

WIRRAL COUNCIL

FAMILIES AND WELLBEING POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

28TH JANUARY 2014

SUBJECT:	<i>THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FRANCIS REPORT FOR WIRRAL</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<i>ALL</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>MEMBERS OF THE FRANCIS REPORT SCRUTINY PANEL</i>

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides background information regarding the final Report of the Francis Report Scrutiny Review.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Leader of the Council made an announcement at Council on 11th February 2013. The minutes of the meeting read as follows:

“The Leader referred to the shocking report published last week by Mr Robert Francis QC, which found serious failings in the quality of hospital care provided by Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. He expressed sorrow and concern for the families and friends of those affected and highlighted the importance of key partners in Wirral examining the report findings to determine whether any actions were required to ensure that no such failings happened in Wirral.

Although there was no suggestion of any issues concerning the quality of hospital care provided in Wirral, he proposed as a matter of urgency that, in order to uphold the highest possible standards of care, a proactive approach be taken to recognise and deal with service failures before things go badly wrong, as happened in Mid-Staffs: –

(i). As Chair of Wirral’s Health and Well Being Board, he would be seeking an urgent meeting to discuss the key issues from the Francis Report and to ask the Clinical Commissioning Group to present a report on their governance and monitoring arrangements; to include input from Healthwatch, in relation to their new role and how it would act as an early warning system.

(ii). He proposed also to write to the Chair of the Council’s Health and Well Being O&S Committee to suggest that a similar discussion takes place and that the Committee consider the establishment of a ‘Task and Finish’ group to ascertain in detail the suitability of governance and monitoring arrangements”.

2.2 In response, the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee, held on 13th March 2013 received a report on ‘The Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry’. The meeting resolved that:

- (i) the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry be noted; and
- (ii) a Task and Finish Group be set up with Councillors Brighthouse, Hornby, McLaughlin and Povall to ensure that the failures of care in Mid Staffs were not

being replicated in Wirral.

Subsequently, a Scrutiny Panel was formed to undertake detailed work and Councillor Roberts became an additional member of the group. The draft Scope for the Review was developed by the members of the Review Panel and reported to a meeting of the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee, held on 9th July 2013.

2.3 The overall objectives of the Review were identified:

- To understand the current monitoring and reporting arrangements, and if necessary, propose improvements.
- To assess, from a layperson's view, that the monitoring arrangements translate into adequate standards of care. It was agreed that the major focus for the Review will be the services provided by Wirral University Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust (WUTH).
- To determine whether Council scrutiny of the health providers in Wirral is as robust as it needs to be.

3.0 EVIDENCE GATHERING

3.1 The Members of the Scrutiny Panel have met a range of witnesses throughout the course of the Review. The Panel Members express their thanks to all those who have assisted the review by so readily giving their time, experience and suggestions.

3.2 The Final Report, 'The Implications of the Francis Report for Wirral' is attached for consideration by the Committee.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Members are requested to support the contents and recommendations of the Francis Report Scrutiny Review;
- (2) The report resulting from the Francis Report Scrutiny Review will be referred to the next appropriate Cabinet meeting;
- (3) An update report regarding the impact of the recommendations will be presented to the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee in approximately one year (that is, by April 2015).

Report of the Members of the Francis Report Scrutiny Panel:

Cllr Cherry Povall (Chair)

Cllr Alan Brighthouse

Cllr Mike Hornby

Cllr Moira McLaughlin

Cllr Denise Roberts

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