

# Minutes



To: All Members of the Health Scrutiny Committee, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services  
Ask for: Michelle Diprose  
Ext: 25566

## HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, 9 MAY 2018

### MINUTES

#### ATTENDANCE

#### MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (20) - QUORUM 7

##### COUNTY COUNCILLORS (10)

S Brown, E H Buckmaster, M A Eames-Petersen, F Guest, D Hart, D J Hewitt, S Quilty (*Chairman*), R G Tindall, C J White (*Vice Chairman*)

##### DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (10)

A Alder (East Herts), J Birnie (Dacorum), Steve Deakin-Davies (North Herts), B Gibbard (St Albans), K Hastrick (Watford), M McKay (Stevenage), F Thomson (Welwyn Hatfield)

#### OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

T C Heritage, G McAndrew, J D Williams

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Health Scrutiny Committee meeting on Wednesday 9 May 2018 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below.

*Note: No conflicts of interest were declared by any member of the Committee in relation to the matters on which conclusions were reached at this meeting.*

#### PART 1 ('OPEN') BUSINESS

##### 2. PUBLIC PETITIONS

2.1 None received.

#### CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

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**3. UPDATE ON FORMALISING RELATIONS BETWEEN WEST HERTFORDSHIRE HOSPITAL TRUST AND THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL**

Officer Contact: Helen Brown – Deputy Chief Executive - West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust (Tel: 01923 217388)

- 3.1 The Committee received a presentation outlining the developing relationship between West Herts Hospital Trust (WHHT) and the Royal Free Hospital. It noted in principle that the Trust board had decided to formalise the affiliation and become a clinical partner. A formal decision will be taken following engagement with staff and partners.
- 3.2 The relationship between the Trust and the Royal Free meant it was a good opportunity to share and learn experiences. The three key areas that were being looked at were:
- Patient care
  - Clinical support
  - Corporate support
- 3.3 It was noted the Royal Free had been awarded the Global Digital exemplar for digital health care and it was also noted the Chase Farm Hospital was going to be completely paperless and Apps on mobile phones for clinicians would be available. WHHT are hoping to adopt these Apps and make better use of the technology. The Committee heard that the ambition of the NHS was to become paperless by 2020/21.
- 3.4 Members heard the Trust was looking at using robotics for some services such as finance accounts and certain elements of human resources.
- 3.5 In relation to a Member question it was noted that formalising the relationship there was the potential to rotate staff between the trusts for training and development. It is believed that this will assist in retaining staff at WHHT.
- 3.6 Members were informed that a site visit to WHHT had been set up for 21 May 2018 and an invite will be sent out soon.
- 3.7 The Chairman thanked Helen for the presentation and invited her to update the committee at a future meeting. The appropriate time would be discussed with officers.

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**CONCLUSION:**

3.8 The Committee noted the presentation

**4. RESPONSE TO REPORT OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE  
SCRUTINY OF HERTS VALLEYS CLINICAL  
COMMISSIONING GROUP'S DECISION FOR FUNDING  
NASCOT LAWN SERVICES**

Officer Contact: Kathryn Magson - Chief Executive, Herts  
Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (Tel: 01442 898888)

4.1 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. Members were informed that the decision on Nascot Lawn would not be taken by its board until Thursday 10 May 2018. It was noted the meeting would be held in public and a parent had been invited to give a presentation. The meeting was being held at South Hill Centre, Hemel Hempstead at 9.00 a.m. The HVCCG's Finance and Performance Committee were given the background of the proposals and the discussions that had taken place over the last 12 months.

4.2 The HVCCG's Finance and Performance Committee recommendation to the board was that HVCCG removed the funding from Nascot lawn respite centre and entered into an agreement with the County Council and East and North Hertfordshire CCG (E&NHCCG) for joint funding of overnight short breaks, with both CCGs providing £100k a year towards to support the overnight short breaks service.

4.3 HVCCG also responded orally to the HSC scrutiny resolutions as detailed at Appendix 1, pages 19 and 20 of the report. It was noted that over the last six months two working groups had been formed to start the process of the transition for the families and it was expected that fifty percent would be transitioned by the end of June 2018. It was noted that each child would have a care plan. Members were informed that there was one family the CCG was continuing to work with to meet their needs.

4.4 The Committee were informed that the CCG's Finance and Performance Committee's view was that the funding of £100k was sufficient to assist with the overnight respite service. The Chief Executive of HVCCG stated they were happy to have

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conversations with council officers to agree a suitable additional contribution. It was noted the County Council had taken the lead and the CCG would work within the County Council's work frame.

- 4.5 Members heard the CCG was operating with less staff although this was being addressed and transitioning for children's remained in place and services were being delivered. The Director of Commissioning at HVCCG advised that if there were any children that had not been placed that it gave a commitment that they would deliver a smooth transition.
- 4.6 In relation to partnership working the HVCCG confirmed that it wanted to continue working with the County Council.
- 4.7 Members were informed the local authority had extended contracts which had cost an additional £300k and at that time there was no agreement with the CCGs but each has since put in £100k of funding. Additional nurses were now part of the core contract and health support workers would be incorporated in the care offer. It was noted that the joint arrangement for the Section 75 agreement with the County Council had inflation built in.
- 4.8 In response to a Member query it was noted that capital monies in the NHS was a constraint and the CCG could not bid for that money. The decision taken in December was to work on the solution for Nascot Lawn overnight short breaks rather than a capital requirement and it was agreed that a joint funding arrangement be made.
- 4.9 In response to a Member question in relation to the children being transitioned by a set time, the Chief Executive responded that the CCG's view was that the transitions would be completed in November / December 2018 and it would guarantee additional support and financial top ups where needed. Transitional arrangements were reliant on family engagement and the CCG could not insist parents agreed to options given, however it would continue to work with all parents to ensure a smooth transition. It was noted there were specific complications with one child in particular. It was also noted that there had been lengthy engagement with the family; the difficulty was finding the appropriate accommodation.
- 4.10 Members were concerned in relation to the reference to a 'review' of funding in two years. It was noted that a financial review was standard practice. It was also noted the Section 75 agreement was reviewed each year.

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- 4.11 The Committee heard from a representative of the Hertfordshire Community Trust (HCT) who informed the Committee the priority for HCT was to continue to run the overnight short break service and staffing was in place until the end of June 2018. The Committee were also informed that Nascot Lawn would close for 2 weeks at the end of May in order for training purposes and staff annual leave. The Committee noted there had been a fifty percent reduction in service provision and Nascot Lawn was currently operating the overnight short breaks Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights, this also meant a fifty percent reduction of allocation which affected each family differently as weekend respite was no longer available.
- 4.12 In response to a Member question it was noted that the HCT had not yet had a final date for closure but would be given a six months' notice period. HCT confirmed it would keep Nascot Lawn open until there was a definitive closure date. Provision was being made for families to ensure certainty for the future.
- 4.13 It was noted HCT registered nurses would provide training to the respite nurses at the council's respite centres. HCT were not commissioned to put nurses into the County Council respite centres as this was the council's responsibility.
- 4.14 The Committee heard from officers of the Council and were informed that the timeline for the transition to move one family in November had been delayed due to building work being carried out for two extra bedrooms at West Hyde and therefore the move was more likely to happen in March 2019.
- 4.15 In relation to the transition of children, Members were informed the children who had three night respite care were being transitioned first as they had additional health care needs. It was also noted there was a workable agreement between the Council and HVCCG that would be reviewed overtime if the need for extra funding for the overnight short breaks requirement should increase.
- 4.16 The Committee heard from a parent who depended on Nascot Lawn respite service. Members heard how she believed the lack of respite was an untenable situation, only four children had been transitioned, including hers and 16 children were still waiting. She informed the Committee that two of the families that she was in contact with were in a traumatic state and could not cope with the process and lack of choice.

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- 4.17 Members heard that she had received one respite night per month and the times of respite was 4.30 p.m. until 9.30 a.m. the following morning, so she never felt rested. Members heard that all the family suffered, especially as she also had to deal with her own anxiety and felt she could not focus on anything properly. Since October her allocation had dropped by fifty percent and the situation was getting worse.
- 4.18 The Chairman on behalf of the Committee stated there was great admiration on how well families handled their situations and recognised the great work parents do on behalf of the children.
- 4.19 The Healthwatch Hertfordshire Chairman reiterated it could be assured that HWH would continue to support the families in any way possible.
- 4.20 *The Committee adjourned for fifteen minutes*
- 4.21 The Chairman advised that due to the timings of this meeting and the HVCCG meeting and consequential effects on other points raised at this meeting it would not be appropriate to make the recommendation to Full County Council for referral to the Secretary of State
- 4.22 The Chairman therefore proposed a revised set of recommendations, which was duly seconded. The Committee voted unanimously in favour of the proposed revised recommendations as detail in 4.23 below.

**CONCLUSION:**

- 4.23 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;

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- 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.

## **5. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

Officer Contact: Natalie Rotherham, Head of Scrutiny (Tel: 01992 588485)

- 5.1 The Committee considered its work programme 2018 – 2019, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and those scrutinies scheduled for the forthcoming period.
- 5.2 A scrutiny request for ‘Scrutiny of the working relations between Public Health and the NHS’ was received.
- 5.3 The draft scoping document for the Hospital Patient Flow attached as Appendix 2 to the report was also received and no further amendments were made by members.
- 5.4 The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Topic Group report was also received.

### **CONCLUSION:**

- 5.5
  1. The Scrutiny work programme, attached as Appendix 1 to the report was agreed.
  2. The Patient Flow Topic Group Scope, attached as Appendix 2 to the report was noted and no amendments were made

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3. The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Topic Group report was noted

**6. OTHER PART I BUSINESS**

Such Part I (public) business which, if the Chairman agrees, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

No other Part I business was recorded.

6.1

**7. ITEMS FOR REPORT TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**(STANDING ORDER SC7(2))**

7.1 A summary of these items will be reported to County Council.

**KATHRYN PETTITT  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

**CHAIRMAN.....**

**CHAIRMAN'S  
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