

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – HEALTH** held at County Hall, Matlock on 4 November 2013.

PRESENT

Councillor S A Bambrick (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs E Atkins, Ms S L Blank, W Major, D McGregor, Mrs J E Patten, Mrs I Ratcliffe and Mrs M Stockdale.

15/13 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Health held on 2 September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

16/13 **DISCUSSION WITH CABINET MEMBER** Councillor D Allen, Cabinet member for Health and Communities attended the meeting to give an update on whole care integration. Councillor Allen was Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and leading on this work, liaising closely with the Cabinet member for Adult Social Care.

The County was required to have plans in place by February on how to allocate the available funding and high level discussions were ongoing on the development of these plans.

Councillor Allen would provide an update to the Committee at its meeting in March 2014.

17/13 **DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES NHS TRUST**
Jo Furley and Rick Meredith of DCHC NHS Trust attended to provide further information on the proposals in respect of Derwent Ward at Walton Hospital (Minute 09/13 refers). A report on the actions to be taken in order to meet the Care Quality Commission's essential standards was circulated. The improvement proposals involved:

- An additional ward to be created at Bolsover Hospital, increasing its bed numbers to 40 beds from its current 25.
- Three further beds to be created on Whitworth Hospital's fully refurbished Oker Ward.
- Additional rehab beds to be created in north Derbyshire to provide rehab and therapy support working in partnership with Derbyshire County Council's Social Care teams.
- To support new models of care, commissioners had also invested £2m to recruit additional staff to further improve patient care.

The arrangements had the full support of the local Clinical Commissioning Groups and staff union representatives and would allow the Trust to close the current Derwent Ward at Walton Hospital, Chesterfield from 18 November.

Arrangements at Derwent Ward had suffered from high staff vacancy and absence rates, with care reliant upon agency staff on a daily basis. Coupled with its outdated patient environment, the current arrangements had been acknowledged to be unsustainable in the long term. By investing in newer facilities, more modern care arrangements and better ratios of permanent staff to agency nurses, it would be possible to improve the quality of care, deliver a better service for patients, invest in permanent nursing staff and improve efficiency.

Arising for Members' questions, it was explained that the closure of Derwent Ward would be classed as temporary on the grounds of safety and, as such, public consultation had not been undertaken. The arrangements for future service provision would be subject to consultation.

Trust representatives extended an invitation to Members to visit the Walton campus and others in the area in order to familiarise themselves with the facilities that were available.

A further issue was in relation to DCHS Minor Injury Units (MIUs) following the Royal College of Nursing's (RCN) release of its 'standards for caring for neonates, children and young people' report. In that report the RCN recommended that in all urgent care settings, such as a MIU, there should be a registered children's nurse available.

A review resulted in a number of recommendations, particularly in relation to treating children under one year of age and caring for ill children during the night. One of their recommendations included reducing MIU opening hours to 8am-10pm every day, to guarantee safe and effective services are provided for children and young people overnight. Given the current recommendations, coupled with the long-term low overnight patient activity seen locally, the Trust was proposing to make the recommended reduction in opening hours from 25 November at Ripley and Whitworth Hospital MIUs.

RESOLVED to note the proposals in respect of Derwent Ward and Minor Injury Units.

18/13 PUBLIC HEALTH PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME

A report was presented on the services being re-procured by Public Health and of those new services which were to be procured to commence from April 2014.

An explanation summarising each service was included in the appendices. Additional reports would be submitted to future meetings where services had been reviewed and were to be commissioned differently in future.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and a further update be presented in 12 months on the impact of these services.

19/13 NHS CALL TO ACTION Ms L Wimot-Shepherd, Commissioning and Delivery Director, NHS Erewash CCG attended the meeting to give a briefing on the NHS England document “The NHS belongs to the people: A Call to Action”.

A Call to Action’ highlighted the challenges facing the NHS if it was to continue to provide a high quality, universal service which was free at the point of use. In response the document called upon everyone (professionals and citizens) to come together to develop a common understanding of the challenges and work together to design the optimal service for current and future generations. The intention was for this to be done through a wide-scale programme of engagement to ensure everyone had an opportunity to make a contribution.

In order to provide further focus and structure, engagement plans had been developed for each CCG which set out the planned activities and timescales for seeking and capturing feedback from the local debates to support development of the five year commissioning strategy. There would be more detailed and careful planning to undertake in the coming months. Clinical leadership support would be required throughout the process to ensure the dialogue with the public and stakeholders was productive and positive in informing outline plans to address the challenges ahead. The initial outline plans would evolve as continued input and feedback was received.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Committee be kept informed of progress.

20/13 HEALTHWATCH DERBYSHIRE Jas Dosanjh, Community Involvement Worker attended the meeting and provided an update on the establishment of Healthwatch protocols and the way in which it would work with the Committee.

RESOLVED to note the update from Healthwatch Derbyshire.

21/13 STOCKPORT NHS FOUNDATION TRUST – RE-LOCATION OF OUT-REACH REHABILITATION MEDICINE CLINIC

A reconfiguration proposal was considered in respect of Buxton out-reach rehabilitation medicine clinic. The proposal was to move the monthly Consultant-led Rehabilitation Medicine clinic from Buxton to Stepping Hill due to low utilisation of this service; it was unaffordable to allocate Consultant resource to an outreach clinic with such low utilisation rates. This clinic would

be re-provided at Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport, where Derbyshire patients would be able to access slots on a more frequent basis.

RESOLVED that the proposal be noted and be regarded as not substantial.

22/13 **WORK PROGRAMME** **RESOLVED** to note progress on the Committee's work programme.