

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held on 27 February 2015 at 2.00 pm

Present

Councillors

Mrs J Roach (Chairman)
T W Snow, N A Way, A V G Griffiths,
T G Hughes, Mrs H Bainbridge(substituting
for Mrs J Rendle) and Mrs M E Squires
(substituting for M R Lee)

Apologies

Councillors

E J Berry, Mrs J Rendle, Mrs S Griggs and M R Lee

Also Present

Councillors

D J Knowles and R L Stanley

Also Present

Officers:

Amy Tregellas (Head of Communities and Governance and Monitoring Officer) and Julia Stuckey (Member Services Officer)

141 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Councillors E J Berry, Mrs J Rendle, Mrs S Griggs and M R Lee.

142 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

143 MEETING MANAGEMENT

The Chairman indicated that she intended to take item 6 on the agenda before returning to agenda item 2.

144 CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

The Chairman introduced Mr John Finn, Managing Director of the Eastern Locality, Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to the Committee.

Mr Finn began by explaining that the CCG operated a dedicated team to avoid bed blocking. The team, which was a dedicated function run by Devon County Council (DCC) and the North Devon Health Care Trust (NDHCT) completed its first full year in March 2014 and results had been very positive. The current year had been a lot more demanding. The year ahead was planned for based on historical data, which had indicated that the increase in demand would be 1 – 2 %. The service was well supported and following the modelling a capacity to cope with an increase of 3% was put in place; unfortunately the increase in demand had been 11% for urgent care.

Contributory factors had included Noro-virus and the fact that the flu vaccine only protected 3% of those that had it, the outcome being that demand had been particularly high in the New Year.

Bed blocking issues were also exacerbated by Noro-virus closing wards and patients from these wards could not be sent home.

Mr Finn also explained the task of the Onward Care Team who managed the patients move from health to social care. The CCG were a stakeholder in the framework for procuring social care. The market had contracted due to home closures and safeguarding issues. There was now a process in place to block purchase beds in homes to speed up the transfer out of hospital for patients that needed onward care. This sped up the process which could take up to five days if carried out on a per patient basis.

The Transforming Communities Consultation had closed the day before and Mr Finn was awaiting the results; Crediton Hospital and the Hub had been part of the consultation.

Mr Finn highlighted that the average waiting time at Accident & Emergency (A & E) in Exeter could be as much as 4hrs 15 minutes but in Tiverton as little as 9 minutes. He stressed the importance of the public using the local facility and asked that Members raise the profile whenever possible.

For a limited period extra resources were going to be put into Tiverton Hospital which would enable procedures such as Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) testing, cellulitis care, dehydration and chest infections to be tested and treated. Patients would be directed by their GP. There was no intention to close Tiverton Hospital and results showed that 40% less people from Mid Devon used the Royal Devon and Exeter Wonford than from similar areas.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The closure of cottage hospitals and the need for patients and their families to travel distances for care;
- The closure of beds at Crediton Hospital on safety grounds;
- The lack of intermediate care for those that didn't need hospital but required help;
- Hospice Care and the valuable service they provided. Mr Finn confirmed that the grant made to them had not been reduced;
- Hospital at home services;
- The lack of qualified nursing staff in the area and the need to use agency staff;
- Seven day a week appointments for doctor's being piloted in Exeter;
- The Melrose Unit was part of the Devon Partnership Trust so the CCG had no say in its closure;
- There was a high spend on agency staff, which was being looked into;
- None of the staff that had been made redundant by NHS Devon had been reappointed by the CCG;

The Chairman thanked Mr Finn for attending the meeting, stating that she felt reassured and offered him the opportunity to return at any time.

Notes:-

- i. Cllr Mrs M E Squires declared an interest as she was a Devon County Councillor.
- ii. Cllr D J Knowles declared an interest as he was Chair of CHOICE.
- iii. Cllr R M Deed declared an interest in writing as he was a Public Governor for Devon at the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.

145 **MEMBER FORUM**

There were no issues raised under this item.

146 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chairman requested that the wording 'or take part in the meeting' be added to minute 120 following the wording 'and could not answer questions', from the minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2015.

The Chairman requested that the wording 'the Committee thanked the Cabinet Member for Housing for his report and commended the Housing Service on the improvements that had been made' be changed to read 'The Committee resolved to thank the Cabinet Member for Housing for his report and commended the Housing Service on the improvements that had been made. Proposed by Cllr T G Hughes and seconded by Cllr N A Way.'

Following these changes the minutes were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

147 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

148 **THE COMMITTEE TO RESPOND TO THE DCLG CONSULTATION IN RELATION TO 'PROPOSED LOCAL AUTHORITIES(FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2015'**

The Chairman had requested that the Committee discuss the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) proposals for Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2015.

The Chairman explained to the Committee that an area of concern to her had been the reference to proposed regulations for new parking enforcement areas or parking charges and the frequency of waste collection both being put to the Full Council. This information had only been contained in the letter to Chief Executives which had accompanied the consultation document and had not been part of the consultation document itself.

The Head of Communities and Governance and Monitoring Officer outlined key changes within the document. These included:

- Decisions regarding the budget
- Disposal of land and buildings

- Licensing of Scrap Dealers
- Health and Well Being
- Establishment of combined authorities and economic prosperity boards
- Authorising the contracting out of a function
- Sustainable Drainage System Approving Bodies.

It was **RESOLVED** that a response be sent to the consultation regarding the proposed regulations for new parking enforcement areas or parking charges and the frequency of waste collection stating that both should be put to the Full Council.

(Proposed by Cllr N A Way and seconded by Cllr Mrs H Bainbridge.)

It was **AGREED** that the Head of Communities and Governance and Monitoring Officer would make reference to the above resolution in her response.

Note: - Consultation previously circulated and attached to Minutes.

149 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Tiverton Pannier Market
High Street Innovation Awards
Performance and Risk
Cabinet Member for Finance
Police Detection Rates

(The meeting ended at 4.15 pm)

CHAIRMAN