HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel held in the Guildhall, Portsmouth on Wednesday 31st July 2008 at 10am.

Present
Councillors David Stephen Butler (Chairman)
Margaret Foster
David Horne
Lee Mason
April Windebank

Co-opted Members
Councillors Gwen Blackett
Peter Edgar
Keith Evans
Pat West (Deputy for Anna McNair Scott)

Also in Attendance
Lynda Jones, LINk Development Officer,
Portsmouth City Council
Tim Robinson, Head of Public and Patient Involvement,
Portsmouth Hospitals Trust
Suzannah Rosenberg, Assistant Head of Adult Social Care,
Portsmouth City Council
Rob Watt, Head of Adult Social Care,
Portsmouth City Council
Fiona White, Head of Service for Democratic & Community Engagement, Portsmouth City Council

30 Apologies for Absence (AI 1)
Councillors Jacqui Hancock, Dorothy Denston and Vicky Weston sent their apologies.

31 Declarations of Interest (AI 2)
Councillor Peter Edgar declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest, as he is a shareholder in a local taxi company.

Councillor Pat West declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest, as her daughter-in-law is a Paramedic for the NHS.

Councillor Margaret Foster declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest, as her son is a Patient Transport Operations Manager for the NHS.
32 Appointment of Vice Chairman (AI 3)

After discussion, Councillor David Horne was proposed as Vice Chairman by Councillor David Stephen Butler and seconded by Councillor Foster.

RESOLVED: that Councillor David Horne be appointed Vice-Chairman for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

A warm welcome was extended to the representatives from Portsmouth Hospitals Trust and Portsmouth City Council, with special thanks extended from the Chairman to all Members, Co-optees and contributors for being able to attend the rescheduled meeting. Katie Benton was welcomed to the Panel as Sam Meyer’s replacement as Scrutiny Support Officer.

33 Minutes of Meeting held on 16 April 2008 (AI 4)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2008 were confirmed as a correct record.

34 Matters arising from the previous minutes:

- From Item 26, the Chairman informed the Panel that he had received a response from South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust in answer to his comments regarding relocation of services from Portsea to a stand-alone unit in Southsea.

- From Item 27, the Panel were informed that a response had been received from Portsmouth Hospitals Trust in regard to the future location of the hyperbaric chamber currently in Haslar hospital. The Trust stated that they did not have plans to take the hyperbaric chamber from Haslar Hospital. Councillor Edgar felt that this was not a satisfactory response from PHT.

- The Panel were informed by Tim Robinson, Head of Public and Patient Involvement at the Trust, that the hyperbaric chamber is run by a third party, and that this third party pulled out of the Private Finance Initiative at QA Hospital. Portsmouth Hospitals Trust would be receptive to having the hyperbaric chamber but the situation is beyond their control.

RESOLVED that the Chairman write to Qinetic and the Naval Trust stressing the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel’s serious concern about the loss of the hyperbaric chamber in Portsmouth.

35 Proposals received from the NHS and Adult Social Care to vary or develop local services (AI 10)

The Chairman agreed to take Agenda Item 10, ‘Proposals Received from the NHS and Adult Social Care to Vary or Develop Local Services’ next. The Panel heard from Fiona White, Head of Democratic & Community Engagement, that a number of changes are being made to Portsmouth City Council’s scrutiny arrangements, but that these would impact less directly on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel. The changes are with a view to enhance the profile of Scrutiny in the Council.
The Panel were advised that Saskia Kiernan had now left Portsmouth City Council, and that her replacement would be recruited in due course. The Panel were advised that the work programme is being drafted and will be brought to the next meeting for agreement.

The Head of Service then asked for suggestions from Members on how to improve the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel, encouraging comment on its particular strengths and weaknesses, and ideas for how to make sure that the work programme was robust, for example, the Panel may feel that they could focus on some particular issues and that some of the repetitive work could be reduced.

The Panel then considered a report from the Head of Democratic & Community Engagement that set out proposals received from the local NHS and social care services to vary or develop local health services, and which updates the Panel on the progress of issues previously reported, including the progress of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees. During discussion, the following points were raised:

- Concern was expressed about whether there are enough carers to support the care in the community programme, and this needs to be considered carefully.
- There is currently an infection team visiting schools in Portsmouth to explain infection, how it spreads and the associated problems. Perhaps this could be extended to schools over a wider area.
- Concern was expressed that there is a lack of information available to key players, including consultants, about what will happen to them in twelve months time, in relation to QA Hospital moves.
- Appreciation was expressed for the excellent progress being made in infection prevention.
- In response to a query about the increase in dementia cases, the Panel heard that there is a joint accommodation strategy based on a population analysis, which takes into account expected demographics.

RESOLVED

1. That the Chair write on behalf of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel to Saskia Kiernan to thank her for her time working with the Panel;
2. That each Member, Co-optee and Deputy is emailed individually to ask for comments on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel and how it could be made more effective. A summary of responses would then be brought to a future meeting.
3. That the Panel are kept informed by the PCT about how the proposed scheme to fluoridate the drinking water supply in Southampton develops;
4. That the Project Manager leading on the GP-Led Health Centre presents to the Panel later in the year on the results of the tender and plans for the health centre;
5. That the Panel is updated by the PCT on the development of new premises for Primary Care;
6. That the Panel receive a report from the Local Democracy Manager in September to detail members on whether the possible options for the future use of the Rembrandt Unit, St Mary’s Hospital, is a substantial change in service;
7. That Portsmouth Hospitals Trust continue to update the Panel on its infection control practices;
8. That the Panel receive a presentation later in the year from Portsmouth Hospitals Trust on the Healthcare Commission inspection visit;
9. That the Panel receive consultation plans from Portsmouth Hospitals Trust that will inform key stakeholders including members of the public, elected councillors and hospital staff on the wards and department moves at QA Hospital;
10. That the Panel are updated later in the year on the effectiveness of the public and patient involvement plan centred on the 18 week target;
11. That the Panel receive a report from South Central Ambulance Service later in the year on new technology that has been adopted to improve the response time to 999 calls, which includes the related performance figures since the new technology has been in operation;
12. That South Central Ambulance Service update the Panel on its scheduled plans to become a Foundation Trust including any proposed changes in service in its next quarterly letter;
13. That Adult Social Care keep the Panel informed of the changes to the service at Portsmouth City Council including any redesign or reshape that may impact on the care being received by Adult Social Care users;
14. That the Panel receive a presentation from Adult Social Care in April 2009 on its agreement with Portsmouth City Primary Care Trust under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 in relation to learning disabilities integration;
15. That the Panel continue to receive updates from Adult Social Care on new accommodation plans for the elderly and those with dementia.

36 Update on Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee from 23rd July 2008 (AI 5)

- The Chairman informed the Panel that the outcome from this meeting was to refer West Sussex and Brighton and Hove PCTs' decisions to the Secretary of State for Health. This decision was reached by the committee members for the following four reasons:
  1. That there was insufficient clarity about the way in which the service model of one major general and two local general hospitals within West Sussex would be implemented.
  2. That there was a lack of clinical consensus to the proposals.
  3. That the decision could leave Royal West Sussex NHS Trust in a position that may not be financially sustainable and is unlikely to meet the standards required of a foundation trust in breach of government policy.
  4. That the PCT have failed to satisfy the committee that it had fully explored alternative options.

37 Joint Commissioning Strategy (AI 6)

Suzannah Rosenberg, Assistant Head of Adult Social Care for Portsmouth City Council, presented Joint Commissioning Strategies between Portsmouth City Council and Portsmouth PCT for 2008-2011, to the Panel. This strategy covered four areas of Joint Commissioning, including Adult Mental Health, Learning Disabilities, Substance Misuse and Older Persons. The Panel heard:
• That this was the final draft of the Joint Commissioning Strategy, and that the strategies had to be approved by the PCT Board before going into circulation;
• That there are currently four Joint Commissioning Managers, but that only one of these is currently in post; one is on maternity leave, one has left and one is on long term sick leave. It is the Joint Commissioning Managers role to ensure that the provision is there to adopt and carry out the strategies;
• That there has been significant public and patient consultation with the PCT and Adult Social Care users, with stakeholder forums being set up for each of the four areas the strategies cover;
• That there has been needs assessments completed for Adult Mental Health and Substance Misuse, but that more work needs to be done on the Older Persons and Learning Disabilities sections;
• That Portsmouth City PCT and Portsmouth City Council plan to break down each of the strategies into easier-to-understand sections for service users and staff;
• That the PCT and Portsmouth City Council plan to make long-standing arrangements under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006, which includes plans to pool finances and to have a shared management structure. This should be ready in April 2009.
• That service users have a say in the delivery of the services that they use by commenting through user forums.

In response to questions, the Panel heard that:
• Older persons relates to those aged 65 and above.
• The strategies are subject to annual revision.

RESOLVED that the Panel receive an update from Adult Social Care in six months’ time on the development of the Joint Commissioning Strategies.

38 Local Involvement Network (LINk) Update (AI 7)
Lynda Jones, LINk Development Officer for Portsmouth City Council, gave a verbal update to the Panel on the Portsmouth Local Involvement Network. The Panel were shown a ‘Communities of Interest’ map, which is one of 6 maps showing all the various groups and organisations with an interest in health and social care in Portsmouth. These will be put on the PCC website. The Panel were informed
• That the Host organisation will be in place by September;
• That an 8 minute DVD about the LINk has been recorded and edited by Portsmouth University students, and will shortly be available on the LINks website;
• That there had been three learning sets between March and June of 2008, where previous members of the PPIF met with the LINk Development Officers to discuss previous work programmes. There was also a series of exercises run to map local health and social care groups and organisations. These are still under construction but will soon be available on the Portsmouth City Council website. Portsmouth City Council is one of the few Local Authorities to have done this and is an example of best practice;
• That the LINk Development Officers will soon be sending out a six-point questionnaire to the groups involved in the Local Involvement Network, asking them to identify a champion and a preferred communication method.
• That the LINk Development Group has had its third meeting, where members discussed possible work plans for the year. There was also a suggestion at a previous Development Group for young persons to set up their own mini-link, which would then be represented on the main LINk.

• In September two sub-groups will be set up: one focused on engagement and the second on entering and viewing premises.

• On August 1st there will be interviews for the procurement of the Host organisation. The Panel will include two members of the LINk Development Group.

• The Panel felt that the ‘Communities of Interest’ maps are excellent and that copies (preferable smaller) should be given to the Panel for reference purposes.

RESOLVED
1. That the LINk Development Officers continue to update the Panel on the progress of the LINk Development Group;
2. That the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel receive copies of the communities of interest maps.

39 Car Parking at Portsmouth Hospitals (AI 8)
Tim Robinson, Head of Public and Patient Involvement at Portsmouth Hospitals Trust, took questions on the plans by PHT to increase car parking spaces. Currently there are 385 spaces for patients and visitors set to increase to 664 before 2010. Parking for staff on site is currently 1,000 and will increase to 1,572. There are plans to increase parking at the park and ride from 425 to circa 1,000. During the subsequent discussion the following points were raised:
• Car parking capacity numbers were capped by Portsmouth City Council to limit traffic increase on the surrounding roads;
• Portsmouth Hospitals Trust recognise that car parking is a challenge and they are anxious not to increase the amount of traffic around the hospital;
• Concern was expressed by the Panel that the traffic impact assessment around QA Hospital will be nine years old when the hospital opens in 2009;
• Concern was expressed by the Panel that West Sussex PCT’s plans around Fit For the Future may have a significant impact on the number of cars parking at Portsmouth Hospitals Trust;
• Portsmouth Hospitals Trust plan to liaise more with public transport companies, and to look at schedules of appointments to avoid “batch” car parking;
• Local residents in the wards surrounding QA Hospital are concerned at inconsiderate contractor parking on verges outside the hospital and in the residential parking areas;
• The Panel expressed concern that the current Hampshire County Council rapid transit bus initiative does not include QA Hospital.

RESOLVED
That Portsmouth Hospitals Trust be requested to consider and report back to the Panel’s Autumn meeting on the following issues:
1. On the amount of money that car parking makes for Portsmouth Hospitals Trust and where this money then goes;
2. Liaising with Hospital contractors to ensure they are not parking inconsiderately;
3. Looking into the success of the cycling to work strategy;
4. Continuing to liaise closely with the bus services in regard to the park and ride scheme and local bus service routes to QA Hospital;
5. Looking into becoming part of the route for the rapid transit bus;
6. Whether it is appropriate to use the 9-year-old traffic impact assessment to inform car parking for hospitals.

40 Commissioning of Wheelchair Services (AI 9)
This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Panel, as the officers from the PCT were unable to attend this meeting, due to the last minute change in start time caused by the Emergency Council Meeting at Portsmouth City Council.

41 Invitation from Portsmouth Hospitals Trust to Members (AI 11)
Tim Robinson, Head of Public and Patient Involvement at Portsmouth Hospitals Trust invited members to a briefing in regard to the Trust’s work programme for 2008/09. This will include information on changes to both St Mary’s and Haslar Hospitals.
RESOLVED that the Panel accept the invitation to visit Portsmouth Hospitals Trust in October 2008.

42 Date of the next meeting (AI 12)
16th September 2008 at 3pm

The meeting closed at 11.29am