

REPORT FROM THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee held a Budget Scrutiny Committee on 16 & 30 March 2017

1. Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group's decision on the continued Funding of Care Services for the Financial Year 2017/18

- 1.1 The Committee welcomed the new Chief Executive of Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) Kathryn Magson, who confirmed the decision of the Herts Valleys CCG's Board on the continued funding of care services for the financial year 2017/18.
- 1.2 Ms Magson advised that at the HVCCG Board meeting on the 9 March 2017, the Governing Body had made two decisions:
1. To cease the discretionary payment for social care funding from HVCCG to Hertfordshire County Council from 2018/19. This was unanimously agreed by the Board.
 2. To make a reduced discretionary payment for social care funding to Hertfordshire County Council of £4.5m in 2017/18. This was agreed further to a long discussion with a majority decision, with one board member choosing to abstain.
- 1.3 Members were assured by Ms Magson of the CCG's commitment to repair the relationship with Hertfordshire County Council.
- 1.4 The Committee also heard from Iain Macbeath, Director of Health & Community Services for Hertfordshire County Council, who welcomed and endorsed Ms Magson's commitment for the future of joint working, and also assured the Committee of Hertfordshire County Council's commitment to joint working.
- 1.5 The following motion, proposed by the Chairman and duly seconded (by CJ White) was unanimously agreed:-

"The Health Scrutiny Committee recommends to Council that:-

- (1) *Council should not report the decision of Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) to withdraw funding for social care to the Secretary of State in accordance with its powers under Regulation 23(9) of the Local Authority (Public Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 ("the Regulations"), but that the Council should make a report to HVCCG in relation to the matters that*

the Health Scrutiny Committee has scrutinised in accordance with its powers under Regulation 22 of the Regulations; and

- (2) *That the Chief Legal Officer be authorised to take all necessary steps prepare and submit the report referred to in (1) above in consultation with the Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee; and*
- (3) *Council notes the Committee's disappointment that the full £8.5m will not be paid, but also notes that the Committee is content that HVCCG has moved its position significantly with £4.5m to be paid in relation to 2017/18 and that the Committee looks forward to the County Council working together co-operatively with the CCG moving forward with stronger governance around any future funding and partnership arrangements."*

This was considered by County Council at its meeting on 21 March 2017 where the motion was carried unanimously.

2. Annual Scrutiny of Health Organisations 2017/18 (incorporating the Quality Accounts)

- 2.1 Members received an introduction to the scrutiny and a summary by the Scrutiny Officer, reminding members of the format for the Committee's scrutiny. The Committee then adjourned to gather its evidence. The Committee broke into three groups to gather its evidence and focussed on six local trusts.

- West Herts Hospital Trust
- North Herts Hospital Trust
- Herts Partnership Foundation Trust
- Herts Community NHS Trust
- East of England Ambulance Trust
- Herts Urgent Care

At the end of the evidence gathering process on the 16 March 2017 the session closed and then reconvened on 30 March 2017 to consider its recommendations, information requests and additions to the work programme.

- 2.2 The Committee agreed that it should receive a report at its meeting in June 2017 reviewing the process used for this year's Annual Scrutiny of Health Organisations 2017/18 (Incorporating the Quality Accounts)

The report can be found [here](#)

The Committee met on the 15 June 2017

3. New Health Scrutiny Committee Member Induction

- 3.1 The Head of Scrutiny, presented a comprehensive induction package to the Health Scrutiny Committee with the purpose of ensuring that Members were

fully briefed on the purpose of the Health Scrutiny Committee and fully understood the role and expectations of them as Members as part of the Committee, and how they needed to work make the scrutiny process effective.

4. Review of responses from Health Scrutiny Committee Annual Scrutiny 2016/17

- 4.1 Members were advised that further to the Annual Scrutiny in March, the six Health Trusts that had been scrutinised had been invited to respond to the report of the scrutiny written by the Scrutiny Team.
- 4.2 Members noted the responses from:
 - Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust
 - East & North Herts Trust
 - East of England Ambulance Trust Service
 - West Herts Hospital Trust
- 4.3 Members expressed particular thanks to East & North Herts Trust for responding and noted that this had been challenging for the organisation as it had been subject to the cyber-attack that had affected a number of health organisations during May 2017.
- 4.4 Members expressed surprise that no responses had been received by Herts Urgent Care (HUC) and Herts Community Trust (HCT). The Chairman stated his intention to write to the Chief Executives of HUC and HCT to make clear his disappointment on behalf of the Committee regarding the lack of responses from their organisations.
- 4.5 Members unanimously supported the Chairman's intention to write to both Chief Executives of the HUC and HCT.
- 4.6 Members were advised that the Chairman would also be meeting the Chief Executives from both organisations who had not submitted their responses over the summer and would also raise the lack of response in discussion with them.

5. Scrutiny Recommendations Update

- 5.1 The recommendations of scrutinies held since the last meeting and the Executive response were noted by Members.

6. Scrutiny Work Programme Review 2017/18

- 6.1 Members learned that the Scrutiny Team will liaise with chief officers from the County Council and health organisations to establish areas and themes for consideration for the work programme for the Health Scrutiny Committee for 2017/18. A report will then be presented at the Health Scrutiny Committee in July 2017 which members will consider and agree their work programme.

7. Proposed Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee

- 7.1 Members have agreed the establishment of an HSC Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee will replace the current Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group and will be a more streamlined and focused way of monitoring action taken on the recommendations arising from Topic Groups.
- 7.2 The Sub Committee will be made up of five Members and be politically proportionate. Members noted that it would run consecutively with the OSC Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee and will have the same membership.

8. Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/17

- 8.1 Members noted the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2016/17.

**Seamus Quilty,
Chairman
July 2017**