

HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel held in The Guildhall, Portsmouth, on Thursday 27 January 2011 at 2pm.

Present

Councillors Lynne Stagg (Chair)
Margaret Adair
Margaret Geary (from 2.50pm)
David Horne
Robin Sparshatt

Co-opted Members

Patricia Stallard

Also in Attendance

John Divall, Foundation Trust Project Director, South Central Ambulance Services.

- 1 **Welcome, Membership and Any Apologies for Absence (AI 1)**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dorothy Denston, Peter Edgar and David Gillett.
- 2 **Declarations of Interest (AI 2)**
No declarations had been received.
- 3 **Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24 (AI 3).**
No deputations were received.
- 4 **Minutes of the Meeting Held on 17 December 2010 (AI 4).**
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel held on 17 December 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.
- 5 **Update from the Previous Meeting (AI 5).**
 - i) Funding for carers.
The Chair explained that she and the Scrutiny Support Officer would meet the Director of Finance, NHS Portsmouth on 11 February to discuss funding for carers and details would be circulated to the Panel at the March meeting.
 - ii) Decommissioning of D1 ward
The Chair reminded the Panel that this would be considered at the March meeting.
 - iii) Health Inequalities.
The Chair explained that a list of key areas of health inequalities would be considered at the March meeting.
- 6 **Possible Substantial Changes to Services, Quarterly Letters and Annual Reports (AI 6).**
 - i) South Central Ambulance Service Quarterly Letter.
John Divall, Foundation Trust Project Director presented the quarterly letter and gave a presentation, a copy of which is attached to these minutes as

appendix one. The consultation document was circulated to the Panel. During the presentation the following issues were raised:

The Government requires that all provider services become foundation trusts by 2013. South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) is applying to become an NHS foundation trust by 1 October 2011.

Mr Divall highlighted some of the lesser known services undertaken by SCAS which included an Equipment Loans Service, a logistics / courier service, Out of Hours call answering, Training Services (First Aid related) and Patient Transport (Non Emergency).

The Community Equipment Service operates in Berkshire and is commissioned jointly by the Local Authorities and PCTs. The service loans a wide range of equipment including beds, wheelchairs, hoists, walking aids etc that supports independent living. In response to a question regarding the traceability of loaned equipment Mr Divall replied that when the Ambulance service took over the contract the records were generally poor. Over the years this has improved considerably enabling a high proportion of returned equipment to be collected, serviced, cleaned and recycled.

Mr Divall did not know the cost of this service but stated that he would be happy council officer in touch with appropriate Trust manager should the council wish to explore possible synergies

The government have announced changes to the Ambulance standards from 1st April. Full details have yet to be released but it is known that the B 19 minute response time target will disappear from April 2011.

Demand for ambulances continues increase and is up by 3% this year.

Over the past year SCAS has increased its Clinical Support Desk (CSD) capability improving the number of patients receiving telephone clinical assessment.

The non-conveyance rate for Portsmouth PCT is 40.12% which compares with the SCAS wide average of 42.6. SCAS is seeking to reduce the regional average of 50%. There is currently a wide variance across PCT areas and work is ongoing to understand the reasons behind the variances and to ensure there is a broad range of alternative care pathways available so that patients are conveyed to hospital only when necessary.

In response to questions from the Panel, the following points were clarified:

It might be the case that due to their particular health needs, Portsmouth residents have more need to be conveyed to hospital by ambulance. It is essential that their needs are identified and that the appropriate care pathway is in place.

The ambulance staff have a duty of care to patients when they attend an incident. If someone is simply drunk and incapable it is sometimes necessary to convey them to hospital.

In the scrutiny report on alcohol-related hospital admissions, the ambulance

service is asked to determine when alcohol has played a part in every incident it attends, but this is not always possible. The Chair explained that the ambulance staff are asked to record where the incident took place.

One of the criteria for gaining foundation trust status is a public membership of 4,500 by April 2011 and 15,000 by April 2013. It currently has approximately 1,500 members. Members can choose their level of participation from receiving the six-monthly newsletter, completing surveys, attending meetings and becoming governors.

The public has always been highly satisfied with the service and therefore historically it has been difficult to encourage engagement.

Mr Divall asked the Panel to write to the service to express its satisfaction with the consultation that it has received. He also asked for suggestions to be put forward on how the service might further engage with the local community to encourage recruitment. Two members of the public suggested Pompey Pensioners and Youth Parliament.

Membership is open to anyone aged 14 or above.

It is important to get a sufficient cohort of people to represent the area. There are four constituencies covered by the public governors. The consultation proposes that there will be 15 public governors, 5 staff governors and 5 partnership governors.

The Panel was asked for suggestions on how agreement could be reached between all of the local authorities serving the SCAS region regarding the appointment of local authority governors and how this might be achieved.

Monitor, the independent regulator of foundation trusts, will decide on SCAS's application in September. It has three options: a) to approve it b) to defer approval until certain outstanding criteria are met or c) to determine that is not viable.

Councillor Stallard offered to raise awareness of the consultation and the recruitment drive in her constituency. The Scrutiny Support Officer offered to give details of the Neighbourhood Forums to the Project Director.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) South Central Ambulance Service's quarterly letter be noted.**
- 2) A letter be sent to the ambulance service expressing the Panel's satisfaction with the level of consultation received and its support for the application for trust status.**
- 3) Details of how to engage with Neighbourhood Forums be passed to the Foundation Trust Project Director.**

7

Review of Alcohol-Related Hospital Admissions (AI 7).

The Chair thanked all the members, officers, professionals and volunteers from the wide-range of organisations who have been involved in this review. In particular she thanked the Portsmouth Street Pastors, Safe Space volunteers and the ambulance service.

Councillor Margaret Foster entered the meeting.

The Chair explained that she intended to send this report through the Local Government Agency to all local authorities.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The report into alcohol-related hospital admissions be signed-off and forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration.**
- 2. The incomplete officers' response report be noted.**
- 3. The officers' report be circulated to the Panel when it is published for the March Cabinet meeting.**

8

Fluoridation (AI 8).

The Chair explained that the high court had heard the appeal regarding fluoridation of water supplies and was now considering its decision. Details would be circulated to members as soon as it was announced. The Chair reminded the Panel that it had received details of the chronology of this issue at its September meeting.

RESOLVED that the decision of the judicial review be considered at the next meeting.

9

Dates of future meetings (AI 9).

The Chair proposed that the Panel receive an update on the health economy at its meeting on 3 March and consider its work programme at an extra meeting in March.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The Panel receive an update on the changes to the health economy at its next meeting.**
- 2. The Panel meet on 3 March 2011 at 2pm and 17 March 2011 at 1pm.**

Draft – subject to approval at the next meeting.

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