

Health Select Committee

A meeting of Health Select Committee was held on Monday, 16th March, 2009.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley.

Officers: Ruth Hill (CESC); Fiona Shayler, Judith Trainer (LD)

Also in attendance: Cllr Mrs Apedaile, Cllr Mrs McCoy, Cllr Cunningham, Cllr Mrs O'Donnell, Cllr Mrs Womphrey (Billingham Ward Members); Dr O'Donaghue, Dr Hugh Geoghegan, Joanne Dobson (North Tees Teaching PCT); Chris Potter (PHS Architects);

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Aggio, Mrs Cherrett, Cllr Sherris, Cllr Woodhouse, Cllr Womphrey, Cllr Leckonby, Cllr Smith, Cllr Stoker.

H Declarations of Interest

76/08

Cllr Mrs Womphrey declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4, Billingham Headway Development, further to being a patient at a Billingham GP Practice.

Cllr Cunningham declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 further to being a Trust Member.

Cllr Beall declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 further to being a Member of the Planning Committee and left the meeting prior to Members making their conclusions and recommendations on the item.

H Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd February 2009

77/08

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February were agreed as a correct record.

H Billingham Headway Development

78/08

Members were provided with a report regarding the Billingham Headway Development. Since the report had been distributed the number of practices involved had reduced to three GP Practices in Billingham coming together to develop a new facility out of which modern primary care services could be delivered to the local population into the future.

Billingham Headway Limited had been formed to take forward the project on behalf of the GPs who would, it was intended, benefit from collocation in a new, purpose-built building designed to meet the needs of primary care provision in the 21st century.

The proposed development would bring together onto one site, three out of the seven general practices in Billingham. All Billingham based practices had been invited to join the venture, with all but Kingsway Medical Centre opting in at first. Then very recently three of the smaller practices opted out of the new venture. Members queried the effect that this would have on any reduction in patient numbers.

The three Practices proposing to come together were Dr Geoghegan & Partners

and Dr Rasool from Queensway Medical Centre, plus Marsh House Medical Centre. The proposed new site was less than one kilometre from all of the existing surgeries.

Billingham Headway Limited believed that developing a new facility was the only option that was able to meet the current and future needs and expectations of Billingham patients and the wider local community. Furthermore, as GPs, the members felt that their patients deserved the best possible health care in modern premises.

The key aims and objectives of the project were to:

- Support the improvement of the health of the people in the Billingham area
- Provide cost effective, high quality, modern, purpose built premises for the benefit of patients and staff
- Provide opportunities for the co-location of health care, social care and related services
- Extend the range of primary health care services and other public services available closer to the Billingham community
- Improve accessibility, choice and flexibility, and contribute to the modernisation of service provision
- Support communities and individuals to take an active role in promoting improvements in their own health and well-being
- Contribute to community regeneration by developing a building to enhance Billingham town centre
- Improve care of patients by actively training staff and students
- Improve staff well being by providing a healthy and safe environment

The proposed premises would be situated near the town centre, at the rear of the old Billingham Technical College, and would provide state of the art accommodation for the provision of general practice. It would provide an opportunity for the development of new services and new models of care, and could also provide accommodation for the provision of PCT services and third party providers of healthcare-related services. It would be conveniently located for bus routes, would be easily accessed by foot and cycle and the site would provide ample car parking.

The facility would also offer opportunities for GPs and other clinical / healthcare professionals to develop a wide range of new community services, and teaching opportunities. The development would also include a retail pharmacy outlet.

A communication and consultation plan had been drawn up and was appended to Members report. A formal thirteen week consultation had been taking place from 20 December 2008 to 21 March 2009. Dr Geoghegan felt that patients had been very supportive of the proposals.

Members held discussion on the proposals and invited Members from Billingham to participate in the discussions.

CONCLUDED that the Health Select Committee support the proposals presented by Billingham Headway Ltd. which the Committee concluded would provide enhanced primary care services for Billingham and encourage the practices to work closely with the PCT in developing the proposals and any

further opportunities for co-location of services.

H

79/08

Review of Audiology

Members held discussion on the conclusions and recommendations for the review of audiology.

CONCLUDED that the draft report be circulated to Members for final comments.

H

80/08

Work Programme

Members were informed that following the Scrutiny Liaison Forum meeting it would be recommended to the Executive Scrutiny Committee that this Committee consider Fair Access to Care as the next Scrutiny review topic.

CONCLUDED that the work programme be noted.

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81/08

Chairman's Update

An event would be held at the Education Centre, Junction Road, Norton on Wednesday 13th May at 12.30pm to discuss the Drugs Action Team (DAT) moving to a Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). The Chairman invited volunteers to attend this event.

In Autumn 2009 the Health Select Committee would be consulted on changes to Sexual Health Services.

The Chairman's update was noted.