

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND INCLUSION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE: 19 JUNE 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES

REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2006-07 AND INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR WORK PROGRAMME 2007-08

Executive Summary

At its meeting in September 2006, Committee considered items for its work programme for 2006-07. This report reviews last year's work programme and proposes a process for determining items for the current year.

1 Background

1.1 A report to Committee in September 2006 identified topics for the work programme 2006-07, a number of which were agreed by Members. These were:

- Regular items: Information on performance and financial management of adult social services.
- Major theme: The impact of NHS financial arrangements within the context of the whole-system of health and social care.
- NHS substantial variations or developments.
- Reviews of services: Dentistry, GP access, equipment and adaptations.
- The NHS Annual Healthcheck.
- Maintaining capacity to respond to important issues as they arise e.g. matters raised by Patients Forums or calling-in Cabinet decisions.
- Out-of-area scrutiny.
- Development and Networking.

1.2 The first part of this report reviews the work the Committee undertook in 2006-07; the second presents some initial items for the work programme 2007-08.

REVIEW OF 2006-07

2 Regular Items – Overview of Performance and Financial Management of Adult Social Services

2.1 Committee considered Adult Social Services quarterly performance in September (with the Business Plan), January, and March. The Adult Social Services Performance Rating was considered in January. Since the quarterly performance report also covers LAA indicators for Healthier

Communities and Older People, Members were also able to scrutinise NHS performance in public health and at the interface with social care.

- 2.2 Committee considered Adult Social Services financial reports in September, November, January, February (special meeting on proposed budget saving) and March. In addition, separate reports on the Capital Strategy were considered in September, November, January and March.
- 2.3 The Chair and Spokespersons were kept updated on a regular basis.

3 Major Themes – Impact of NHS Financial Arrangements

- 3.1 Members received a comprehensive presentation on the medium term financial strategy, current demand and financial pressures by the Chief Executives of the Hospital Trust and the PCT and the Director of Adult Social Services.
- 3.2 Committee considered a report on the Care Services Efficiency Delivery (CSED) Project on Referral, Assessment, and Care Management which is redesigning systems to improve people's journey through social care, and to identify efficiencies. CSED also relates to the interface between health and care referral/assessment processes.
- 3.3 The Chief Executive of Wirral Hospital Trust attended the March meeting to give a detailed presentation on service developments as the Trust moves to Foundation Trust Status.

4 Substantial Variations or Developments in the NHS

- 4.1 Consultations on three substantial variations or developments (SDVs) to health services were identified: Relocation of Cavendish Medical Centre into a new build co-located with Cloughton Medical Centre; relocation of Seabank Medical Centre to a new build adjacent to St Georges Medical Centre New Brighton; a health park bringing together GP practices in Moreton.
- 4.2 Cloughton – Committee supported this proposal at its November meeting.
- 4.3 New Brighton – Committee noted that the majority of respondents to the consultation were in favour of this proposal. However some still had concern about road safety and parking. A Representative of Technical Services attended for this item. The Committee asked planning officers and the Planning Committee to take residents' views into account when determining the planning application.
- 4.4 Moreton – This item was attended by representatives from the PCT Board, the local authority Traffic Management Division, and by a ward councillor. After a detailed discussion Committee supported the proposal.

5 Reviews of Services

- 5.1 Dentistry – Committee considered a detailed presentation by the PCT Lead for Dentistry and heard views from an ‘opted out’ dentist at its November meeting. Members requested an update on NHS dental coverage in 2007-08.
- 5.2 GP access – Committee was informed of the national survey of primary care at its January meeting and agreed to receive a report on the Wirral results and a report from the Patient and Public Involvement Forum at its June meeting.
- 5.3 Assessments for adaptations and equipment and waiting times – Committee considered a report on this topic at its March meeting and requested that further information be submitted to a future Committee.

6 The NHS Annual Health check

Committee considered the NHS health check ratings for 2005-06 in November and agreed comments for the declarations for 2006-07 in March. This meeting was attended by representatives from the PCT, Wirral Hospital Trust, and Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology.

7 Out of Area Working

7.1 Wirral Councillors continued to regularly attend the Joint Committee for Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust. Minutes were presented at relevant meetings of the Social Care, Health and Select Committee. For the early part of 2006-07 a representative from Committee attended a Cheshire County Council Panel considering the former West Cheshire PCT’s financial recovery plan. There were no regional scrutiny requirements in 2006-07. An informal inquiry about changes to North West Ambulance Service was dealt with by the Chair and Spokespersons. A formal report is to be considered at the June 2007 meeting.

8 Additional Items (capacity built into programme)

- 8.1 The work programme included capacity to respond to urgent or important items.
- 8.2 Day Services Review – Committee considered day service developments in January and a follow-up report on the Warrens in March.
- 8.3 Fairer Charging Policy for Non residential Care – In January Committee considered a Cabinet report (minute 162) which made a number of recommendations for the policy. Following a comprehensive discussion, the decision of Cabinet minute 162 was confirmed.
- 8.4 Audiology – Wirral Health Forum submitted a report on delays in audiology services to the March Committee; an update on progress to reduce the

delays will be considered in September, along side information from the House of Commons Health Select Committee review of audiology.

- 8.5 Audit Commission Report on Health Improvement – Committee formally scrutinised the report on the AC’s review of how the Council and the PCT work together to improve health and address health inequalities.

9 Development and Networking

- 9.1 Representatives from Patient and Public Involvement Forums (Wirral Health Forum) regularly attend the Committee and produced reports, e.g. on proposals for the relocation of health centres and on audiology services. The Chair and spokespersons met with representatives from the Forums and the Forum Support Organisation to discuss developments in Patient Forums. Regular reports were submitted on the development of Local Involvement in Health Networks (LINKs). The Centre for Public Scrutiny’s support programme was used to support a LINKs event which successfully brought together representatives from the Committee, WVCSN, Patients Forums, Adult Social Care, the PCT and others.
- 9.2 The PCT Chief Executive attends each Committee, and senior representatives from the Hospital Trust and CCO attend whenever relevant.
- 9.3 The party spokespersons, with PCT representation, attended a regional scrutiny event in which the key note speaker was the NHS Chief Executive.

DEVELOPING A WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2007-2008

10 Overview of 2006-07

- 10.1 The Social Care, Health and Inclusion Committee is a very busy Committee with a breadth of responsibilities. As was shown in the first part of this report, in 2006-07 it undertook a full and varied programme.
- 10.2 In light of the heavy agenda, two areas probably received less attention than the Committee would have liked:
- The reviews undertaken were all short reviews. The original intention was to undertake a longer review (probably through a subgroup over several meetings) as well as a number of short reviews.
 - It was envisaged that improving health, reducing health inequalities and developing healthier communities would have had a higher profile on the Committee’s agenda.

Committee may wish to take these issues into account when developing its work programme for 2007-08.

- 10.3 Capacity relating to limited officer time was discussed in the September work programme report. However, there was no undue pressure on

Council or NHS officer support in 2006-07. (It is likely that this could come through supporting longer reviews or out of area scrutiny). Any capacity issues were possibly more likely to have been experienced by Members, particularly the Chair and Spokespersons, undertaking additional work.

- 10.4 Discussions are due to take place at Cheshire and Wirral Joint Committee about the number of meetings required, now that the focus of health scrutiny is moving towards commissioning, and the major SDVs relating to Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust have reduced. Should the number of meetings and related commitments be reduced, this could mean released capacity for some Members of this Committee.

11 Potential Work Programme Items 2007-08

- 11.1 This section identifies a number of topics which Committee may wish to consider for its work programme.

11.2 Follow up reports:

- Dentistry – Committee may wish for an update on NHS dental provision.
- Audiology – already agreed that this should be considered in September 2007.
- LINKs – Committee will wish to consider any significant national or local developments.
- CCO – a follow up presentation identifying the progress of CCO as a Foundation Trust.
- WHT – a follow up presentation identifying the progress of Wirral Hospital Trust into foundation status.
- Occupational therapy – Committee agreed to receive more information on case-loads and case examples.
- The Warrens – Committee agreed to receive regular updates.

11.3 Regular items:

- Adult Social Services performance (including LAA performance).
- Adult Social Services financial reports and capital strategy.
- Annual Health check.

11.4 Possible areas for review:

A number of potential topics for review were identified in September. For information, the topics not taken forward were:

- Support for carers
- Alcohol services
- Transition from children's to adult services.
- There are also likely to be a range of other potential items for long or short reviews, including issues of improving health.

11.5 Major theme

Committee may wish to consider whether to maintain the major theme of the impact of NHS financial arrangements in a whole-system context or

whether to focus on issues of improving health and reducing health inequalities.

11.6 Capacity

Committee will again need to maintain capacity to respond to local or regional matters requiring social care or health scrutiny, and for developmental activity.

12 Financial and Staffing Implications

None immediately arising from this report.

13 Equal Opportunities Implications

An important aspect of health scrutiny is promoting equal access to health services for all.

14 Human Rights Implications

None immediately arising from this report.

15 Local Agenda 21 Implications

None immediately arising from this report.

16 Community Safety Implications

None immediately arising from this report.

17 Planning Implications

None arising from this report.

18 Local Member Support Implications

None arising from this report.

19 Background Papers

Social Care, Health and Inclusion Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Work programme, September 2006.

20 Recommendations

20.1 That Committee considers whether there are any other regular items or follow up reports required in addition to those identified in 11.2 and 11.3 and agrees these items.

20.2 That Committee discusses the items relating to reviews or major themes identified in 11.4 and 11.5 and identifies any further potential items.

20.3 That the chair and party spokespersons meet to discuss potential topics for reviews/ major themes, informed by officers from the Council and NHS as relevant, and that a report is submitted to the September Committee.

Kevin Miller
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