

## HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 11th January, 2012

**Present:-** D Becket – in the Chair  
Councillors J M Cooper, Loades and Taylor

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs Hambleton and Mrs Johnson

### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 7TH NOVEMBER 2011

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of this Committee held on 7 November 2011 be approved as a correct record.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

### 4. UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

The following matters were discussed:-

#### (i) **Jubilee 2 - Health and Wellbeing Centre**

It was indicated that a report was to be considered by Cabinet in March following which a report would be brought to this committee for consideration.

**Resolved:-** That the information be received.

#### (ii) **Health and Wellbeing Board**

The Council's Executive Director-Operational Services indicated that he had recently attended a meeting at Tamworth during which membership of the Board was discussed. Of particular concern to the Chairman was the proposal that District Councils across Staffordshire would be represented by one elected member.

The committee considered that one member would find it very difficult to represent the diverse and complex health issues that existed across the county feeling that that council's would be better served by the appointment of at least two representatives onto the Board.

**Resolved:-** That a case for increased local authority representation on the Board be prepared in consultation with the Chair and forwarded to the County Council's Cabinet Member for Adult Services for consideration.

#### (iii) **Phlebotomy Service**

The Chairman expressed the view that provision of phlebotomy services across the Borough had improved following a publicity campaign by the PCT. However, further

publicity was required to raise awareness of the availability of the service at Bradwell Hospital.

**Resolved:-** (a) That the information be received and that the PCT be requested to raise awareness of the phlebotomy service offered at Bradwell Hospital.

(b) That the situation be kept under review and a further report on this matter be submitted to a subsequent meeting.

(iv) **Fit for the Future**

The committee was advised that the phased transfer of services to the new hospital was proceeding to plan.

Some concern was again expressed at the implications of the reduction in beds at the new site and it was these concerns should be raised with UHNS. However, it was appreciated that this was a matter that may be being pursued by the County Council and that if this was the case then they be left to deal with it and requested to advise that committee accordingly.

**Resolved:-** That the information be received and that the issue about the effects of a reduction in beds at the new hospital be dealt with in the way described above.

(v) **UHNS – Complaints Procedures**

Concern was expressed that UHNS appeared to be operating a number of patient complaints procedures.

**Resolved:-** That UHNS be requested to provide details of its complaints procedures and that any response be reported back to this committee for consideration.

**5. INFANT MORTALITY IN NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME**

The committee was asked to approve a scrutiny brief for an investigation into infant mortality in the Borough as had been requested by the County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee.

To assist the process it was agreed that written answers should be sought from the PCT to questions 1 to 4 in the scrutiny brief. The answers received would then be considered at the February meeting of this committee at which a Panel to carry out the scrutiny exercise would also be appointed.

**Resolved:-** That the Scrutiny Brief be approved and that responses received from the PCT to questions 1 to 4 in the Brief be reported back to the next meeting of this committee at which the Panel referred to above was to be appointed.

**6. PHASE II CONSULTATION ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Consideration was given to an update issued by the North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust outlining progress made on the public consultation for

proposed changes to adult and older people's mental health services (phase I) and preparation for further changes to mental health services (phase II).

The committee was not entirely satisfied with the update considering that the proposals did not appear to have been properly thought out and that concerns previously raised by members had not been satisfactorily addressed.

It was considered that a clear pathway for the implementation of the proposed changes in a structured way was required.

**Resolved:-** That the update be received but that the above comments be forwarded to the County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

**7. CARDIAC REHABILITATION UPDATE AND WALK FOR LIFE**

Reference was made to the committee's previous consideration of this matter in connection with which the Executive Director-Operational Services provided an update on the proposals to support cardiac rehabilitation in the Borough from Jubilee 2 and later from facilities at Kidsgrove Sports Centre subject to its refurbishment.

Discussions, that were proving to be very positive, were ongoing with health professionals at UHNS about the delivery of Phase III of the rehabilitation process in a community setting and it was stated that rehabilitation services could be provided through the combined input of medical staff from the hospital and the Council's BACR qualified staff.

Initial discussions had focused on the provision of a 12 or 20 week programme for up to 8 patients using Jubilee 2 swimming, gym, aqua gym, fitness and physiotherapy facilities.

In conclusion, reference was made to the Walk4Life, an annual event that promoted a healthy lifestyle through regular exercise for those who were recovering from a range of medical conditions.

**Resolved:-** (a) That the update be received.

(b) That the possibility of publicity being given to the Walk4Life on the Council's website and Local Area Partnerships be investigated.

**8. BUS ROUTES TO BRADWELL HOSPITAL**

In accordance with a request made at the last meeting consideration was given to a report providing details of the frequency of bus services to and from Bradwell Hospital.

The committee was also provided with information about the bus routes serving UHNS.

**Resolved:-** That the attention of the County Council be drawn to this committee's concern that Bradwell Hospital is poorly served by our local bus companies, and that the existing stops at which passengers need to alight from buses when visiting the hospital are too far away from the entrance to it.

**9. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**Resolved:-** That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item because there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**10. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS REGARDING INTERVENTIONAL NEURORADIOLOGY RAISED AT THE ACCOUNTABILITY SESSION**

The Committee considered responses from UHNS to questions raised by the Chairman prior to the Accountability Session held on 10 November 2011.

**Resolved:-** That the concerns raised by the Chairman about the adequacy of some of the answers provided by UHNS be pursued with its Chief Executive and that a further report on this matter be submitted to a subsequent meeting.

**D BECKET**  
**Chair**