

Minutes of a meeting of the Adults, Communities and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday, 27 November 2012.

PRESENT

Mrs. R. Camamile CC (in the Chair)

Mr. A. D. Bailey CC  
Mr. M. H. Charlesworth CC  
Mr. S. J. Hampson CC  
Dr. S. Hill CC

Mr. Max Hunt CC  
Mr. D. Jennings CC  
Mr. G. Jones CC  
Mr. M. B. Page CC

Attendance

Mr. D. W. Houseman, Lead Member for Adults and Communities, Leicestershire County Council (minute 38 refers)  
Karen Glover, Director of Quality and Nursing, East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust (minute 39 refers)  
Peter Mason, Business Manager for Leicestershire and Rutland, East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust (minute 39 refers)  
Mr. E. F. White, Lead Member for Health, Leicestershire County Council (minutes 40 and 41 refer)  
Mr. R. J. Shepherd, Chairman of the Scrutiny Review Panel on Transitions, Leicestershire County Council (minute 43 refers)

31. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2012 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

32. Question Time.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 35.

33. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

34. Urgent Items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

35. Declarations of interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

No declarations were made.

36. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.

There were no declarations of the party whip.

37. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.

The Chief Executive reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 36.

38. Update on the Implementation of the Libraries, Heritage and Arts Review Recommendations

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities which outlined the progress being made to implement the recommendations arising from the review of Libraries, Heritage and Arts (LHA) and highlighted key achievements and emerging issues as a result of that implementation. A copy of the report marked 'B' is filed with these minutes.

The Cabinet Lead Member for Adults and Communities spoke highly of the staff and their contribution in reshaping the service. He stated that the County Council was also looking at new ways to increase income to help to offset the savings required and to protect the service. New marketing strategies were being introduced to increase sales of products and services. Marketing Plans and visitor numbers were reviewed on a monthly basis to identify any areas where improvements could be made.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- (i) Members were pleased to note that the report did not make reference to any libraries being closed and that under current plans there were also no proposals to make service reductions at the Records Office. It was hoped that this would continue to be the case;
- (ii) It was nationally acknowledged that Leicestershire County Council had an excellent library service and the focus on delivering the service in a new way to provide greater efficiencies as opposed to making cuts had been commended;
- (iii) The programme of reduction of staff hours had been completed and there were no further plans to cut hours. However, a further reduction in library opening hours was one of the potential options identified to provide further savings to the service. With regards to identifying areas for further savings, the Committee was informed that it cost the County Council £1,000,000 in total to run the smaller libraries. Smaller libraries were those based in communities outside of the centre of major towns. This amount broke down to roughly £27,000 per library when building running costs were included;
- (iv) It was noted that LHA Services had recently seen an increase in income by 3% and it was hoped that the current interest in the

Richard III project would help to generate more income at the Bosworth Battlefield Site;

- (v) Moving community activities into libraries or moving libraries into other community buildings was a good way to make savings and at the same time protect services. Accommodation could be shared with other Leicestershire County Council or local community services;
- (vi) It was important to ensure that trained librarians were kept on site at all libraries to allow members of the public to have access to quality expertise. If Community Partnerships were to be considered as an option for the future delivery of library services a core group of qualified librarians would be needed to support community volunteers;
- (vii) As part of the review of service delivery an engagement exercise had been undertaken with Community Forums outlining six options for future savings. In addition, four focus groups were being engaged to explore these options further and to explore any new ideas. An online public survey would be available from February to March 2013 for people to complete. The results of the engagement on options identified would be taken into account by the Cabinet in determining which options to develop into more detailed proposals for further consultation sometime after April 2013;
- (viii) Members noted that the option of services being delivered by an independent trust was being explored. If an independent trust were to be established members were of the view that there should be some form of County Council representation on the Board or Management Committee;
- (ix) Some concern was expressed about whether libraries and heritage services could continue in the future if a need to make further efficiency savings was identified. The Committee was informed that there was some scope in the current plans to deliver some additional savings if required. If further significant efficiencies were needed new models of delivery might need to be developed;
- (x) In relation to staff morale it was acknowledged that the service re-structure and transformation programme had been difficult. Senior managers within the service had recently engaged with staff and teams and feedback was positive.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

### 39. 'Being the Best' Public Consultation Emerging Themes and Update

The Committee considered a report from East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EMAS) which provided an executive summary on the 'Being the Best' Consultation and outlined key themes emerging as a result of the

Consultation. A copy of the report marked 'C' is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed Karen Glover, Director of Quality and Nursing, EMAS, and Peter Mason, Business Manager for Leicestershire and Rutland, EMAS, to the meeting for this item.

Written comments on the 'Being the Best' Consultation had been received from Leicestershire LINK and the GMB Union, copies of which are filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- (i) The Committee supported the principles set out in the 'Being the Best' programme and welcomed the consultation exercise that had been undertaken by EMAS. The Committee was pleased to note that EMAS had been open to feedback on the location of additional Hubs and Community Ambulance Posts (CAPs) across its operational area. The Committee suggested that EMAS should be invited to attend a future meeting to allow consideration to be given to the final locations of hubs and CAPs once they had been determined;
- (ii) The Committee noted that under the current proposals there would be two Hubs in Leicestershire based at Gorse Hill and Loughborough. This would mean that the South and East of the County would be reliant on CAPs. The Committee asked that EMAS have regard for this in determining the final number and location of CAPs in these areas;
- (iii) The Committee welcomed the fact that EMAS had held discussions with local police and fire authorities regarding sharing facilities for CAPs. Having emergency services based in the same building would ensure a coordinated response to emergency calls and ensure that CAPs were strategically placed for a fast response. It would also save public money as services would be based in a single building;
- (iv) The Committee expressed concern with regards to turn around times for ambulances taking patients into hospitals. It was explained that this was a national issue which EMAS had been trying to address locally.
- (v) Many people were unaware that ambulances were not deployed from stations most of the time and, as a result, there had been some negative press and public comments in the responses to the consultation. The Committee emphasised that EMAS needed to make the public aware that they would not be losing a service and that, as a result of the restructure, response times would be improved.

RESOLVED:

- a) That EMAS be advised that the principles set out in the 'Being the Best' consultation are supported;
- b) That EMAS be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee once the consultation exercise has been completed and the final locations of ambulance hubs have been determined to allow the Committee to

consider the matter further;

- c) That officers be requested to produce a formal response to the consultation, based on this Committee's discussions, and forward it to EMAS.

#### 40. Draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Public Health which sought views on the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy which had been prepared in the light of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA). A copy of the report marked 'D' is filed with these minutes.

The Cabinet Lead Member for Health advised the Committee that Leicestershire County Council had been leading the way with the work of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and this was the first time that NHS Commissioning bodies had come together in shaping this Strategy and associated commissioning plans.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- (i) The Health and Wellbeing Strategy had been produced by the Health and Wellbeing Board. Supporting the Board were four subgroups: the Staying Healthy Board, the Integrated Commissioning Board, the Substance Misuse Partnership Board, and the JSNA and Health and Wellbeing Strategy Steering Group. These subgroups helped to further extend a joined up approach to working across health and social care;
- (ii) The Committee welcomed the priorities identified in the Strategy, especially the focus on ensuring children got the best possible start in life and supporting an ageing population. Prevention was identified as key to ensuring people stayed healthy for longer and the Strategy looked to encourage healthy communities and lifestyles to help prevent illness later in life;
- (iii) People had an individual responsibility to look after their own health and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy sought to educate people from as early as possible to change unhealthy behaviour. Many people were living unhealthy lifestyles earlier in life which led to illness later on. The Strategy also made provision to support the prevention of poor health;
- (iv) It was explained that, although life expectancy was increasing, this did not necessarily mean that people were healthier. The Strategy looked to give priority to increasing 'healthy' life expectancy.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the priorities set out in the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy be supported;
- b) That the comments of the Committee be included in the responses to

the consultation on the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

41. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2012

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Public Health on the health of the population of Leicestershire and Rutland. The focus of this year's report was on the health of older people. A copy of the report marked 'E' is filed with these minutes.

The Cabinet Lead Member for Health spoke in support of the Director of Public Health's Annual Report. He noted that the report recognised the importance of celebrating the fact that people were living longer, older people were contributing far more to the community than they consumed in terms of resources and were a valuable asset.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- (i) It was noted that, alongside the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the recommendations from the Director of Public Health's Annual Report had helped to inform the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This, in turn, would inform future commissioning decisions for health and social care;
- (ii) The Committee welcomed the recommendations contained within the report and was pleased to note that feedback from actions identified in last year's Annual Report had been included. A follow up on the recommendations in this year's report would also be of benefit to identify what progress had been made in a years time;
- (iii) The Committee suggested that children should be further targeted for immunisation against viruses as this would help to lower the chances of older people from developing certain viruses, such as the flu, which had a much more detrimental effect on their health compared with younger people;

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the recommendations, as set out in the report, be supported.

42. Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2011/12

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities which appended the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) 2011-12. A copy of the report marked 'F' is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- (i) It was not surprising that the largest number of referrals was about older people because these were the largest users of health and social care services;
- (ii) It was explained that referrals had been increasing year on year due

to families and carers being more aware of potential safeguarding issues and also there were better systems in place for reporting. The number of unsubstantiated referrals was fairly low at 20%;

- (iii) The Committee queried whether the current trend towards the number of referrals currently to the Safeguarding Team increasing each year would begin to slow down. It was explained that a dedicated 'Residential Safeguarding Team' had been introduced to respond to referrals across the whole of the Leicestershire and Rutland area as opposed to locality teams. A 'Quality Improvement Team' had also been introduced in 2012 to deal with any low level safeguarding referrals. This approach was helping to slow down the increasing level of referrals and it was hoped that the number of referrals would eventually level out;
- (iv) The Committee suggested that the categories of referrals should be broken down further due to the fact that the highest number of referrals was headed under the category 'Other'.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the report be noted;
- b) That the comments now made be drawn to the attention of the Cabinet.

#### 43. Final Report of the Scrutiny Review Panel on Transitions

The Committee considered the final report of the Review Panel on Transitions along with the final Leicestershire Transition Strategy 2012/15 and Action Plan which had been amended in light of the Panel's comments and the consultation on the draft Strategy that had taken place over the summer. A copy of the report marked 'G' is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Shepherd, the Chairman of the Review Panel, to the meeting for this item.

Mr Shepherd introduced the report, explaining that transitions was a very complex area of work. The Panel spent much time understanding the complexities of the process of transitions and, as a result, had produced a series of recommendations. Through the work of the Panel it had become clear that all of the relevant bodies needed to work together to achieve the best outcomes for those people going through transitions. He thanked his colleagues on the Panel and all the supporting officers for their contributions.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- (i) The Committee was pleased to note that the area of transitions had been identified and addressed. The Committee supported the recommendations of the Panel which would improve the services provided and ensure that services were user focused;
- (ii) The Committee noted that Section 6 of the Transition Action Plan made reference to mental health but there was no specific reference

to this in the Strategy. The Committee suggested that the Transition Strategy be amended to include reference to young people with mental health problems being eligible for assessment for receipt of Transition Services.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the recommendations of the Review Panel on Transitions be supported and the Cabinet be requested to approve these recommendations at its meeting on 18 December 2012;
- b) That the responses received during the consultation on the draft Transition Strategy be noted;
- c) That consideration be given to amending the Leicestershire Transition Strategy to include reference to young people with mental health problems being eligible for assessment for receipt of Transition Services.

44. Date of next meeting.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 17 December 2012 at 10.30am.



2.00 pm - 3.50 pm  
27 November 2012

CHAIRMAN