

**REPORT FROM THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

*The Committee met on 9 May 2018*

**1. Update on formalising relations between West Hertfordshire Hospital NHS Trust and the Royal Free Hospital NHS Trust**

1.1 The Committee received a presentation outlining the developing relationship between West Herts Hospital Trust (WHHT) and the Royal Free Hospital NHS Trust. It noted that the Trust Board had decided in principle to formalise the affiliation and become a clinical partner. A formal decision will be taken following engagement with staff and partners.

1.2 The relationship between the WHHT and the Royal Free provided a good opportunity to share experiences and good practice; the three key areas identified for this were:

- patient care
- clinical support
- corporate support.

**2. Response to report of the whole committee scrutiny of Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group's decision to withdraw funding from Nascot Lawn NHS Respite Centre**

2.1 The Chief Executive of Herts Valley Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) gave an update on the discussions that were held at its Finance and Performance Committee; the Committee was apprised of the background to the proposals and the discussions that had taken place over the last 12 months. The HVCCG's Finance and Performance Committee recommendation to its Board was that HVCCG should cease funding from Nascot Lawn respite centre and enter into an agreement with the County Council and East and North Hertfordshire CCG (E&NHCCG) for joint funding of an overnight short break service, with both CCGs providing £100k a year towards to support the overnight short breaks service, with additional funding for children eligible for continuing healthcare funding. Members noted that the final decision on the future funding of Nascot Lawn Respite Centre would be taken by the HVCCG Board on Thursday 10 May 2018. It was further noted that the meeting would be held in public and that a parent had been invited to give a presentation to the Board prior to any decision being reached.

2.2 The Health Scrutiny Committee also heard from a representative of the Hertfordshire Community Trust (HCT) who informed Members that the priority for HCT was to continue to provide the contracted service at Nascot Lawn and staffing was in place to do so until the end of June 2018. The Committee noted

that there had been a 50% reduction in service provision and that Nascot Lawn was currently operating the overnight short breaks on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights; this reduction in service provision resulted in a 50% reduction in allocation, affecting each family differently as weekend respite was no longer available.

- 2.3 The Health Scrutiny Committee heard from a parent who depended on the Nascot Lawn respite service. Members heard that she believed the lack of respite care to be an untenable situation; only four children had been transitioned, including hers, and 16 children were still waiting. She advised that she considered that two of the families that she was in contact with were in a traumatic state and unable to cope with the process and lack of choice.
- 2.4 The Committee agreed that, due to the timings of this meeting and the HVCCG Board meeting and consequential effects on other issues raised at the meeting, it would not be appropriate to make a recommendation to Full County Council for referral to the Secretary of State at this time.
- 2.5 The Chairman therefore proposed a revised set of proposals which were duly seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed that:-

*The Committee:*

- 1) *was disappointed that the Finance & Performance Committee recommendation to the Herts Valley's Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) Board has not accepted in full the Recommendations of this Committee at its meeting on 21 March 2018;*
- 2) *noted that the situation is fluid and that since the publication of the Finance & Performance Committee recommendation further agreement on the issue of inflation appears to have been reached;*
- 3) *noted that the HVCCG Board will be making a decision on the Proposal on Thursday 10 May 2018;*
- 4) *considered that, unless further progress was made towards reaching an agreement in line with the Recommendations of 21 March 2018, and discussions in Committee on 9 May 2018 on the issue of entering into a section 75 agreement (Section 75 National Health Service Act 2006), the Proposal on Nascot Lawn remained one which is not in the interests of health in Hertfordshire;*
- 5) *recommended that, following a period for further negotiations between the HVCCG and the County Council to try and reach agreement on the Recommendations, Full Council considered whether it should exercise the power under Regulation 23(9) of The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 to refer the Proposal to the Secretary of State and determine future actions.*

### **3. Scrutiny Work Programme**

- 3.1 The Committee considered its work programme 2018 – 2019 and those scrutinies scheduled for the forthcoming period.
- 3.2 A scrutiny request for ‘Scrutiny of the working relations between Public Health and the NHS’ was received.
- 3.3 The draft scoping document for the Hospital Patient Flow scrutiny, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, was also received and no further amendments were made by Members.
- 3.4 The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Topic Group report was also received and its recommendations noted:
1. *That Hertfordshire should become a ‘trailblazer’ and adopt the Green Paper with an amendment as to the amount of time needed to operationalise proposals. This should be reduced to 2020 rather than 2022/23.*
  2. *Members understand the difficulty in evaluating CAMHS projects. However, the prototype and piloted services should be reviewed ahead of the implementation of the Green Paper.*
  3. *CAMHS partners need to work with schools to make sure that there are designated MH leads can educate schools and community groups, whilst recognising the limit to which classroom teachers can provide this service.*
  4. *All partners should explore developing further preventative and early intervention models to prevent children and young people reaching crisis. Using The Home Treatment Team model, run by HPFT, as an exemplar.*
  5. *It is imperative that officers secure longer term funding for Empathy and similar projects as yearly funding is not sufficient for sustainability of a service.*

#### The Committee met on 3 July 2018

### **4. Induction to the Health Scrutiny Committee**

- 4.1 The Committee welcomed Lesley Greensmyth as a new County Council representative on the Committee, and Paul Cousin and Helen Bromley as the district council representatives representing St Albans City & District Council and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council respectively.
- 4.2 Members received a refresher session on the duties and expectations of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

### **5. Learning Disability Nursing Service - Update**

- 5.1 The Committee received an update from officers from the Council and the Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust on the work of Learning Disability Nursing Service.

## **6. Health & Wellbeing Board - Update**

- 6.1 Members were scheduled to be provided with an update on this area, but due to a Peer Review being undertaken, officers were unable to attend the meeting.
- 6.2 Members agreed to defer this item to a future meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

## **7. Nascot Lawn Respite Centre - Update**

- 7.1 Members were updated on the on-going negotiations between Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC) Children's Services and Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) in respect of the Nascot Lawn NHS Respite Centre.
- 7.2 Members were pleased to hear that the Council and HVCCG had strengthened their collaborative working with respect to providing alternative respite provision for children, but were very concerned to hear that a majority of children had yet to receive their full entitlement to respite provision.
- 7.3 The Committee received updates from HVCCG, Children's Services, Hertfordshire Community Trust and a representative of the parents whose children used Nascot Lawn respite services.
- 7.4 Following further discussion and debate, the Committee unanimously agreed that:-

*The Committee held a special meeting on 21 March 2018. At that meeting the Committee was not satisfied that the Proposal as put forward by Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) was in the interests of the health service but considered that it may be possible to reach an appropriate agreement with HVCCG.*

*The Committee approved a Motion for the preparation of a Report in accordance with Regulation 23(4) of The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 setting out the issues considered by the Committee and its Recommendations in relation to:*

- a. Transitional arrangements*
- b. Financial contribution*
- c. Details of nursing available for OSB*
- d. Type and nature of legal agreement*
- e. Engagement and consultation*

*The Committee held a further meeting on 9 May 2018 where it was noted that HVCCG had not yet made a decision on the Proposal to withdraw £600,000 of funding for the Nascot Lawn NHS respite Centre as its full Board was due to take place on Thursday 10 May 2018.*

*On 9 May 2018 the Committee considered that there should be period for further negotiations between the HVCCG and the County Council to try and reach agreement on the Recommendations, following which full Council could consider whether it should exercise the power under Regulation 23(9) of The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health.*

*On 9 May 2018 HVCCG wrote to the Chairman of the Committee agreeing with the majority of the Recommendations made by Committee at the special meeting on 21 March 2018. HVCCG accepted the need to ensure that the arrangements for the proposed Overnight Short Break Service and its contribution to it should be set out in a formal section 75 NHS Act 2006 agreement.*

*On 10 May 2018 HVCCG considered the Proposal at its full Board meeting (held in public) and decided to withdraw £600,000 of funding for Nascot Lawn.*

*Negotiations between HCC Children's Services, HVCCG and East & North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group are currently ongoing to ensure that the Committees' Recommendations are fully taken into account in the final section 75 NHS Act 2006 Agreement.*

**7.5 The Committee made the following recommendations:**

*The Committee*

- 1) is disappointed by the manner in which HVCCG have dealt with the issue of the Nascot Lawn funding, particularly the manner in which it engaged with the users of Nascot Lawn and partner agencies;*
- 2) notes that there is ongoing work to ensure that all the children and families using Nascot Lawn are fully transitioned to alternative respite provision;*
- 3) notes that there are continuing negotiations on the section 75 NHS Act 2006 agreement;*
- 4) considers that, as progress is being made towards agreement with the Recommendations of the special scrutiny meeting held 21 March 2018, it is not appropriate to recommend to full Council that it should exercise the power under Regulation 23(9) of The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 to refer the Proposal to the Secretary of State;*
- 5) that, in order to ensure that the Committee's Recommendations of 21 March 2018 are fully taken into account, a topic group be established to scrutinise and report back to Committee as soon as reasonably practicable:*
  - (a) the negotiations and final agreement of the section 75 NHS 2006 Agreement;*
  - (b) the progress of transition of the children and families currently using Nascot Lawn to alternative respite settings;*

(c) *the establishment and development of the Overnight Short Break Service for Children in Hertfordshire - to ensure that that service fully meets the health (as well as social care) needs of the children and families accessing respite care;*

6) *considers that the Chairman should write to Simon Stevens, Chief Executive, NHS England to set out the Committee's concerns about the manner in which HVCCG conducted itself throughout the process since reaching its original decision to withdraw funding in January 2017.*

## **8. Scrutiny of the NHS Quality Accounts 2018/19 - Feedback**

8.1 The Annual Scrutiny of Health Provider Quality Accounts took place in March 2018.

8.2 Members noted the feedback from the meeting and agreed to the suggestion within the feedback for nominated group Chairmen to undertake more training.

## **9. Proposed Annual Scrutiny of Clinical Commissioning Group Finances 2019/20**

9.1 Members agreed the questions to be asked at the Health Scrutiny Committee on 24 October 2018 which will focus on the scrutiny of Clinical Commissioning Group finances.

## **10. Scrutiny Work Programme**

10.1 The Committee considered its work programme 2018 – 2019, and those scrutinies scheduled for the forthcoming period.

10.2 The Committee noted the Patient Flow Topic Group Report and its recommendations:

1. *WHHT, ENHT and Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) work together to standardise the discharge process and introduce consistent practice across the county. This should be facilitated by:*

- a) Planning for discharge by establishing estimated discharge dates (EDD) within the 24 hours of admission*
- b) Improved use of community therapy following patient discharge*
- c) Routine inclusion of pharmacists on board rounds.*
- d) Implementation of Computers On Wheels (COWs) initiative*

*A target of December 2018 should be set for implementation of these actions.*

2. *The Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) support primary care to address unnecessary direct referrals. This should be done through mapping the type and locations of admission referrals. The data generated should inform subsequent communication with and development of professionals to reduce pressure on hospital patient flow. A target of December 2018 should be set for implementation of this action.*

3. *The Sustainability Transformation Partnership (STP) should oversee the development of programmes across the Hertfordshire and West Essex footprint and should review, monitor and advise on the continued sharing of good practice between the two main acute hospital trusts. Examples of good practice to be shared and implemented include:*
  - a) *The vanguard programme and the successful initiatives it piloted in East and North Hertfordshire*
  - b) *Introducing the Early Intervention Vehicle (EIV) model to the west of the county.*

## **11. Site Visits**

- 11.1 In May 2018, Committee Members were invited to Watford Hospital by West Herts Hospital Trust (WHHT). Members spoke to the Deputy Chief Executive and the Chief Nurse. A tour was hosted by the Medical Director and included the Emergency Department and Resuscitation Unit, MRI and CAT scanners.
- 11.2 In June Committee Members visited Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH), Harlow. PAH sits within the Hertfordshire & West Essex Sustainability & Transformation Partnership (STP) and Members are keen to increase their understanding of the hospital's services. PAH has recently emerged from special measures. Members were informed of the improvements that have taken place and a tour was hosted that included the emergency care journey patients take and the dementia and end of life wards.

## **12. HSC Chairman's Liaison**

- 12.1 Relations between Health Scrutiny Committee and health organisations is important to the success of health scrutiny. To this end the Chairman has regular meetings with key health leaders. The Chairman has recently met the Chief Executive of East & North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group (ENHCCG); and the Chief Executive and Chair of Herts Community Trust (HCT). Meetings are also planned with the Chief Executive of West Herts Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG); and the Chair of West Herts Hospital Trust (WHHT).
- 12.2 The Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee will meet the new Chair of Healthwatch Hertfordshire at the next quarterly chairmen's meeting in July.

**Seamus Quilty**  
**Chairman**  
**July 2018**