



**Notice of meeting of
Health Scrutiny Committee**

To: Councillors Cuthbertson (Chair), Greenwood, Fraser, Hyman, Kind, Looker, Moore and M Waudby

Date: Monday, 9 October 2006

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: Guildhall

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2006.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Panel's remit can do so. Anyone who wishes to register or requires further information is requested to contact the Democracy Officer on the contact details listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering is 6 October 2006 at 10:00am.

4. Yorkshire Ambulance Service Community Responders Service (Pages 5 - 6)

This report is to inform members about the Community Responders scheme run by Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

5. Update on scrutiny of North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust's Measures to Restore Financial Balance (Pages 7 - 8)

This report is to update members on issues which they may wish to consider as part of their programme of work for scrutiny of the financial recovery plan for North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust.

6. Dental Services In York (Pages 9 - 10)

This report is to inform members about NHS dental provision in York.

7. Health Scrutiny Support Programme (Pages 11 - 14)

This report is to confirm City of York Council's programme for the Health Scrutiny Support Programme

Democracy Officer:

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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	4 SEPTEMBER 2006
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS CUTHBERTSON (CHAIR), KIND, LANCELOTT, Looker, Moore, Nimmo and WILDE (substituting for Cllr Fraser)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS FRASER, GREENWOOD and M WAUDBY
IN ATTENDANCE	DAVID GEDDES (Medical Director, Selby and York PCT) PENNY GOFF (Head of Patient Experience, York Hospitals Trust) HELEN MACKMAN (Carers' Foundation) RICHARD SMITH (Chair, Local Patients' Forum)

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair invited Members to declare at this point any interests they might have in the business on the agenda. The following interests were declared:

- Cllr Moore - a personal, non prejudicial interest in agenda item 5 (Scrutinising SYPCT's Measures to Restore Financial Balance), as a patient of the medical practice in which Dr Geddes was a partner, and also on account of his wife's employment as a practice manager.
- Cllr Kind – a personal, non-prejudicial interest in item 5, as her partner had designed some of the health status measures discussed by Dr Geddes during his presentation.

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee, held on 31 July 2006 and adjourned and reconvened on 2 August 2006, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- a) Cllr Waudby's name to be removed from the list of those present at the meeting on 2 August;
- b) Resolution (ii) of Minute 12 to be amended to read as follows:
"That the Committee give further consideration to the final version of the clinical thresholds guidance 'Commissioning Effective, Efficient and Necessary Pathways of Care' (paragraph 4.2 of the Recovery Plan refers), and how it addresses the relationship between RACAS and practice based commissioning. This may

lead to scrutiny of other issues, including those aspects of the Recovery Plan that relate to Mental Health Services, and their potential impact on these services.”

15. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair reported that John Yates, representing the York Older People’s Assembly, had registered to speak at the meeting under the Council’s Public Participation Scheme, in relation to agenda item 4 (Proposals for the Replacement of Patient and Public Involvement Forums). Mr Yates expressed concern about the proposals outlined in the report, the lack of public consultation on the proposals and the problems generally of ensuring adequate public involvement in health issues. In particular, it would be difficult to ensure that the membership of the new LINKs bodies was both well informed and representative of the local population. He suggested that the non-executive members of the NHS Trust Board, including the Trust’s Older People’s Champions, could play a stronger role in the process.

16. “A STRONGER LOCAL VOICE” – PROPOSALS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORUMS

Members considered a report which invited them to agree a response to the Department of Health (DoH) proposals to replace the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPIFs) with Local Involvement Networks (LINKs). The deadline for responses was 7 September 2006.

The proposals were set out in the DoH document “A Stronger Local Voice”, issued in July 2006, which had been made available via a link to the report on the Council’s website. An extract from this document, outlining those matters on which the DoH were specifically seeking comments from local authorities, was attached as Annex A to the report, together with questions from the DoH. The extract explained the purpose and role of the LINKs and how they would be established and funded. It also provided information on the role of overview and scrutiny committees (OSCs) in the new process. It was noted that LINKs would have the power to refer matters to OSCs and that OSCs would be encouraged in future to focus their attention on the work of commissioners, to ensure that services met the health needs of the local population.

In discussing and agreeing their response, Members received input from the Chair of the York Hospitals Patients’ Forum, the Head of Patient Experience at York Hospitals Trust and the Patients’ Forums Coordinator, who is employed by the Carers’ Federation.

RESOLVED: (i) That the following comments be agreed for incorporation in the response to the proposals in “A Stronger Local Voice”:

- The proposed loss of the statutory power of entry held by the PPIFs is regretted, and it is asked that this be retained by the LINKs.
- The strengthening of the links between patients’ bodies and OSCs is appreciated, but restrictions on

how the OSCs choose to handle their scrutiny reviews would not be acceptable.

- Adequate funding and support must be provided for the establishment and development of LINKs.
- There are concerns about the nature and definition of the “host organisations” intended to develop and run the LINKs and questions as to what the composition, size and control of these bodies will be.
- Further information about the “model contract” for hosting arrangements will be needed before this can be commented on.

(ii) That the Chair prepare a response to the DoH based upon the above comments and circulate it to Committee Members before despatch.

REASON: To ensure that a proper response to the proposals is submitted before the 7 September deadline.

17. SCRUTINISING SELBY AND YORK PRIMARY CARE TRUST’S MEASURES TO RESTORE FINANCIAL BALANCE

Members considered a report which asked them to decide how they wished to gather evidence on those aspects of the Primary Care Trust’s (PCT) financial recovery plan which the Committee had agreed to subject to further scrutiny. These included the clinical thresholds guidance “Commissioning Effective and Efficient Pathways of Care” and how it addressed the relationship between the Referral and Clinical Advice Service (RACAS) and practice-based commissioning (PBC).

Dr David Geddes, Medical Director of the Selby and York PCT, was in attendance to provide information on the functioning of RACAS and the move towards PBC. He explained that the system had been developed as a regional response to the challenge of managing service demand in those areas where PCTs were in financial deficit. Its aim was to ensure that treatment was provided at the correct level and equitably across the region. To this end, the threshold document identified “lower tier” procedures, namely treatments for minor conditions the benefits of which were questionable and which would not be provided unless specified exception criteria were met. This prioritisation would ensure that funds remained available for high priority procedures, such as new treatments for heart failure and cancer. Allied to RACAS was a “Choose and Book” system which enabled GPs to refer patients to secondary care, or seek advice from consultants, electronically.

In response to Members’ questions, Dr Geddes confirmed that RACAS would continue even after financial balance had been restored, though not in an identical format. The revised version of the clinical thresholds guidance would be considered by the North Yorkshire Clinical Leaders Group on 7 September and was expected to be with GPs in 2 to 3 weeks’ time. However, the guidance was not a static document and would continue to be subject to ongoing review. Members welcomed the focus of

the guidance on patients' needs, but stressed the importance of ensuring that less articulate or assertive patients were not disadvantaged.

The Chair thanked Dr Geddes for his presentation, which had helped to allay Members' concerns about RACAS. In view of the fact that Selby and York PCT would shortly be replaced by the North Yorkshire and York PCT, Members agreed that it would not be feasible to proceed any further with the scrutiny process until after the appointment of the new directors in October.

RESOLVED: That the Chair hold preliminary discussions with the directors of the North Yorkshire and York PCT and feed the results back to Committee Members.

REASON: To initiate a dialogue with the new PCT and clarify their approach before deciding how to proceed further with the scrutiny of their measures to restore financial balance.

18. FORWARD PLAN

Members considered a draft Forward Plan setting out business proposed for consideration at future meetings of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the draft Forward Plan be noted and the items for the next meeting, on 9 October 2006, be agreed as follows:

- Presentation from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service on Community Responders, together with an update on 999 Category C call handling.
- Continued work on the response to the PCT recovery plan.

I Cuthbertson, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 7.15 pm].



Health Scrutiny Committee**9 October 2006****Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services****Yorkshire Ambulance Service Community Responders Service****Summary**

1. This report is to inform members about the Community Responders scheme run by Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

Background

2. Community responders are people who can be called by the ambulance service to attend medical emergencies in their local community before the ambulance arrives.
3. Generally they are sent to cardiac arrests, unconscious patients and choking, but they may also be asked to attend less serious cases to provide support and reassurance until the arrival of an ambulance. In no way are they a replacement for the ambulance as this is dispatched at the same time as the community responder is called out.
4. At present the only area within City of York's boundary to have a Community Responder team is Bishopthorpe.
5. Bob Rose of Yorkshire Ambulance Service will attend the meeting to discuss the Community Responders service with members and to answer any questions they may have.

Options

6. Members may wish to know if there are plans to extend the service to other parts of York and to receive further updates in the future.

Analysis

7. Members may wish to consider if the service might benefit the citizens of York and if so how it can be promoted.

Implications

- 8. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications at this stage.

Risk Management

- 9. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

- 10. Members are asked to receive the information provided by Bob Rose and consider and further updates they may wish to have in the future.

Contact details:

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Suzan Hemingway
Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Report Approved

Date 29/09/2006

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

None

Background Papers

Community Responders Scheme

<http://www.tenyas.org.uk/Information/1stRespondinfo.htm#whatis>



Health Scrutiny Committee**9 October 2006****Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services****Update on scrutiny of North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust's Measures to Restore Financial Balance****Summary**

1. At the meeting of 4 September 2006 members agreed that they needed informal discussions with senior officers and/or officers of the PCT before they can agree a firm programme of work for scrutiny of the financial recovery plan. From October 1 the former Selby and York PCT is part of the new North Yorkshire and York PCT. This report is to update members on issues which they may wish to consider as part of their programme of work for this scrutiny review.

Background

2. It is expected that sixty beds are to be closed at York District Hospital. This is likely to be the result of changes to the hospitals' budget as the PCT attempts to reduce the amount it spends at the hospital. It is anticipated that members will receive a verbal update at this meeting .
3. The PCT have, as part of their Financial Recovery Plan, advised the council that they will be reducing the number of Intermediate Care beds available across the City. The 2 key areas for reduction are the withdrawal of funding for staffing to support 11 beds at Grove House and a reduction of 5 beds at Archways intermediate Care unit. The Director of Housing and Adult Social Services will give a verbal update to members about this issue

Options

4. Members are asked to receive these updates and consider how they may impact on their investigation of the impact of the PCT's recovery plan on service to the people of York.

Analysis

- Members are advised to set themselves a timetable of work with an agreed date when their recommendations will be offered to the PCT.

Implications

- There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications at this stage.

Risk Management

- In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

- Members are asked to consider the evidence they have heard this evening and how it may impact on their future work.
Reason: In order to meet the requirement for a democratic involvement in the delivery of health services

Contact details:

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Suzan Hemingway
Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Report Approved



Date 29/09/2006

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

None

Background Papers

None



Health Scrutiny Committee**9 October 2006****Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services****Dental Services in York****Summary**

1. This report is to inform members about NHS dental provision in York.

Background

2. It has been reported that there are over 3000 people currently on the waiting list for an NHS dentist in York. Kay Goodwin from North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust will provide a written update on the service which will be circulated to members before the meeting.

Options

3. Members may wish decide whether to invite Mrs Goodwin to a future meeting to discuss the issue further.

Analysis

4. Members may wish to consider if the service might benefit the citizens of York and if so how it can be promoted.

Implications

5. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications at this stage.

Risk Management

6. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

7. Members are asked to receive the information provided by Kay Goodwin and decide if they wish to receive further information at a future meeting.

Contact details:

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Suzan Hemingway
Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Report Approved



Date

29/09/06

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

None

Background Papers

None



Health Scrutiny Committee**9 October 2006****Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services****Health Scrutiny Support Programme****Summary**

1. This report is to confirm City of York Council's programme for the Health Scrutiny Support Programme

Background

2. The Centre for Public Scrutiny is running a Department of Health funded support programme for the 150 health overview and scrutiny committees of social services authorities. Members requested in June that they be considered for the scheme.
3. City of York Council has been accepted onto the scheme and has been allocated an advisor. He is Robin Stonebridge who is the Chairman of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee at Rotherham, a member of the Centre for Public Scrutiny Advisory Board and a non-executive director of Rotherham Primary Care Trust.
4. Two sessions have been arranged for 22 October and 22 November. All members of the Council who may find it useful have been invited to attend. Two or three further sessions will be arranged in the new year according to members wishes. Details of the first two sessions are attached at Annex A.

Options

5. Members should consider the timescale for the future sessions of the support programme.

Analysis

6. This scheme will provide free advice and support, which will be especially beneficial to members in carrying out their Health Scrutiny duties especially as changes to the structure of the health services are implemented.

Implications

- 7. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications at this stage.

Risk Management

- 8. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

- 9. Members are asked to take part in the Health Scrutiny Support Programme.
- 10. Members are asked to agree some possible dates for further sessions early in 2007.

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

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Report Approved



Date 29/09/06

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – Health Scrutiny Support Programme

Background Papers

None

City of York Council Health Scrutiny Support Programme

Day 1

Tuesday 24 October 2006 16:30 - 19:30 (approx) Room 1

Introduction to Health Scrutiny and Members' role in scrutinising health

Principles of good scrutiny

How the NHS works - context, content roles and relationships

Tools for scrutiny - legal; protocols; information

Focusing work : Scrutinising impact of national policy versus health improvement in York v. scrutinising the illness service

Gaining access to health organisations - by written word; 'rights of access' ; consultation; joint working

Day 2

Wednesday 22 November 16:30 - 19:30 (approx) Room 3

Hot issues :

- ·Practice based commissioning
- ·Payment by results
- ·Finance & the NHS
- ·Performance - success, failure and recovery
- Patient choice

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