

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11 OCTOBER 2005**

MEMBERS: Councillors *Bull (Chair) *Harris (Vice-Chair), *Bevan, *J Brown, *Davies, Dawson, and *Winskill.

Co-optees: Mr. B. Aulsberry and Mrs. I Shukla (REJCC non-voting Representatives) Mrs. C Bhangwandeem plus 2 Vacancies (parent governors), Ms S. Berkery-Smith and L. Haward (Church Representatives).

* Members Present

SC57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for lateness received from Cllr Brown.

SC58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Winskill declared an interest in relation to all items as a Friend of Hornsey Hospital.

SC59. MINUTES: 25 July 2005 and 2 August 2005

The Committee was informed that the minutes for the 29 September 2005 meeting would be ready for the next meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

SC60. ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK: HARINGEY TEACHING PRIMARY CARE TRUST (Agenda Item 6)

The Director of Strategy, Performance and Children's Services, Haringey TPCT, gave a power point presentation on the Trust's draft statement of compliance. The criteria on which Trusts are being judged are the Healthcare Commission's core standards. These are broken down into seven domains, with 24 core standards comprising of 74 elements. Each element must be judged to be either compliant, non compliant or lacking in assurance. Three areas were identified as lacking assurance of compliance, these being records management, equity of access and environments. Action plans have been developed or are to be developed to strengthen assurance mechanisms in these areas.

The Committee commented on the difficulty presented by the documents presented before them, and requested that a clear commentary be provided alongside these to enable the Committee to be fully involved in the process. It was noted that funding for two member training sessions had been secured from the Department of Health Scrutiny Programme, and the Trust would be invited to these sessions once organised. The

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issue of patient feedback was raised and the Trust commented that complaints are dealt with individually and then looked at as a whole to identify themes. A small paper would be prepared by the Trust for a future meeting detailing the complaints process.

RESOLVED:

That the new arrangements for the involvement of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees in the monitoring of core standards be noted.

That the Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust be informed that whilst the Overview & Scrutiny Committee welcomed the opportunity to consider and comment on the Trust's draft declarations and was keen to do so, it did not feel that it was in a position to comment on the draft declarations at this stage.

The Committee wished to express its concern at the language within the draft declarations, which as a body uninitiated with health authority jargon, it found a barrier to greater understanding. The Committee requested that the bodies use "plain English" in future.

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would decide on those areas of the core standards that it wishes to focus on, for the purpose of making comments on the declarations of the respective trusts in due course. It would like to have an ongoing dialogue with the trusts on those areas before submitting its final comments in March 2006.

SC61. ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK – NORTH MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL TRUST (Agenda Item 7)

The Chair of the North Middlesex Hospital Trust gave a power point presentation on the Trust's draft declaration. It was commented that this was the final draft of the declaration and no further paper would be presented before the Committee, so therefore this would be the only document that could be commented upon. Any comments from the Committee must be fed back to the Trust before 25 October 2005. The report detailed seven elements of the Healthcare Commission's core standards for which there was insufficient assurance of compliance. These were: NICE technology appraisals, healthcare organisation governance, staff support, staff training, research governance, patient consent and patient information. The Committee was assured that systems have already or are to be put in place to address these areas.

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There was discussion on issues raised by the report. The issue of patient feedback was discussed, and it was commented that the Trust could gain feedback from patients relatively easily compared to say the HTPCT as all of its patients were in one place. A pilot scheme of instant responses, asking people for feedback as they leave the hospital, has been introduced. The issue of response time to complaints has also been addressed, and national standards are now being met. The Committee commented on the issue of incidence MRSA at the North Middlesex Hospital. The high rates were partly attributed to the reporting of cases where patients had traces of MRSA in their bloodstream rather than just the reporting of patients who were actually ill. New infection control measures have led to MRSA rates dropping dramatically.

RESOLVED:

That the new arrangements for the involvement of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees in the monitoring of core standards be noted.

That the North Middlesex Hospital Trust be informed that whilst the Overview & Scrutiny Committee welcomed the opportunity to consider and comment on the Trust's draft declarations and was keen to do so, it did not feel that it was in a position to comment on the draft declarations at this stage.

The Committee wished to express its concern at the language within the draft declarations, which as a body uninitiated with health authority jargon, it found a barrier to greater understanding. The Committee requested that the bodies use "plain English" in future.

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would decide on those areas of the core standards that it wishes to focus on, for the purpose of making comments on the declarations of the respective trusts in due course. It would like to have an ongoing dialogue with the trusts on those areas before submitting its final comments in March 2006.

SC62. COMMISSIONING A PATIENT LED NHS (Agenda Item 8)

The Chief Executive of Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust gave an oral briefing on the issues arising from the Department of Health's document "Commissioning a Patient Led NHS". The Government aims to strengthen the commissioning ability of

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primary care trusts and also make savings of £250m nationally by reducing management costs. Currently in London there are 5 strategic health authorities and 32 primary care trusts, which are co-terminus with the boroughs. There has been a proposal for this system to be replaced with be one strategic health authority and five primary care trusts. After discussions with boroughs, a different proposal was drawn up which aimed to meet the £250m figure by rationalising and sharing back office functions while retaining the current primary care trust framework.

There was a discussion on the issues raised, and the Committee expressed concerns over the impact of the potential new primary care trust structure on local partnership working. The Haringey TPCT would need to make £1m worth of savings from back office functions to make the second option viable. The areas affected would primarily be human resources, recruitment and payroll. External audit will be put in place to ensure that a new layer of bureaucracy will not replace the one removed to make the savings.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted the report and that the comments of the Committee on the proposed reorganisation of the Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts be passed onto the Haringey TPCT.

SC63. YOUR HEALTH, YOUR CARE, YOUR SAY (Agenda Item 9)

The Director of Strategy, Performance and Children's Services, Haringey TPCT, informed the Committee of the NHS consultation exercise and the link on the NHS website to the online version of the consultation exercise.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted the website link to the online consultation exercise.

SC64. HORNSEY CENTRAL HOSPITAL PLANS (Agenda Item 10)

The Director of Strategy, Performance and Children's Services, Haringey TPCT, gave an oral briefing on the future plans for Hornsey Central Hospital. The plans have been scrutinised to judge if they still offer best value, and also judged against other aspects of the overall plan for healthcare provision in the borough. The scheme in Hornsey still has commitment from the Trust, and the clinical provision proposed originally has been

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protected. The proposed accommodation has been judged to be not offering value for money, and spare space has been identified for rental purposes. The original architects are still engaged, and they will be aiming to work within the original planning guidelines. The HTPCT hope to have stage one of the scheme re-approved in November and completed in the financial year. A meeting will be organised with key stakeholders in November and a full public meeting will take place before Christmas.

Additionally, the Director of Strategy, Performance and Children's Services, Haringey TPCT, reported that a new healthcare facility in Lordship Lane had been approved and will be opened within the next two years.

The Committee welcomed the retention of the clinical element of the original plans in the new proposal. The issue of the approval of the Lordship Lane facility was discussed, and it was commented that this was due to a number of factors, including the relatively small scale and lower cost of the scheme, local area deprivation and the state of the existing facilities. The Lordship Lane scheme was deemed to be of stronger immediate need than Hornsey Hospital. The issue of spare space at Hornsey was raised, and it was commented that the issues around key worker accommodation would be looked at in detail at stage two of the project.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted the report, and welcomed the plans for a new healthcare centre in Lordship Lane.

SC65. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MEMBER REQUESTS (Agenda Item 11)

There was a brief discussion on the requests listed, and a number were amended and clarified. There was discussion on the following up of requests and it was decided that officers would chase outstanding issues and distribute relevant information to Members.

RESOLVED:

That officers provide progress updates on Member requests to the Committee at each meeting of Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

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SC66. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS (Agenda Item 12)

There were no new items of urgent business.

Notes:

The meeting ended at 21:45HRS

**Councillor Gideon Bull
Chair – Overview & Scrutiny Committee**