

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, 21 JULY 2015 AT 10.00A.M.**

Agenda Item No.

**9**

**REPORT FROM THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

*The Committee met on 25 March & 2 April 2015*

**1. Scrutiny of the NHS in Hertfordshire's budget and Francis follow up**

1.1 The Committee's scrutiny of the NHS in Hertfordshire's Budget and Francis Follow Up was conducted over two days; commencing on 25 March 2015, when it gathered its evidence via a 'scrutiny café'. Evidence was gathered from two Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's), five local health trusts and Herts Urgent Care; paired up as follows:-

- Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) and West Herts Hospital Trust (WHHT)
- East and North Clinical Commissioning Group (ENCCG) and East & North Herts Hospital Trust (ENHT)
- Herts Partnership Foundation Trust (HPFT) and Herts Community NHS Trust (HCT)
- East of England Ambulance Trust (EEAST) and Herts Urgent Care (HUC)

1.3 Members of the Committee were divided into 4 'Member Groups', with each group being assigned an area of questioning based on the following key themes:-

- Workforce
- Patient and Carers Experience
- Parity
- Quality and Innovation

1.4 The Committee reconvened on 2 April 2015, when recommendations, information requests and additions to the Work Programme were agreed.

1.5 A copy of the Committee's report, including its recommendations, can be viewed at <https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/17/Committee/12/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

The Committee met on 18 June 2015

**2. Scrutiny of the NHS in Hertfordshire's budget and Francis follow up**

- 2.1 The Committee has received feedback on its scrutiny of Hertfordshire Health Organisations Budgets and Francis Review Follow Up and Future Years.
- 2.2 Fifteen feedback forms have been returned and all state that the process of scrutinising health organisations budgets and work related to the Francis report should continue in the same format next year. Overall the feedback was very positive. A number of improvements have been suggested and these will be looked in detail at by the scrutiny team in readiness for the 2016 scrutiny. In particular, the Committee has discussed including the voluntary sector and it is felt that this might be best achieved via a questionnaire.
- 2.3 The Committee has also received details of Health Organisations' responses to the recommendations and responses to requests for information. Some of the requests for information have been highlighted as being lacking in detail and it has been agreed that Members will liaise directly with the scrutiny team regarding any further information that they require.
- 2.4 The Committee discussed the recent Care Quality Commission's (CQC) inspection of West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust, its strategic review and the instability within the senior management team within the Trust. It was agreed that, once the outcomes of the CQC's inspection are known, it might be necessary to undertake further scrutiny.

**3. Healthwatch General Practitioner (GP) access update**

- 3.1 The Committee has received an update on the GP access work that is being undertaken by Hertfordshire Healthwatch. Due to receiving many views and experiences from local people, particularly in the Stort Valley and Villages, regarding GP services, Healthwatch decided to conduct a survey to find out more and establish the types of changes that might improve the situation.
- 3.2 The research had run over a 4 week period during May/June 2014 and involved 5 GP practices. The findings of this work were used to produce individual practice reports which included recommendations, together with a Public report which was launched in September 2014.
- 3.3 A forum is being held in September 2015, one year on from completion of the research; bringing together NHS England, the CCG, local councillors and patient groups to discuss what challenges can be influenced locally and which are more systemic. Herts Valley CCG is looking to use the model to do a similar study in the West of the County.

3.4 The Committee has requested that Healthwatch return to its meeting in Autumn 2015 with a further update on progress.

**4. Consultation on a future model for NHS 111 and GP out of hours services for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group patients registered at Royston practices**

4.1 The Committee has met with Representatives of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CAPCCG) regarding its plans for engagement with patients registered at the three Royston GP practices in relation to 111 and GP Out of Hours services.

4.2 Royston patients are currently provided with NHS 111 and Out of Hours services by East and North Herts CCG, however, at the beginning of April 2015, the Royston clinicians, under the CATCH locality, approached CAPCCG about joining in with the procurement of a new service that was planned for the Cambridge and Peterborough area.

4.3 The wider engagement process in Cambridge and Peterborough finished in March 2015 but this did not include patients from the Royston practices. The Committee has now heard detailed plans for the engagement process for Royston and the change of service proposed.

**5. West Hertfordshire strategic review**

5.1 The Committee has received a further update on the progress regarding the west Hertfordshire Strategic review, including details of engagement that has now taken place and the outcomes.

5.2 A significant amount of feedback has been received and there is a strong sentiment that things must change. It is considered that a great deal could be done to improve health inequalities and to secure a better patient experience. Discharge from care is an area which has been highlighted, together with the need for care to be much more joined up. The projected resource constraints over the next 5 -10 years are considerable, with an income gap of £256 million by 2019/20. More work is being undertaken to understand the financial challenges and implications and this will come back to the Committee at a later date. It is anticipated that, in order to bridge this gap, more people will need to be treated at home with fewer hospital admissions and by making a shift from treatment to prevention.

5.3 In order to further develop the co-design process, three overarching themes have been identified that will underpin the development work. These are:

Population Prevention  
Integration  
Empowering People

- 5.4 The Committee has discussed the issue of delayed discharges from Watford Hospital and anecdotal evidence that Members have received regarding the difficulties and frustrations experienced by patients and their families. Concern has been expressed regarding the figure of 50% of beds being occupied by patients who should have been moved elsewhere. A Care Pathway Topic Group is scheduled for the end of the year.
- 5.5 The Committee has requested that a further report be brought to its meeting in Autumn 2015 with the proposed Case for Change and draft proposals for the future.

## **6. The Work Programme**

- 6.1 The Committee has considered its future work programme, noting those scrutinies recently concluded and those scheduled for the forthcoming period. It has noted that the seminars on the following subject are forthcoming:

Child Sexual Exploitation Seminar - 15 July 2015;  
5 Year Forward View – September 2015; and  
Pharmacists – 11 November 2015

- 6.2 The Committee has also recently added a scrutiny of the working of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1986 in Hertfordshire to its work programme, together with a review of Winter Resilience.

**Seamus Quilty**  
**Chairman**  
**July 2015**