

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – HEALTH** held at County Hall, Matlock on 26 November 2018.

**PRESENT**

Councillor D Taylor (in the Chair)

Councillors D Allen, R Ashton, S Bambrick, S Blank, S Burfoot, A Fox, L Grooby and G Musson.

Also present was Mr Paul Briddock (NHS England North Midlands).

**40/18**        **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Health held on 1 October 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

**41/18**        **DERBYSHIRE CCG's FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR 2018-19** Following the meeting of the Committee on 1 October 2018, Cllr David Taylor (Chairman) had written to Dr Clayton regarding the discussions on the proposals to decommission and disinvest in a number of NHS services. Dr Clayton had replied to Cllr Taylor in his letter of 30 October and his response remains under consideration by the Committee.

Councillor Taylor welcomed Mr Paul Briddock (Director of Finance, NHS England North Midlands) to the meeting. Mr Briddock was attending to give details of the Control Total arrangements agreed with the Derbyshire CCGs.

Mr Briddock informed the Committee of his experience working within the NHS and Committee Members put forward a number of questions to him. The key issues discussed were:

- The Commissioner Sustainability Fund (CSF) was explained. The CSF holds £430m to help Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) with funding and to balance accounts. There hadn't been an over-spend by the Derbyshire CCGs, but, as financial difficulties had arisen, detailed negotiations had been undertaken between the Derbyshire CCGs and NHS England to agree a savings plan Control Total.
- The Derbyshire CCGs had been granted a planned deficit Control Total of £44m for 2018-19. The Control Total funds were allocated quarterly as planned savings were achieved. Regular assessments were made and the Derbyshire CCGs were on track to hit the £51m of savings to realise the full CSF target.
- The meeting was informed that, for 2018-19, the Derbyshire CCGs had received a budget allocation of £25M above the standard entitlement

calculated by NHS England. This, along with the generous Control Total allocation, put Derbyshire in a good position compared to CCGs in similar circumstances around the country.

- The CCGs' Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP). It was noted that the decision of where budgets were allocated was the responsibility of the CCGs and not NHS England. In Derbyshire, new commissioning arrangements were being developed and the four CCGs within the county were to merge into one by April 2019. The Committee expressed the view that a better approach would be to await the outcome of the merger to assess the level of efficiency savings this would bring. This would potentially reduce the need for disinvestment in services.
- The Committee expressed its concern on the impact of planned disinvestments on the level of care and a perceived lack of transparency, particularly on those savings already made to enable the draw-down of quarterly Control Total funds.
- It was noted that strategies were in place to ensure Derbyshire health services were in a position to get through the winter pressure challenges.

Mr Briddock undertook to refer the Committee's concerns on the transparency of the disinvestment process to the Derbyshire CCGs.

The Chairman thanked Mr Briddock for his attendance and the answers to the Committee's questions, following which the Chairman proposed recommendations which were seconded and agreed by the Committee.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (1) The Committee receives the information it requests from NHS England.
- (2) The response letter from Dr Clayton (of 30 October) is noted and remains under consideration by the Committee.
- (3) A letter will be sent to Dr Clayton and NHS England in respect of the information gathered to date.
- (4) The Committee reserves the right to refer this matter to the Secretary of State for Health, and.
- (5) Dr Clayton will be asked to provide a response to the comments made by Mr Briddock at the next meeting of the Committee in January.