

**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 29TH OCTOBER, 2013

Present – Councillors Spencer (Chairman), Donaghy (Vice-Chairman), L. Byrne, C. Burrows, M. Connell, Darvesh, Greenhalgh, Hall, G. Harkin, Iqbal, Irving, Morgan, Radlett and Wilkinson.

Lay Member

Ms. R. Haworth - Healthwatch

Also in attendance

Councillor Peacock - Cabinet Member for Adult Services
Councillor Bashir-Ismael - Cabinet Member for Public Health

Dr. J. Bene - RBH NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. D. Wakefield - RBH NHS Foundation Trust
Ms. S. Long - Clinical Commissioning Group

Ms. M. Asquith - Director of Children's and Adults Services

Ms. W. Meredith - Director of Public Health

Mr. A. Crook - Assistant Director Integration and Older People Provider Services

Mr. S. Young - Chief Officer Support

Mr. S. Hynes - North West Ambulance Service
Mr. P. Howcroft - North West Ambulance Service
Mr. M. Dunn - North West Ambulance Service
Mrs. V. Ridge - Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. Thomas, Mr. G. Evans and Dr. Bhatiani.

Councillor Spencer in the Chair.

10. COUNCILLOR MARGARET CLARE

The Chairman referred to the sad death of Councillor Margaret Clare who was a member of this Scrutiny Committee.

Members stood in silent tribute to her memory.

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3rd September, 2013 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be signed as a correct record.

12. MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER WEST MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION TRUST JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Greater Manchester West Mental Health Foundation Trust Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 10th October, 2013 were submitted.

Councillor Morgan referred to minute 7 of the minutes and enquired as to whether a decision had been made in relation to future funding to extend the RADAR Service. Ms. Long, CCG, explained that the CCG would not be commissioning the service in its current format, however, discussions were taking place with other partner agencies to identify any gaps in need which might be commissioned.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

13. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2013/2014

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which set out the remit of the Committee and also put forward a proposed work programme for 2013/2014.

Resolved – That the proposed work programme for 2013/2014 be approved.

14. NORTH WEST AMBULANCE SERVICE - OVERVIEW

Representatives from the North West Ambulance Service attended the meeting and gave a presentation which gave an overview of the work undertaken by the North West Ambulance Service.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- The services provided;
- Facts and figures;
- Key achievements;
- Bolton headline performance;
- Information specifically in relation to Bolton;
- Bolton Community Care;
- Initiatives currently being undertaken in Bolton;
- The number of complaints received;
- Current situation with regard to Foundation Trust Status;
- The review of the Trust's estate portfolio; and
- The launch of the #team999.

Following the presentation a discussion ensued and the following comments/observations were made:-

- The performance of Arriva in relation to health and social transport services;
- The arrangements in place to ensure that staff had stand-by time;
- The procedures in place to ensure that the vehicles were safe at all times;
- The processes/procedures in place for dealing with frequent callers; and
- The introduction of pathways was very welcomed.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

15. UPDATE ON THE FINANCIAL PLANS FOR THE ROYAL BOLTON HOSPITAL

Mr. D. Wakefield, Chairman of the Royal Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, gave a presentation to members which outlined the current financial position in respect of the Royal Bolton Hospital.

Information was provided in relation to the following:-

- Regulatory requirements;
- The target deficit in 2013/2014 which currently stood at £7.8 million; and
- The longer term outlook.

With regard to the financial priorities these were detailed as follows:-

- To return to a surplus balance in 2014/2015;
- To continue the service rating of 3 by 2016;
- Financing the investment strategy; and
- Building financial resilience.

A headline financial plan was also submitted which covered the years 2014 – 2019 and included income, costs and projected surplus.

Following the presentation a discussion ensued and the following comments/observations were made:-

- The impact of efficiency savings year on year;
- Would the utilisation of the risk reserves impact on the hospital due to the winter pressures;
- An explanation on the £17 million which was to be allocated by the Department for Health.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

16. CANCER INFORMATION SUPPORT SERVICE AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES

Ms. S. Long, Chief Officer CCG, circulated a report as background information and also gave a presentation to members which provided an update in relation to the Cancer Information Support Service.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- The cancer profile within Bolton;
- The results of the Bolton Foundation Trust Cancer patient survey;
- Quotes from Bolton cancer patients in relation to the current service;
- The concerns which had been expressed regarding cancer pathways nationally;
- The intended pathway 2014 onwards;
- The proposed Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service; and
- Information on the extensive public engagement undertaken on the chosen sites and service design.

Dr. J. Bene, Royal Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, also provided a brief update in relation to the steps which are followed in relation to the Cancer Patient's Pathway.

Following the presentation a discussion ensued and the following comments/observations were made:-

- Did national campaigns make a difference in improving awareness of cancer related illnesses;
- The concerns which had been expressed in the report prepared by the Bolton Career Patient Support Group; and
- The location of the proposed Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

17. UPDATE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION

Ms. W. Meredith, Director of Public Health, gave a brief update on the progress made, since the last meeting, in respect of the Health and Social Care Integration Programme.

Members were advised that a number of people had now been identified within the targeted groups and officers were currently scoping out the workforce. Work was also ongoing in terms of designing the pilots and a strong team had been developed, from various agencies, to drive forward the programme.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

18. MEMBERS BUSINESS

The Committee was informed that a question had been submitted by Councillor Radlett for consideration under Standing Order 36, viz:-

‘I understand that there are plans to cease admitting cases to the dementia care ward at Royal Bolton and transfer patients to Woodlands Hospital at Little Hulton. Can the reasons for this be explained please and how the move will be of benefit to the people of Bolton.

In response to the above question the Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust provided the following response, viz:-

‘Thank you, Councillor Radlett for your question. First of all there are no current plans to cease admitting cases to the dementia care ward at Royal Bolton Hospital. We must stress that we are only looking at proposals at the moment which would need full Trust Board Support. We are also working closely with our commissioners and local GPs and before any changes are implemented there will be a thorough process of consultation.

The reason behind the proposals you have heard about is to see how we can deliver mental health services in the best way possible across our districts. Mental Health patients do not differ from anyone else when it comes to staying at home and living independently for as long as

possible. We want to help people achieve this by investing in community-based services so that people only go into hospital when absolutely necessary and for as short time as possible. As I'm sure you can appreciate, being admitted to hospital can be a frightening and confusing experience for anyone with a mental health problem. Being in the position to offer care in a familiar environment is what we aim to do.

Just to give you some context to this – our Trust has a higher number of mental health beds compared to the national average. In spite of this, only a low rate of patients are admitted under the Mental Health Act. This begs the question – are patients being admitted to hospital when they could be cared for at home?

As you may have heard, we hope to create a centre of excellence for complex dementia at our Woodlands site in Little Hulton where all our specialist expertise is delivered in a fit-for-purpose environment. Unfortunately in this climate, any suggestion of change immediately sets alarm bells ringing that we are trying to just cut services to save money. Whilst some savings do need to be made, we would also be looking to invest in more community staff and building some new facilities at Woodlands. Additionally, we are a Trust that recognises the great value of carers and would not look to put more pressure on them.

I hope this moves to answer your questions and reassures you.'

The Committee also received the extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

- (a) The Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader's Portfolio held on 16th September and 14th October, 2013; and
- (b) Health and Wellbeing Board held on 2nd October, 2013.

Resolved – (i) That the question submitted and the response provided be noted.

(ii) That the minutes be noted.

(The meeting started at 5.00p.m. and finished at 6.50 p.m.)

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