

Health Select Committee

A meeting of Health Select Committee was held on Monday, 21st February, 2011.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains(Chairman), Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley.

Officers: Ali Wilson, Kamini Shah (PCT NHS Stockton); Alex Zielinski, David Emerton, Cath Siddle (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust); Peter Mennear and Kirsty Wannop (LDS).

Also in attendance: James Newton, Shirley Erskine (LINK)

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Andrew Sherris.

1 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mohammed Javed declared a personal non prejudicial interest as he worked for the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.

2 Draft Minutes - 24th January 2011

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2011.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2011 be forwarded to Council for consideration.

3 Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare Update

Members were asked to receive a presentation in relation to progress against the Momentum project.

Members noted that Momentum covers three programmes of work. These were:

- the new hospital project;
- the development of new primary and community care facilities (including Stockton Town Centre, Billingham and Yarm);
- and the re-design of services and care pathways, with the overall aim of providing care in the community and closer to people's homes.

Members were aware that following the decision by the government to withdraw the public capital funding for the new hospital site, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust had sought to secure funding from alternative sources, and to revise the Outline Business Case for the hospital. In addition, the development of community services remained an integral part of the Momentum Project.

Representatives of NHS Stockton-on-Tees, and North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation presented Members with details of the Momentum project, including the new timetable for the development of the hospital. Members were informed that a more detailed presentation on the revised Outline Business Case for the hospital could be provided at a future meeting, and this offer was accepted.

The Committee highlighted the cost difference between the old hospital scheme at £464 million, and new hospital scheme at £294 million although there would only be a loss of 8 beds and an increase of 4 theatres. The capital cost of the building project had reduced due to cost saving measures including leasing some sub-acute and administrative buildings, and a significant VAT saving would be incurred should PFI funding be used compared to the public funding that was originally sought. In relation to the funding arrangements for the project and the possible use of the Private Finance Initiative, the Committee was informed that the best possible value would be gained from the options available.

It was confirmed that the money previously allocated for transport provision remained in the Business Care.

Members questioned the level of public awareness in relation to the community based facilities, especially in Billingham. It was noted that this was a valid point as it had been a considerable time since the initial public consultation on the proposals. The extended timescale for securing approval for the funding approach meant that until confirmation was received that they could go through to the next stage, the Trust did not want to build public expectations, and the amount of publicity that could be undertaken was limited. However it was important to note that work was ongoing behind the scenes.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted and that a special session of the Committee be arranged to receive a presentation on the revised Outline Business Case for the new hospital project.

4 North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust - Quality Account 2011-12 Consultation

The Committee were requested to receive a presentation in relation to the preparation of the draft Quality Account of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust, and consider whether to provide a statement for inclusion in the published version.

Quality Accounts had been introduced following the publication of 'High Quality Care for All: NHS Next Stage Review' by the Department of Health in 2008. They were annual reports to the public, about the quality of services NHS organisations provided. The primary purpose of Quality Accounts was to encourage boards and leaders of healthcare organisations to assess quality across all of the healthcare services they offer. It allowed leaders, clinicians, governors and staff to demonstrate their commitment to continuous, evidence-based quality improvement, and to explain their progress to the public.

The requirement to produce Quality Accounts was introduced last year, and following a review updated guidance had been issued, although the main principles remained intact.

The Trust's Medical Director and Deputy Director of Nursing and Patient Safety provided an overview of progress on last year's priorities, and outlined the draft improvement priorities for the coming year.

Members noted the continued efforts to seek patient and carer feedback on hospital and community services, and the Trust will be seeking to introduce 'mystery shopping' where appropriate. The Trust's response to the National Dementia Strategy was outlined, and there is an action plan in place, against which the Trust will be audited. The Trust is focussing on enhancing care, dignity and respect for patients with dementia, and working to increase organisational knowledge of this agenda.

The Committee was provided with timescales of when comments on the draft Account would need to be received by; it was noted that there was a short period to provide comments and Members requested if it could be provided to Members and LINK at an earlier date even if it would not contain all of the final end of year figures. Members highlighted the need for a user friendly version to be made available. It was noted that there had not been a great deal of public interest in the first year's publication of the Account.

CONCLUDED that

1. the information be noted;
2. the Scrutiny Officer request the Quality Account be sent earlier if possible;
3. the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee be delegated the authority to work with Stockton LINK to produce a joint statement for inclusion in the published version of the Quality Account.

5 Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations

Members were asked to consider the assessments of progress contained within the Progress Updates on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations. There were outstanding recommendations from the reviews of Audiology, Alcohol and Dentistry.

For the review of Dentistry update, the Committee was provided with details from the outcome of the Judicial review against South Central's Strategic Health Authority's decision to fluoridate the water supply. The arguments centred around the legality and interpretation of the legislation

surrounding the process of consultation. Members were informed that the case was dismissed but there was a right to appeal. Members expressed their wish for the Committee's support for the fluoridation into the borough's water supply to be re-iterated in a letter to NHS North East.

CONCLUDED that

1. the progress updates be agreed subject to the Dentistry update being amended to reflect the information provided at the meeting;
2. the Committee's support for fluoridation be expressed to NHS North East.

6 Work Programme

The next meeting was 8th March 2011 at which Members would consider the scope for the EIT review of Mental Health and Learning Disability Services, and the options report from the EIT review of Adult Service Structures.

7 Chair's Update

Members were provided with a report that Stockton-on-Tees LINK had put together about Care and Dignity issues at University Hospital of North Tees. The Committee commended the LINK on its report.

Members were informed that the national review of children's heart surgery would be consulting on its proposals at the end of February for four months. The North East Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee would meet to consider the proposals in March, and the Select Committee's views would be fed into that process.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.