

REPORT FROM THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee met on 1 October 2015

1. CARE PATHWAYS SCOPING DOCUMENT

- 1.1 The Committee considered the scoping document for the Care Pathways Scrutiny Topic Group due to take place on 14 and 15 January 2016. The Topic Group will be focused on diabetes and stroke only and a separate Topic Group on the subject of Supported Discharge is planned for 2016 (date to be confirmed.)

2. HEALTH BUDGET AND FRANCIS SCRUTINY CAFÉ 2016 PLANS

- 2.1 The Committee was provided with a report outlining the proposals for the Health Budget and Quality of Care (Francis Report¹) scrutiny café due to take place in March 2016 and agreed to all the proposals within the report. The key changes from previous years are as follows:

- Two themes for discussion: 1. Health Budgets, 2. Quality of Care (Francis Report)
- Each group to have 90 minutes for questioning and discussion on each theme
- A public health representative to be present in each group (Public Health will also submit written responses to the questions in advance of the scrutiny café in the same way as health organisations)
- Further information on each organisation's current financial circumstances will be included in the summary of organisations.
- More time to be given between the scrutiny café and follow up committee meeting.

- 2.2 The Committee agreed that the second part of the meeting of the Health Budget and Francis scrutiny be moved from 24 March 2016 to 31 March 2016.

3. REPORT ON WEST HERTFORDSHIRE HOSPITALS TRUST (WHHT) CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 The Committee considered a report summarising the findings from the investigation carried out by the Care Quality Commission at West Hertfordshire Hospitals Trust (WHHT). A representative of WHHT

¹ The Francis report, published in February 2013, outlined the failings at the Mid Staffordshire Foundation Trust which included quality of care, patient safety and a culture of collective leadership.

attended the meeting and provided further detail on the context of and response to the CQC inspection. Ongoing work on improvements that have been taking place since April 2015 were outlined and the following key points were noted:

- Staff and stakeholder engagement are good
- An Improvement Director has been appointed to the Trust
- A further intensive revisit from the CQC will take place within the next few months.
- Jacqueline Kelly will remain at WHHT as interim Chief Executive until March 2016 and possibly beyond that date to ensure continuity.

3.2 The Committee welcomed the changes that had already been made at WHHT and highlighted the need for changes to continue to be implemented quickly.

3.3 The Committee agreed to monitor the required actions and improvements put forward by the CQC by setting up a Topic Group (which Healthwatch will offer input to) specifically for this purpose; to meet regularly with West Herts Hospital Trust over the next 6-9 months and report back to the Committee. Communications will be high on the list of priorities for consideration by the WHHT Monitoring Topic Group. West Herts Hospital Trust will be invited to report back to the Committee in 6-9 months time.

4. THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE LANDSCAPE

4.1 The Committee agreed that this item would be postponed until the next meeting on 12 November 2015.

5. THE WORK PROGRAMME

5.1 The Committee has considered its future work programme, noting those scrutinies recently concluded and those scheduled for the forthcoming period. Members noted that seminars on the following subjects have been held:-

- Voluntary Sector: 13 October 2015
- NHS England: 20 Oct 2015

and that the following seminars are scheduled:-

- Pharmacists: 11 Nov 2015
- Better care fund: 2016 (date to be confirmed)

5.2 The Committee also added a West Herts Hospital Trust (WHHT) Monitoring Scrutiny Topic Group to the work programme (see item 3 above).

Seamus Quilty
Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee
November 2015