

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL/SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL**

**JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 24th March 2011 at 6.30 pm in the Ironbridge Suite, Park Inn Hotel, Forgegate, Telford Town Centre, Telford**

**PRESENT** – Councillor V Fletcher (TWC Health Scrutiny Chair) (Chairman), Councillor G Dakin (SC Health Scrutiny Chair), Councillor K Calder (SC), Councillor R Chaplin (TWC), Ms D Davis (TWC), Ms J Gulliver (TWC), Ms R Manger (SC), Councillor A McClements (TWC), Mr D Saunders (TWC) and Ms H Thompson (SC).

**Officers** – F Bottrill (Scrutiny Manager, TWC), D Dorrell (Scrutiny Officer, SC) and A Roberts (Democratic Services Officer, TWC).

**JHOSC-17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor T Huffer (SC).

**JHOSC-18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP**

None

**JHOSC-19 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11th March 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

A number of Members stated that they wished to comment on the presentation that had been received from representatives from the West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS). Dag Saunders commented that he felt that the WMAS representatives could only answer a few questions that had been raised by the Joint Committee. He felt that in the circumstances another invitation should be submitted for the WMAS representatives to attend at a future meeting.

**JHOSC-20 DEVELOPING HEALTH & HEALTHCARE – PROPOSALS AIMED AT KEEPING VITAL HOSPITAL SERVICES IN SHROPSHIRE SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE**

The Chairman of the meeting Councillor V Fletcher referred the meeting to the papers that had been published in advance of the meeting. She wished to thank all Members for all of their work and invited comments and questions.

Fiona Bottrill reported to the Committee of the decisions that had been confirmed at the meetings of the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Board

(SaTH), the Shropshire County NHS Primary Care Trust Board and the NHS Telford and Wrekin Primary Care Trust Board that took place earlier in the day. Members were informed that the decision of the SaTH Board was to confirm the proposals that were outlined in the consultation document *Keeping it in the County – Securing the Future of Hospital Services in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin*.

The decision of the SaTH Board was confirmed at the subsequent meetings of both the Shropshire County NHS Primary Care Trust Board and the NHS Telford and Wrekin Primary Care Trust, which would lead to the development of more detailed implementation plans. However, the meeting was requested to note that at both PCT meetings a request had been approved seeking the SaTH Trust to lead discussions with the Ambulance Services to further improve Ambulance response times, to identify other means of mitigating travel times, to progress discussions with partners in Shropshire and Wales to further strengthen service provision in the local community and to continue the development and risk assessment of clear care pathways.

It was further agreed that the SaTH Trust to work with partners to develop clear communication to parents and their carers to promote an understanding of what care would be provided where and to allay individual concerns. It was also expected that the Trust would ensure continuous quality improvement of services through and beyond a period of redesign change.

The PCTs had also committed themselves to work with the Trust and hold it to account on these issues, oversee and assure progress and make any continued support conditional on such progress.

The Chairman then invited the members of the Committee to comment on the decisions that had been made at the previously held meetings of the SaTH Trust and the two PCT Board meetings. She reminded Members that at the conclusion of any discussion the Committee would be required to decide as to whether the proposals should be referred to the Secretary of State for Health.

Whilst the majority of the Members commented on the excellence of the presentations that had been received and the depth of the comments and responses that had been provided, a number of Members expressed concerns in relation to the perceived transportation issues that would arise together with concerns in relation to whether the present service provision could be implemented by the Ambulance Service. A number of Members also wished to recognise the initiatives that were being shown for negotiations to be entered into between Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin in order to ensure that there was sufficient transport provision. The Chairman of the Committee commented that this evidenced the current joint working and co-ordination between both Councils in order to achieve a common solution.

Overall the Committee concluded that the whole consultation process had been very effective. The Committee were also impressed with the Chief Officers of SaTH as to how open the consultation process had been and that the Committee had always ensured that the aim was to secure the best

provision within Shropshire as a whole. The Committee were keen to ensure that the excellent qualities of the consultation process were repeated in the future and that the elements of joint working should be continued in the future.

In conclusion, the Chairman stated that the consultation process had been excellent and she expressed the Committee's thanks to all of the Chief Officers, particularly at SaTH who had been open, transparent and detailed in the depth of their answers to any questions that had been raised. This ensured that the process that had been undertaken had been very professional.

The Committee were reminded that the SaTH Board would provide updated reports on the Outline Business Case in the week commencing 6th June, prior to it being agreed by the SaTH Board on the 30th June 2011. This would be followed by an update on the Final business Case which would be submitted to the JHOSC in the week commencing 3rd October before this was agreed by the SaTH Board on the 27th October 2011.

**RESOLVED – that the consultation process conducted by the two PCTs supported by the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust, having fully involved clinicians, independent experts, members of the public and local council representatives had met the four “Lansley tests” and had further met the expectations of the Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee for the process and further that there was therefore no need to refer the matter to the Secretary of State for Health at this stage. The Joint Committee await an update on the Outline Business Case in June for further scrutiny**

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm

**Chairman.....**

**Date.....**