

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

13TH MARCH 2014

SUBJECT:	THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FRANCIS REPORT FOR WIRRAL
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	THE CHAIR OF THE FRANCIS REPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 This report provides background information regarding the report of the Francis Report Scrutiny Review, which has been approved by the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee and referred to Cabinet for further consideration.

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 former 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 Brighouse, 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.

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 AND REPORT

3.1 The Task & Finish Group Members have met with a range of witnesses throughout the course of the Review. The final report, 'The Implications of the Francis Report for Wirral' was presented to the meeting of the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee on 28th January 2014. The relevant draft minute from that meeting is:

The Committee considered the report of the Members of the Francis Report Scrutiny Panel providing background information regarding the Final Report.

Members of the Panel had met a range of witness throughout the course of the Review and thanked all those who had assisted in the review by giving their time, experience and suggestions.

The Final Report, 'The Implications of the Francis Report for Wirral' was attached as an appendix to the report.

Members indicated that the Panel had been satisfied that Wirral University Teaching Hospital and other health services in Wirral provided a safe environment and high standard of care with excellent systems in place. The Panel had been impressed by the eagerness of the Hospital to improve care.

A Member commented that one of the recommendations within the report highlighted the need for elected members' role to reflect the views of their communities; this had not been done by Mid Staffs.

Dr Phil Jennings, Wirral CCG, commented that he was pleased that the Group had come to the same conclusion as the CCG, and urged the Committee to look at the wider remit of patient contact aside from the hospital.

In response to a Member in relation to the outcome of the Friends and Family Test, Mr David Allison, Chief Executive, Wirral University Teaching Hospital indicated that the hospital had been a chosen to undertake this pilot and he was pleased that the test had been improved. Mr Allison indicated that the A&E target over the winter period was of a concern but that the targets set in relation to admissions had been met and that those wards that had scored high were to be used to share best practice throughout other wards within the hospital.

In relation to the Francis Report, Mr Allison indicated that he was pleased to note that the CQC had rated both hospitals in Wirral highly (Band 6) which was

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great news for the Wirral. He suggested that the Committee may wish to look at other health services where less regulation took place.

Ms Val McGee, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust, indicated that her organisation was not subjected to inspection, however, they did apply the recommendations from the Francis Report to their services, in particular mental health. The CWP also had its own inspection regime and Friends and Family Test.

Mr Hodgkinson, Director of Adult Social Services indicated that throughout this review a broad range of organisations and service providers were interviewed by Members and the final report made some good recommendations incorporating the comments made within the Francis report.

Further to the comments made by members and Health partners, it was suggested and agreed that a Panel to look at the performance of health services be established.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the contents and recommendations of the implications of the Francis Report for Wirral Review be noted;

(2) the implications of the Francis Report for Wirral Report be referred to the next appropriate Cabinet meeting;

(3) an update report regarding the progress being made towards the implementation of the recommendations be presented to this Committee in approximately one year; and

(4) Alan Veitch, Scrutiny Support Officer be thanked for his support and guidance in completing the review;

(5) a Panel be established to look at the performance of health services for Wirral, Members of which be requested to report back the Committee with their Terms of Reference in April 2014.

4.0 REFERRAL TO CABINET

4.1 As agreed by the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee, the Scrutiny Report 'The Implications of the Francis report for Wirral', which is attached as an appendix, has been referred to Cabinet for further consideration.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Cabinet is requested to support the contents and recommendations of the Francis Report Scrutiny Review;
- (2) Cabinet requests Officers to develop and implement an Action Plan to implement the recommendations contained within the report.