



Committee and Date

Item

1

Public

SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT WORTHEN VILLAGE HALL

Responsible Officer Mathew Mead
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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Charlotte Barnes	Bishop's Castle (Chair)
Nigel Hartin	Clun

Town/Parish Councils

John Croxton	Clunbury Parish Council
Jonathan Roberts	Clungunford PC
Anne Marie Jackson	Bishops Castle Town Council
Valerie Whately	Bettws-y-Crwyn Parish Council
Sandra Davies	Newcastle on Clun Parish Council
Jonathan Kemp	Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council
Andrew Craig	Chirbury Parish Council
Trevor Jones	Myndtown Parish Council
Godfrey May	Lydbury North Parish Council
Brian Ince	Worthen with Shelve Parish Council

Officers Present:

Mathew Mead, Community Enablement Officer, Shropshire Council
Paul Tully, Deputy Accountable Officer Future Fit

20 members of the public were in attendance

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Charlotte Barnes welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Gordon Lewis (Mainstone); Heather Kidd (Shropshire Council) and Jane Carroll from Bishop's Castle. Anne Marie Jackson was attending as the Bishop's Castle Town Councillor representative

2. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Nigel Hartin declared an interest in the South West Shropshire Grant application from Bucknell Primary School, and did not vote on or take part in that agenda item

3. Notes of Previous Meeting (Item 1)

The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the previous LJC on which was held on 9th July at Lydham Village Hall

4. Update from Shropshire Housing Group – Rebecca Deakin Neighbourhood Management Officer Shropshire Housing Group

Rebecca updated the Committee on the work of the Housing Group and explained that they had properties in most of the Parishes covered by the LJC. The Housing Group were always happy to speak to Parish Councils about their work and also involved residents in their work. Community Grants were available to support local projects

Specifically a new Neighbourhood Plan was being produced for the Bishop's Castle area.

Jonathan Roberts raised the issue of the Shropshire Housing Group AGM always being held in Shrewsbury, and felt this restricted the ability of southern Shropshire residents to attend the meeting. Rebecca agreed to feed this back to the Housing Group for discussion

5. Presentation – Update on the Future Fit programme in Shropshire by Paul Tulley, Deputy Accountable Officer Future Fit

Paul thanked the Committee for inviting him to the meeting to provide an update on the Future Fit programme, especially in light of recent media coverage of the issue.

Paul started his presentation with some background on Future Fit and its review of health services in Shropshire. The programme had started around 2 years ago, and aimed to look at a range of issues which impacted on health care in Shropshire including availability of a skilled work force; changes in population profiles; changing patterns of illness; higher expectations from the public and new developments in medical technology. Economic challenges also underpinned the process. The programme also offered opportunities to deliver services differently.

The review was based on a clinical model, and Paul stressed that while a lot of focus had been made about the location of A&E Services, Future Fit was about much more than this issue. The programme looked to deliver Emergency Care (life threatening conditions) and Urgent Care (where medical help is needed but not in a life threatening situation) in different centres in Shropshire, as well as looking at planned care (for operations and appointments) as well as local care. He acknowledged that these different elements of the programme had perhaps not been clearly communicated through the public.

Over the last 2 years a series of Clinical Models had been looked at, and a short list of 4 options had been put forward by the Committee. One was a base line "no change" model. The others looked at location the Emergency Care Centre in either Shrewsbury or Telford, supplemented Urgent Care Centres at both sites alongside Diagnostic and Treatment Centres.

It was important to know that Emergency Centres would only be accessible by referral, or by ambulance for very urgent cases. Urgent Care Centres would be accessible on a walk in basis. The rationale behind having just one Emergency Centre is to have a full team of clinical staff available, rather than have them spread over two sites. Clinical models showed this to be the best way of providing care for patients. Additionally some acute services such as heart attacks, major trauma and neurosurgery would be delivered out of county as they are now.

Paul explained that these models had been developed by Future Fit, earlier in the year and provided savings. However during that time the deficit in running existing services in Shropshire had grown and the proposals were not sufficient to cover the deficit. This was why the programme timescales had changed. The next stage was to undertake two pieces of work – creation of a new deficit reduction plan, and the acute trust to put together a more detailed business case. These then need to be approved by the NHS and Government, before again going out to public consultation. This was likely to now be in late 2016 or early 2017.

Members of the Committee and the public stressed that more work needed to be done by Future Fit to explain the differences between Emergency Care and Urgent Care Centres. Paul agreed and also said that the location and role of rural Urgent Care Centres across Shropshire was also important. These could offer a range of services locally and help reduce travel times and might be different from site to site.

A number of questions about travel to an Emergency Care Centre in Telford from South West Shropshire and mid Wales were made by the Committee, and members of the public gave examples of cases where travel to Shrewsbury had been an issue. Paul explained that the programme was very clear that travel was a major issue and concern for people. However clinical models did show that overall care was improved by having specialist care at single sites with a range of clinicians available.

Comment was also made that when making performance comparisons between Shropshire hospitals and those from elsewhere in the country, the rural character of Shropshire needed to be considered. Comparing urban models with Shropshire could be misleading.

Members of the public asked how the new models would tackle “bed blocking”. Paul replied this was a slightly different issue to the clinical models looked at by Future Fit, but was certainly an issue that needed to be addressed. Reducing the numbers of people requiring Emergency Care was part of the solution, as was adequate after care treatment at people’s homes or local centres, which was also part of Future Fit.

Questions were also asked why it was so difficult to recruit staff to A&E Units in Shrewsbury and Telford when the number of trained consultants in England had increased by 45%. Paul replied that the reasons were varied but clinicians are attracted to work in centres that offered a range of surgeries and skills, and larger single site centres provided this.

Finances were clearly an issue not just in Shropshire but across the NHS. Members of the public questioned why changes were needed when more Government money had been announced for the NHS. Questions were also asked why Shropshire didn’t get additional funding to address its rurality issues. Paul said that the funding was

clearly a major issue, and while the Government had announced new funding this didn't really tackle the deficit issues in Shropshire. The Treasury would need to see savings made as part of the programme before they would agree it.

Paul talked about the timetable for the Future Fit Programme and explained that further review of the proposals would take place in 2016, with a view to going out to public consultation in late 2016 early 2017. Implementation would then need to be agreed and changes should start from 2018, although changes to A&E services may not happen until 2020. However the wider financial pressures faced by the NHS might influence this timescales. Paul agreed to attend further LJC meetings to keep people updated on the progress of the Future Fit Programme.

6. South West Shropshire Grants Scheme (Item 2)

The Community Enablement Officer reported that the South West Shropshire Grant scheme had £1430.08 remaining in the 2015/16 budget. Since the last meeting two new applications had been received.

The Honest Truth Partnership involves the Police, Fire Service, Council and Driving Instructors in a scheme to raise awareness of driving habits in young drivers. The aim of the project is to reduce accidents and deaths amongst this age group on South Shropshire's roads. The project has requested a grant of £150.

Committee Decision: Grant of £150 approved

Bucknell Pre-School – Out Door Play area.

A successful Pre-School operates out of Bucknell, but a recent Ofsted report has suggested that they need to improve outdoor play. While some space exists a pebble dashed wall makes the area unsafe for young children. This project aims to plaster the wall to make it safe and increase the area available for outdoor play. The total project costs are £1,300 and they are requesting a grant of £150

Committee Decision: Grant of £150 approved

The Community Enablement Officer asked the Committee if they would like to continue the grants scheme in 2016/17, to which they agreed. A letter will therefore be sent to Town and Parish Clerks to ask them to consider a contribution of £100 from their 2016/17 precept.

7. Youth Commissioning in South West Shropshire

A report on the progress of Youth Commissioning was presented to the Committee.

The LJC had £3,000 to allocate to Youth Activities in the area and the LJC had previously looked at the idea of establishing a Youth Club in Bishop's Castle using the funds. However a tender was issued for the work but no provider came forward. Requests for volunteers to come forward to run a club have also not been successful.

It was therefore proposed to split the funding and use £2,000 to support a small grants scheme for existing clubs; and £1,000 to support outreach work and activities in Bishop's Castle.

The Committee discussed the proposal and agreed to the allocation of the funding in this way. The Community Enablement Officer was asked to send details of the grant scheme to prospective applicants.

8. Public Question Time

No questions were received from the public

9. Future Agenda Items

The Committee requested that a senior Councillor, ideally the Leader of the Council was invited to attend a meeting and talk about Shropshire Council's "Big Conversation"

In light of the recent government announcement about Council's being able to increase Council Tax by 2% for adult social care, it was also suggested that Councillor Lee Chapman could be invited to speak about this subject.

The Committee also felt it would be useful to hear more about the Council's vision for economic development.

These topics will be followed up and invitations made to future meetings.

10. Date of next meetings

Full public meetings were scheduled for

Thursday 17th March 2016

The Planning meeting would take place on Thursday 18th February, although these dates may change to accommodate a presentation about The Big Conversation.

Chair: _____

Date: _____