



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
31 March 2010
9.30 am

<u>Item</u>
3
Public

Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Friday, 29 January 2010 at 10.00 am in Committee Room 2, Civic Offices, Telford

PRESENT – Councillor D R W White (TWC Health Scrutiny Chair) (Chairman), Councillor G Dakin (SC Health Scrutiny Chair), Councillor K Calder (SC), Ms D Davis (TWC), Councillor V A Fletcher (TWC), Councillor J Jones (SC), Mrs V Lindley (TWC), Councillor L Parsons (SC), Mr D Saunders (TWC) and Councillor T Woodward (SC)

Also Present – Councillor J Seymour (Cabinet Member for Adult Care & Support – TWC)

Officers – V Beint (Director of Community Services, SC), F Bottrill (Scrutiny Manager, TWC), T Dodds, (Lead Officer Performance, Scrutiny and Innovation, SC), J Eatough (Head of Governance, TWC)

JHOSC-1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor T Huffer (SC)

JHOSC-2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Mr D Saunders declared an interest due to his involvement with the Mental Health Trust.

JHOSC-3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2009

The notes of the meeting held on 30 October 2009 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

JHOSC-4 TERMS OF REFERENCE

In order to enable further consultation to take place, consideration of this item was deferred sine die.

JHOSC-5 CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Scrutiny Manager (TWC) updated Members with regard to the developments on the strategy for the 'Future of Health and Healthcare in Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire', drawing particular attention to the letter from the Chief Executives of SaTH, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin PCTs

to the Chairmen dated 12 January 2010 which indicated a review of plans and revisit of 2020 proposals in light of the global recession.

The Members expressed their disappointment and frustration with the changes, which had wasted funds on consultation and made nearly all the work done to date redundant. However, Members were clearly united in their desire to ensure a robust single consultation. Members acknowledged that clinical safety issues would undoubtedly pressure the consultation in certain areas but considered that management of public expectation and providing a clear, understandable, honest and open explanation of proposals and what was happening was paramount. Members considered that issues of recruitment and population growth would greatly impact on the proposals and expressed concern that some services had already moved, and that difficulties in obtaining information had previously made it hard to make informed decisions. Members highlighted public transport routes and how these were used in planning, clinical safety, Hospital at Home, impact on Social Services budgets and patient choice as particular areas of concern.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee expect a single, adequate consultation process on the Developing Health and Healthcare, A Strategy for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and that notification of any changes to or transfer of services at hospital sites should be promptly received.**
- (b) the Chairmen of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee should write to the Chief Executives of the PCTs, SaTH and Strategic Health Authority to communicate the expectations of the Committee regarding the consultation process.**

JHOSC-6 WORK PROGRAMME FOR JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members considered the work programme for the Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

With regard to evidence gathering for Hospital at Home Members noted that it had been suggested that a visit to Northamptonshire would be more prudent than a visit to Warwickshire and Members were keen to ensure that any visits were to authority areas with a similar make up to Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin and were keen to be able to talk not only to Senior Management but general staff, care recipients and GPs. Visits to St Helens and Knowsley and Northampton would take place at the end of February or early March.

The Scrutiny Manager (TWC) suggested a number of questions which would assist in the gathering of evidence on Hospital at Home and agreed to circulate these to Members via email for consideration and further suggestions. Members put forward a number of additional questions which included the impact on Social Services budgets, the effects on family

members and availability of respite care, what referral mechanisms were in place, the clinical protocols and specialisms of nurses together with details of caseloads and number of patients served, productive time and travelling time, availability of equipment, how care packages were evaluated, quality of care and cost effectiveness.

The Scrutiny Manager (TWC) then suggested a number of questions which would assist in the gathering of evidence from West Midlands Ambulance Service. Members suggested that evidence gathering in this field should also include the involvement of Patient First.

Members were advised that it was hoped clarification and evidence gathering at the next meeting and site visits would inform the following meeting of the Committee and so on. The suggested Work Programme ended in April 2010 as it was considered that changes may need to be made when the consultation proposals were released.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the draft work programme attached to the report as Appendix 1 be agreed in principle.**
- (b) the Scrutiny Manager (TWC) circulate the list of suggested questions for the Committee to comment upon.**

The meeting closed at 11.43am

Chairman.....

Date.....