarding any significant service changes. He stated that York Hospitals future was as a small hospital which he hoped would be as successful but time was required for diversionary schemes to come into force. He made the point that it would not be unreasonable to request the PCT to be represented at the next meeting to outline details of the recovery plan, which he indicated would include a long list of measures, to enable members to choose one or two to possibly scrutinise.

Members made the following points

- Concerns that following publication of the recovery plans that there would be a statutory 3 month consultation period over significant changes which only left the PCT 7 months in which to make the savings
- That 10% of the PCT's total budget had to be found as a saving
- That whatever measures the PCT put in place would have knock on effects for Adult Social Services so there was a need to consult with Partners to try and alleviate those effects
- Need for scrutiny of recovery plan to run alongside the statutory consultation process and consultation with patients, staff, partner agencies and their staff and GP groups.
- Need to include patients families who could be affected with any delays in treatment, in any consultation
- Complications in that the new PCT would have to meet the debts of the old PCT
- That scrutiny did not have to be just topic based and that the Committee should be able to hold bodies to account
- Consideration needed to be given whether to proceed alone or jointly with the North Yorkshire County Council following the meeting with the PCT

Officers confirmed any new scrutiny topic would require registering and that consideration would have to be given to outcomes, consultation

etc. It was pointed out that it would be a learning curve for new members of the Health Scrutiny Committee and that members would require briefing on the new body.

**RESOLVED:** That, delegated authority be given to the Chair and Vice Chair, in consultation with the opposition spokesperson, to register a scrutiny topic relating to the financial recovery plan for the PCT following discussions with the Selby and York PCT.

#### **60. CHAIR'S THANKS**

The Chair thanked Members for their contributions to the Scrutiny Board over the last year, in particular to those Members not continuing on the Board.

COUNCILLOR CUTHBERTSON  
In the Chair

The meeting started at 5.00pm and finished at 6.10pm.