GREAT YARMOUTH AND WAVENEY JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY 2009

Present:

Mrs J Eells	Norfolk County Council (Chairman)
Mr P Collecott	Waveney District Council
Mr D Lockwood	Suffolk County Council
Mrs S Vincent	Forest Heath District Council
Mr D Yorke Edwards	Suffolk County Council
Mr B R Walker	Norfolk County Council
Mrs S Weymouth	Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Also Present:

Patrick Thompson	Norfolk LINk
Elaine Bond	NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney
Catherine Phillips	Norfolk LINk
Tina Walton	Norfolk LINk
Barbara Robinson	Carer/Suffolk Family with two ME Patients
Keith Cogdell	Scrutiny Support Manager, Norfolk County Council
Tim Shaw	Democratic Services, Norfolk County Council
Shirley Peters	Norfolk LINk
James Elliott	Director of Comissioning, NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney
Keith Barton	NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney
Stephanie Groom	Commissioning Manager, NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney
Chris Humphris	Interim Head of Joint Commissioning, NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Cherry and Mrs J A Howe.

2 Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

The Joint Committee noted the glossary of terms and abbreviations used in the agenda papers.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 January 2009 were confirmed by the Joint Committee and signed by the Chairman.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

6 Norfolk and Suffolk CFS/ME Services

The Joint Committee received a suggested approach by Keith Cogdell, Scrutiny Support Manager, Norfolk County Council; an update report on a re-design of CFS/ME Services by Stephanie Groom, Commissioning Manager, NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney, and a report in response from Catherine Phillips, Facilitator for Norfolk LINk. The response by Norfolk LINk was introduced by Tina Walton.

During the course of discussion, the following key points were noted:

- Members expressed disappointment at the fact that little progress had been made since the last meeting of the Committee in January 2009.

- NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney was still working with others on the service model for CFS/ME and how this fitted with the guidelines issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

- A draft CFS/ME service model had been shared with all the relevant parties in April 2009, but more work was needed before this could be finalised.

- Norfolk LINk had taken the lead in pulling together a Consultation Reference Group of all the relevant parties to progress the matter. This had met on one occasion and more meetings were needed.

- It was confirmed that the proposed service model would include children and young people's services and services for the severely affected.

- When the service re-design work had been completed, the proposed service model would be put before the Trust's Board, and the Joint Committee given an opportunity to discuss the issues before the service model was put out to public consultation.

- It was hoped to have the proposed service model agreed by the Trust's Board by the end of June 2009.

Resolved –

That the Joint Committee consider the matter further as soon as possible after a decision has been made by the Trust's Board, expected by the end of June 2009.

7 Changes to Older People's Mental Health Services in the NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney Area

The Joint Committee received a suggested approach from Keith Cogdell, Scrutiny Support Manager, Norfolk County Council, and a report from Chris Humphris, Interim Head of Joint Commissioning, NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney, concerning Older People's Mental Health Services in the NHS Great Yarmouth

and Waveney area.

During the course of discussion, the following key points were noted:

- Assistance with transport was available for family and friends going to Carlton Court, Lowestoft, from Great Yarmouth, but there had been little take up. This assistance had been extensively advertised and the PCT had received no complaints about it.

- A minibus had been laid on for use by staff and this was well used. This had helped NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney to retain skilled staff.

- Since the start of the year, use of the Julian Hospital in Norwich by NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney had reduced significantly. The need to use beds at the Julian Hospital had mainly been caused by refurbishment work at Carlton Court.

- The publication of the National Dementia Strategy had been delayed until February 2009. This was a five year vision for the transformation of dementia services.

- NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney was working with Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils as well as colleagues in NHS Norfolk and NHS Suffolk to develop a county-wide Dementia Strategy.

- Members spoke about the need for future bed provision in Great Yarmouth as part of the wider pattern of services for people with mental health problems and said that NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney had previously given a number of commitments on this matter.

- NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney was carefully examining the commitments that they had given.

- A small multi-agency group with representatives of interested bodies had been set up to examine the issues. It was suggested that it would be helpful for Norfolk LINk to be part of this process.

- It was pointed out that the intention was to have both a Dementia Strategy Action Plan for Great Yarmouth and Waveney and the specific proposals for future Older People's Mental Health Services completed by the end of October 2009.

Resolved –

That a progress report on Older People's Mental Health Services be brought to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

8 Additional NHS Dental Services

The Joint Committee received a suggested approach from Keith Cogdell, Scrutiny Support Manager, Norfolk County Council, and a report from Elaine Bond, Head of Contracts (Primary Care Independent Contracting) at NHS Great Yarmouth

and Waveney, about additional NHS dental services in the area.

During discussion, the following key points were noted:

- NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney was looking to open a new NHS dental practice in Southwold and increase dental capacity in Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth.

- The Southwold practice was expected to cater for around 4,500 patients each year, while existing dental services in Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth were expected to show an annual increase of around 4,000 and 3,000 respectively.

- The new dental facilities were due to be launched in July 2009.

- NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney already had one of the best records in the country for the number of patients able to access an NHS dentist and they were keen to make even more improvements.

- It was pointed out that NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney was preparing detailed plans for improved dental services for those living in nursing and residential homes. A needs assessment would be completed by the end of October at the latest, after which there would be a period of consultation on a new service. The PCT would also be consulting on a new sedation service.

- NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney was looking at options for the future delivery of dental services in the Martham area.

- A needs assessment for those requiring NHS dental services in the Halesworth and Bungay areas was due to be completed by the end of October 2009.

- The appointment of a new orthodontic specialist dentist would help to reduce waiting times and increase access to this service. From April 2010, patients would be able to access the service within 15 weeks of making an appointment.

- NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney was congratulated on their commitment to NHS dentistry.

Resolved –

That the report be noted and an update report be brought to the Committee in 12 months' time.

9 NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney's Five Year Strategic Plan

The Joint Committee received a presentation from James Elliott, Director of Commissioning, NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney, on the latest developments and the PCT's plans to address the issues raised by the World Class Commissioning Panel report.

The Joint Committee received on the table a copy of the World Class

Commissioning Panel report concerning NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney.

During discussion, the following key points were noted:

- The PCT had scored “red” for strategy, finance and Board in the Governance Assessment of the Panel report.

- A number of significant improvements were being planned, and efforts were being made to ensure that the rate of improvement within the PCT was faster than elsewhere in England.

- The PCT was no longer “red” for finance and was looking to make significant improvements during the summer.

- Significant progress had already been made in improving corporate governance.

- The PCT had submitted its development plan to the SHA.

- It was reported that Mr David Edwards had recently been appointed as Chairman of the Trust, which since his appointment had been re-focused at Board level.

- The PCT was looking to significantly improve access to services by:

    - Reducing waiting times for 90% of referrals for treatment for acute or community services to a maximum of 16 weeks at local providers with further year on year reductions;
    - Extending the 12 hours a day opening of primary care services to progressive percentages of the population over the five year period;
    - Commissioning more services provided closer to where people live.

- Next year’s World Class Commissioning assessment would be a crucial milestone in judging where the PCT was heading in the long term.

Resolved –

That the Joint Committee be kept informed of developments at future meetings.

10 Divestment of NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney Community Services

The Joint Committee received a presentation by Keith Barton, Project Lead for Community Services, NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney, about divestment of NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney Community Services. He explained the programme to separate the management of community services from the PCT and find a suitable provider for these services.

During discussion, the following key points were noted:

- Detailed contractual terms would be drawn up for the provision of services.

- The procurement process was due to start in mid-June 2009 and would take three to six months before services were transferred.

- Procurement experts would be taken on to help in the process.

- No formal consultation was required with the staff.

- The changes were part of an on-going process and the PCT was mid-way through the project.

Resolved –

That the Joint Committee receive a further report at their next meeting, should there be anything new to report.

11 Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Committee should be held in July 2009, following the County Council elections in June and that Members should be consulted as to a date. It was also noted that the following meeting would be held in October 2009.

12 Forward Work Programme

The Joint Committee discussed the draft forward work programme set out in a report by Keith Cogdell, Scrutiny Support Manager, Norfolk County Council. The Joint Committee amended its forward work programme so that reports would be expected for the next meeting about Norfolk and Suffolk CFS/ME Services, and progress with changes to Older People's Mental Health Services in the NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney area, and (if there was anything new to report) on divestment of NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney Community Services, and the Five Year Strategic Plan. It was also agreed to add into the forward work programme that a report would be brought back to the Joint Committee about additional NHS dental services in 12 months' time.

The meeting concluded at 13.15 pm

CHAIRMAN

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