

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Scrutiny (East Staffordshire Health) Committee held in the Coltman VC Room at the Town Hall, Burton upon Trent on Thursday 10th December 2015.

Present:

Councillors S Smith (Chairman), Mrs R Carlton, Mrs S McGarry, Mrs S McKiernan and County Councillor C Wileman.

Officers Present:

The Communities & Open Spaces Manager (Michael Hovers)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R J Clarke and Mrs L Shelton.

24/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

25/15 MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

26/15 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business brought to the committee pursuant to Rule 12.

27/15 “HEALTHY AGEING IN STAFFORDSHIRE: ADDING YEARS AND YEARS TO LIFE” (ANNUAL REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR STAFFORDSHIRE 2014/15)

A copy of the report “Healthy Ageing in Staffordshire: Adding Years and Years to Life” (Annual Report of Director of Public Health for Staffordshire 2014/15) had been circulated previously. Councillors received a presentation from Jon Topham (Locality Public Health Partnership and Commissioning Lead) and Denise Vittorino on the report. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes (Appendix 1).

28/15 STANDING ITEM – QUEEN’S HOSPITAL

A copy of Councillor Mrs R Carlton’s report on Queen’s hospital is appended to these minutes (Appendix 2).

29/15 STANDING ITEM – EAST STAFFORDSHIRE CCG

A copy of the Improving Lives Public Events Questions and Answers and the Presentation are appended to these minutes (appendix 3a and 3b).

30/15 WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

Members received an update on the work programme.

31/15 **COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTHY STAFFORDSHIRE SELECT COMMITTEE UPDATE AND ACCOUNTABILITY SESSIONS**

Councillors received an update from the Chairman and the County Council representative. A copy of Councillor Mrs R Carlton's report on the Accountability session held on 30th November 2015 is appended to these minutes (Appendix 4).

32/15 **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions received prior to the meeting for answer by the Leader, Deputy Leader or Officer of the Council.

33/15 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:

That the next meeting take place on 23rd March 2016 at 6.30pm in the Coltman VC room at the Town Hall, Burton upon Trent.

Chairman

Appendix 01 - Presentation

Appendix 02 - Burton Hospitals Council of Governors Report from the Meeting Held on 21st October 2015

Monitor's recent report following the CQC Inspection suggested that although Queens is now out of Special Measures, the deficit is such, along with many other NHS Providers, that the call is now for a National financial stabilisation plan, before the NHS falls completely into decline!

Financial Performance

The Year End planned deficit was forecast at being £19.985m, however, a revised forecast was discussed with Monitor to bring the deficit down to £16.53m. The Trust were advised not to hold any reserves and that any surplus income/assets should be declared and used to reduce the deficit.

Performance Targets

Performance targets for the Trust are run on a monthly basis, and during October, the Trust was meeting all its targets. However, the Board requested that the Trust re-look at Pressure Sores, as they were not being systematically contained, despite excellent and leading edge approaches.

The Board has had an in-depth review of the Theatre Services, with assurance to deliver significant improvement of services in respect of patient experience, outcomes and productivity.

The A&E 4 hour target was achieved and has been achieved for the 5th consecutive month. The Trust achieved all the National Cancer targets, with the exception of the 62 day target which was 91.3%.

Strokes targets were achieved.

36 Elective operations were cancelled on the day in the month of October, which was the worst performance for some considerable time and reflects the pressures the Trust is still experiencing in a number of areas.

There were, however, no 'mixed sex' bay breaches.

The Operations Director presented an update on the Urgent Care Recovery Plan. A DNA report was also presented, which highlighted a number of deficiencies in the way the Trust deal with these and also issues surrounding their "appointments" systems and procedures. The Trust acknowledged that this required further investigation and the issue will come back to the Board in the New Year.

Recruitment & Workforce

Staff Appraisal completions stood at 91% against a target of 90%. RGN vacancies stood at 75 once the most recent cohort of Italian nurses had been included. It was noted again, that problems continue with Certificates of Sponsorship for overseas nurses, particularly those from the Philippines. It was also noted that nurse recruitment drives were likely to be hampered by the Super Hospital programme (Derby Hospitals NHSFT) and any drives would be carefully monitored in the future.

The Nursing Recruitment Drive which took place in September was productive, and 21 offers of employment were made to newly qualified nurses. All nursing assistant vacancy posts have also been filled.

It was reported that in the full financial year, 39,000 days had been lost due to sickness absence, equating to £3.1m in lost productivity, rising to £5m once the costs of temporary cover had been included. Long-term sickness has increased with 61 cases being actively managed.

The People Committee (a sub-committee) of the Governing Body, established a task and finish group to investigate the impact of long days and extra hours to Contract on sickness absence. They also carried out an Audit of sickness absence policy compliance, including a

review of the top 50 cases determined by the number of sickness episodes. There was also a communications campaign to remind staff of the importance of sickness management. It is hoped to receive feedback on these investigations at the next Governors Meeting.

Membership & Communications Committee

A Roadshow is planned for May 2016 with the topic being Diabetes. Consultants will be invited to give presentations and all Members of the Trust will be invited. The date and venue is still to be confirmed. This will be advertised in the New Year.

CCG Public Consultation

Following the public consultation into the proposed opening hours of the Sir Robert Peel and Samuel Johnson Community Hospitals, the Governing Body of the CCG met to discuss the recommendations and make its decision. They approved the recommendation that the opening hours of both Hospitals be changed from 1st April 2016 – 8am to 10pm at Sir Robert Peel and 8am to 9pm at Samuel Johnson.

My next Governors meeting will take place on Thursday 17th December.

Councillor Rebecca Carlton
09 December 2015

Appendix 3 – CCG Question & Answer Session

Appendix 4

Accountability Session 30th November 2015 Staffordshire County Council Health Staffordshire Select Committee

Helen Ashley (Chief Executive), Brendon Brown (Chief Nurse and Chief Operating Officer) and Magnus Harrison (Medical Director) were present for questioning at the Accountability Session.

Helen Ashley gave a brief summary and overview of the Trust's current status and advised the Committee that they were out of Special Measures and would be looking to work with other Health Providers, including Derby Hospital, Universities and GP's. A 5-Year Recovery Plan was reported to be in place, with Virgin Healthcare coming on board to assist with the improvement of some under-performing areas within the Trust, to improve the patient experience.

Questions were asked by Members of the Committee, and answers are summarised as follows:

The Trust were asked to give examples of areas that required improvement and which areas of service were being addressed. The Trust advised that they were looking at securing 2 contracts for new services, including addressing COPD, Diabetes and Heart Failure.

The reduction in the Trust's deficit was questioned. The year-end planned deficit was £19.985m, however this was later reported as being reduced to £16.53m. Helen Ashley advised that Monitor had instructed the Trust to relinquish all assets and any investments. This was instrumental in bringing the deficit down.

Staff Recruitment was still an ongoing concern, although Brendon stated that recruitment drives had taken place during September and the Trust had received some positive feedback and interests in the nursing profession.

There was still a high level of sickness absence, and in particular long-term sickness absence. More support was being offered to staff, particularly in regard to stress-related and cancer-related illness, but admitted that this was also having a drain on the Trust's finances.

The car-parking facilities were still currently under review in regard to the possible proposed extension to the current car-parking facilities for patients, visitors and staff. Helen Ashley stated that it was unreasonable for the local residents to continue to endure the regular parking activity in and around the area. Parking was also becoming a critical problem for staff, which at times have been unable to park securely within the Hospital grounds. The Select Committee asked that the Trust keep them up-to-date with progress.

The on-going concern in regard to mental health in East Staffordshire was raised. Brendon agreed that more needed to be done. The Trust advised the Committee that there was a team of 2 members of staff that were psychiatric trained that worked a 5-day week. Brendon acknowledged that this was not enough, but due to financial implications, it was a service that they could not develop at this time. Brendon advised that a room needed to be set aside for mental health patients coming into A&E and this had also been raised by the CQC as a way of protecting them and the general public. Again, when the resources were available, this improvement and facility would be addressed.

Helen Ashley acknowledged that more joined-up working with other Healthcare providers was needed in order to provide effective and efficient care plans for the vulnerable and elderly. It was earmarked as one of the priorities that Virgin would assist with, together with them bringing in new IT systems to improve joined up working with other providers.

The national shortage of student/junior doctors was raised and the Trust were asked if this was having a knock-on effect for the Staffordshire Trust. Magnus advised that Queens did not generally take in student doctors, but this was something that they would look at within their 5-year plan.

Kath Perry referred the Trust to the Written Evidence Submission within the report, and in particular Page 18 which listed the under-achieving targets and areas for the Trust, (copy attached). The Vice-Chairman invited the Trust to consider a response to the Committee during the evening, or to come back to the Committee with their answers.

Brendon Brown addressed most of the under-performing statements, and advised the Committee that all was improving and any under-performance had been acknowledged.

During Nick Pountney's summing up, further feedback was asked of the Trust to address the issues raised and to come back to the Committee with comprehensive answers.

Cllr Rebecca Carlton