
Health Scrutiny Committee

02 April 2007

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Financial situation of North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust

Summary

1. This report is to introduce Nick Steele, Finance Director, Jane Marshall, Director of Commissioning and Service Development and Denise Smith, Head of Primary Care Delivery at North Yorkshire and York PCT. They have been invited to the meeting to update members about issues referred from the last meeting of this Committee.

Background

2. At the meeting of 8 March 2007 members received a presentation from Nick Steele who explained the PCT's current financial position to members. At that time the forecasted deficit for the end of the financial year was £38m, and they were aiming for this to be reduced to £35 by the implementation of savings measures.
3. He also explained the need to manage within existing resources in the 2007/8 financial year and repay all debts by the end of 2008/9.
4. The savings were expected to be made by reduction in growth and actions on a series of work areas which were explained to members. It was also recognised that there was a need to invest in services which would bring care nearer to patients' homes.
5. At the same meeting Jim Easton, Chief Executive of York Hospitals NHS Trust, explained that their contract with the PCT will be reduced by £4m in the next financial year. This will mean that the Hospital's activity will be reduced by 7% in 2007/8. These reductions will need to be in place by May 2007.

6. At earlier meetings members have expressed concerns about long waiting lists for the PCT's podiatry service. At the meeting of 8 May Jane Marshall acknowledged that there needs to be a reduction and has agreed to attend this meeting to give an update on improvements to resources for muscular-skeletal pathways which includes podiatry.
7. At the meeting of 12 February 2007 members received a written update on the numbers of patients who were waiting to be assigned to a York dental practice and the number that had been offered a place. Since then there have been reports in the local media about some dental practices running out of allocated units of dentistry and therefore being unable to treat people until the end of the financial year. Denise Smith has agreed to attend this meeting to give a further update and comment on the press allegations.

Consultation

8. This item is part of the consultation that is ongoing with colleagues from the Health Trusts.

Options

9. Members can receive the comments from the representatives of the PCT and consider how this may impact on the future work of this Committee.

Analysis

10. Members have been made aware of the capacity reduction plan which will be implemented by York Hospitals Trust in order to deliver their reduced contract for 2007/8. Members may be interested to know about the PCT's proposals for providing the services that will not be purchased from York District Hospital in the future.
11. Members will be aware that this is the final meeting of this committee during the current municipal year. They may wish to consider how they will use the information received at this meeting to inform the workplan of the new committee.

Corporate Priorities

12. Relevant to Corporate Priority 7 – Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest.

Implications

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

Risk Management

14. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations of this report at this report.

Recommendations

15. Members are asked to receive the updates from the representatives of the PCT and consider how they wish to use this information in their future work.

16. Members are asked to consider if they wish the committee in the new Municipal Year to receive future updates on the dental and podiatry services, as part of their work plan.

17. Members are asked to delegate to the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson the duty of creating a draft workplan to be considered by the new Health Scrutiny Committee at its first meeting in the new municipal year.

Reason: In order to carry out their duty to promote the health needs of the people they represent.

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Report Approved



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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

None

Background Papers

None