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HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

10 March 2010

Present:- Councillor Maskery in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Burgess, Mrs Braithwaite, Miss Cooper, Mrs Johnson and Mrs Morrey

Also in attendance:-

Mrs J Eagland – Chair of the Staffordshire Health Scrutiny Committee
Mr T Bruce – NHS North Staffordshire
Mrs L Riley – NHS North Staffordshire
Mrs L Goodburn – NHS North Staffordshire
Mr M Hepke – NHS North Staffordshire
Mrs A Green – University Hospital of North Staffordshire
Mr D Pearson – North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust

824. * MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was suggested that minute number 385/10 (Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2008/09) be amended to read:

“(6) Reducing ambulatory care” instead of “(6) Reducing emerging admissions by providing better care” and “(9) Increasing choice of where people want to die” instead of “(9) Increasing the number of people dying here”.

Resolved:- That, subject to the amendments suggested, the minutes of the Sub-Committee held on 30 September 2009 be approved a true and correct record of the proceedings.

825. * DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

826. * PRESENTATION BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF NHS NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE – DELIVERING ‘A HEALTHY FUTURE’ STRATEGIC PLAN 2010/11 TO 2013/14

The Sub-Committee received a presentation delivered by Mr Tony Bruce, Chief Executive of NHS North Staffordshire, on the refreshed strategic plans of the PCT.

Mr Bruce advised Members that the refreshed strategic plan had been approved and adopted by the Trust's Board at their public meeting in January 2010 and was due to be submitted to the Department of Health as part of a suite of documents. The plan was based upon 6 key strategic initiatives which were then developed into service delivery plans, business plans and reflected in the personal development plans of individual members of staff.

Mr Bruce indicated that the plan intended to refocus the trust's resources to ensure that priorities were delivered given the likely future levels of resource allocation.

Resolved:- That the presentation be received and Mr Bruce thanked for his presentation.

827. * **CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE**

Consideration was given to a report which highlighted a current consultation exercise which was being undertaken by partners in the local health economy with a view to making changes to mental health services in North Staffordshire.

Mr David Pearson, Director of Nursing at North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust, made a presentation to the sub-committee which detailed the three service areas where improvements were proposed:

- moving Lymewood Ward for older people from Bradwell Hospital to Harplands Hospital – this would bring more support on hand such as specialist doctors 24 hours a day
- changing where some neuropsychiatry services are delivered – these are services for people with mental health needs arising from a brain injury or disease. Improvements are sought by moving the balance from hospital services to community settings with more mental health staff in the community
- changing where some rehabilitation is carried out

Members were advised that the consultation was due to close on 9 April 2010 and responses would be welcome from the Sub-Committee. In the ensuing discussion, Members indicated their broad support for the proposals and agreed to respond to the consultation to that effect.

Resolved:- That the Chair and the Member Services Manager prepare a response to the consultation on behalf of the Sub-Committee

828. * **TRANSFER OF ELDERLY CARE WORK FROM HEALTH VISITORS TO THE DISTRICT NURSING SERVICE**

Consideration was given to representations made by Councillor Mrs Hailstones in respect of the transfer of elderly care work from health visitors to the District Nursing Service.

The Chair reported that he had received a letter from Councillor Mrs Hailstones which stated that she did not believe that the existing District Nursing Teams were able to absorb or accommodate and provide quality service to additional elderly housebound caseload without extensive extra resources and training. These services had previously been provided by Health Visitor Teams from NHS North Staffordshire.

Mr Martin Hepke from North Staffordshire Community Healthcare, the provider arm of NHS North Staffordshire, indicated that the decision had been taken to support ongoing work to ensure that the level of resource assigned to children's and family's services is maximised, specifically in the area of safeguarding and

child protection. It is well established that Health Visitors are the key public health workers for addressing the needs of children 0-5 and their families, including effective safeguarding and child protection.

Mr Hepke explained that the decision will ultimately ensure that all available capacity and capability to address the universal and targeted needs of the 0-5 age group is in place and will achieve better outcomes for all children, but especially for those who are vulnerable and at risk. It was highlighted that no issues had arisen since the implementation of this decision in January 2010.

Members accepted the reasons behind the decision but expressed a wish to monitor the effects of the changes and would invite Mr Hepke to a future meeting later in the year.

Resolved:- That the information be received.

829. * **UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE – REPORT FROM THE STRATEGIC HEALTH AUTHORITY**

Consideration was given to a report which detailed the feedback received from the Strategic Health Authority following a visit to the University Hospital of North Staffordshire on 20 April 2009.

The Strategic Health Authority made nine recommendations which the Trust took action to address immediately following the inspection and introduced a plan of action to tackle other matters where an immediate change was not possible.

Resolved:- That the information be received.

830. * **UPDATE ON STAFFORDSHIRE LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK (LINK)**

A report was submitted which sought to advise the Sub-Committee of developments in respect of the Staffordshire Local Involvement Network.

The final report on the review of the Staffordshire Local Involvement Network was published in October 2009 and it exposed a number of difficulties that required attention. Staffordshire University (the LINK host organisation) and Staffordshire County Council have taken a mutual decision to end the contract, with ownership of the LINK now with the County Council.

It was verbally reported at the meeting that Jackie Owen from the County Council was leading on this work and was seeking the involvement of as many interested parties as possible in pushing the procurement process forward.

Resolved:- That the update be received.

831. * **THE NHS CONSTITUTION – A CONSULTATION ON NEW PATIENT RIGHTS**

Consideration was given to a report advising Members of the response sent by the Council to a consultation by the Department of Health in respect of the NHS Constitution.

Resolved:- That the report be received.

832. * **WORK PROGRAMME – PLANNING AND PROGRESS**

The Sub-Committee considered its work programme for 2009/10 and agreed that a visit to the Accident and Emergency Department of the University Hospital of North Staffordshire should be arranged to take place in April 2010.

Resolved:- That, subject to the inclusion of a visit to the Accident and Emergency Department of the University Hospital of North Staffordshire, the work programme be agreed.

833. * **NHS NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE - BRIEFING**

Linda Riley presented the Sub-Committee with an update on current matters for NHS North Staffordshire and its patient population

Swine Flu

Activity related to Swine Flu is being phased down and it is no longer a major issue in the public arena. Existing anti-viral collection points are being stepped down. Pharmacy and General Practices will still be lead for any outstanding related issues. Thanks are due to local partners including Council colleagues who have provided or signalled strong support to Swine Flu programmes of activity.

A staff vaccination programme rolled out in recent months has been successful for NHS North Staffordshire compared to peer Trusts across the region. A recent vaccination programme targeting 8,000 Under 5 years has been less successful and this is due in part to swine flu prevalence and parents perceptions this is not now a problem. Preparations for 09/10 will strengthen our approach to future outbreaks of flu in the future be it seasonal or swine flu (or combination thereof).

Public Health

Dr Judith Bell has recently left NHS North Staffordshire. Interim arrangements are in place until the substantive post has been recruited. Jackie Small is current Acting Director of Health Improvement supported by Public Health Consultant Clinical expertise working with the Trust.

NHS Constitution

The Trust has responded as an Organisation (and individuals across staff) to give feedback to the recent consultation. NHS North Staffordshire are also taking a paper to its Public Board (19 March in Leek) with details regarding the next steps around compliance.

Performance

NHS North Staffordshire are confident of strengthening its 2009/2010 ratings across a raft of activity as we are assessed by the Care Quality Commission. Regular updates can be found as the Trust produces a detailed Performance Report for the Public Board to cover a raft of national and local priorities and activity and can be found on the web site at <http://www.northstaffordshire.nhs.uk/>. Key areas to report include an update on A&E which whilst the PCT have not consistently achieved 98% but the Trust continue to review and work across the health economy to address this.

Whilst 18 weeks has been by and large achieved, there are ongoing challenges including Trauma and Orthopaedics (T&O) to meet 18 weeks target which is an issue shared across other West Midlands Trusts. The Trust has worked hard with partner NHS Organisations given over-performance at UHNS on elements of the Trust's contracts.

Milehouse Dental Practice

This new practice caters for up to 8,000 NHS patients in the Cross Heath, Knutton, Silverdale and Parkside areas of Newcastle. Rodericks has been commissioned to run the practice, which has three dentists who offer a range of NHS services and complements the services offered by the nearby Milehouse Primary Care Centre.

Milehouse Blood Clinics

Clinics to take bloods locally based at Milehouse were introduced some weeks ago. Run by the Pathology department 3 mornings per week. Appointments were made direct with Pathology labs to be seen at Milehouse. It is a victim of its own success and the PCT are looking to open at 08:00 to provide an additional 20 appointments locally. Service users have commented on the convenience and access to this locally based service.

Milehouse Official Opening

The Minister of State for Health, Mike O'Brien, officially opened Mill Rise Village on Monday 1 March. This included a tour of the Health Care premises and meeting to talk with GP's, clinicians and health centre staff. He also met local service users and school children as well as residents of Mill Rise. It was a very successful event.

Membership

Working with partners and stakeholders, NHS North Staffordshire have revised our Communications & Engagement Strategy which is available on the PCT's web site. As part of the commitment to engage and listen to patients and public, the PCT has also grown its membership database. This is not a members' forum in the same way as Foundation Trusts run. However, the Trust are committed to getting public and patient views, comments, feedback and experience, then using that feedback. Currently the Trust takes a detailed report to Public Board on public and patient experience feedback. The PCT uses its database to engage, debate and influence its work, e.g. Strategic Plan. Currently, there are over 800 active members.

Health MOTs

NHS North Staffordshire were recently requested to support locally hosted "Health MOT" events to provide a raft of activity and tests for public and patients including:

- Cholestral/BP/BMI/Lifestyle advice
- PALs/Sure Start/Community Groups/Health and Social Care Stands

The following sessions have been held with attendance figures as shown:

Biddulph Oct 09	300	Milehouse Feb 09	40
Leek Nov 09	450	Leek Feb 09	220
Biddulph Jan 09	250		

NHS North Staffordshire is looking into further hosted events in coming months. This will also support work of the NHS Constitution and it will link with Public Health and Provider colleagues.

Health and Well Being Leisure Centre

Partnership arrangements to deliver the Health and Wellbeing Leisure Centre. Land adjacent to Jubilee Baths secured/project plans undertaken. Consultation undertaken, more due on the internal design and layout in due course.

Fit for the Future

A full review has recently been undertaken to ensure this major health transformational programme – one of the biggest in England. The new hospital build will have 292 beds less and therefore a programme of work to reduce beds as services are delivered in a different way is underway given the 28 months remaining life cycle of this programme. There is an agreed programme for phased bed closures and due to reducing patients length of stay in hospital one ward will be closed by end of March.

Mid Staffordshire Francis Report

The Francis Report has been received with a full review of the 18 key recommendations underway and a report to the Trust's Public Board is due as part of its Performance Report (19 March).

Transforming Community Services (TCS)

Every PCT is required to submit its consideration for the future of its "Provider Arm" with arrangements to be in place for the new organisation effective from April 2011.

Options which can be explored include:

- Merging with acute Provider/other community provider / mental health trust
- Care Trust
- Merge with Social Care/Council Organisations
- Social Enterprise

Work is ongoing to explore the options and ongoing consultation required with internal and external stakeholders.

Resolved:- That the information be received.

P MASKERY
Chair