

Council – 19 December, 2016

Motions

The following motions have been submitted in accordance with the notice required by Standing Order 7(1) and are listed in accordance with Standing Order 7(2).

1. SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION PLANS *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies

Seconded by Councillor Moira McLaughlin

This Council is extremely concerned about the failure of NHS England to consult with elected members and the public prior to the publication of Sustainable Transformation Plans which propose far-reaching changes to the configuration of hospitals in the acute sector and the delivery of health services in Cheshire and Merseyside in order to plug a £908m hole in the NHS finances.

Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Health and call on the government to withdraw these Plans immediately with a view to holding urgent discussions with key partners, including local Councils, on how good quality health and social care services can be provided going forward based on continuing to provide a National Health Service which is properly funded and free at the point of need.

Council is appalled that under this Tory government we have:

- The worst NHS deficits on record - £2.45 billion
- In England around 3.9 million people are now on the waiting list to start treatment
- 1.8 million people waited four or more hours in A&E last year – up over 400 per cent since 2010
- One in four patients have to wait a week or more to see or speak to a GP or nurse, or don't get an appointment at all.

Council calls on Theresa May to give the NHS the funding it needs.

2. SUPPORT FOR SELECTIVE EDUCATION ACROSS WIRRAL *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Adam Sykes

Seconded by Councillor Wendy Clements

Council notes the recent report commissioned by Knowsley Council that said that the introduction of selective schools in the area should be adopted to transform the performance of children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The report said Knowsley has a white, working-class "monoculture", with strong bonds of extended families but little contact with others from different social backgrounds or ethnicities and "narrow horizons" for local youngsters. Council accepts that parallels can clearly be drawn with parts of Wirral.

Council welcomes the Prime Minister's announced plans to bring back grammars and that they have set as a priority, a pledge to fight "burning injustice" which means that "if you're a white, working-class boy, you're less likely than anybody else in Britain to go to university."

Council notes that the report for Knowsley cited research that found for "poor but bright" pupils, grammar schools can boost their performance by nearly 10 percentage points compared with non-selective schools.

Council accepts that a return of more grammar schools is not a 'fix-all' solution, and that improvement in early years education is a vital part of a wider approach. Also, that a return of grammar schools is not an acceptance of a second-rate secondary education for those children who don't attend selective schools.

Council recognises that Wirral has good and outstanding schools across the borough, covering both selective and non-selective schools. Council supports the current provision of education in Wirral, including our selective schools, and acknowledge the great job that all our teachers and support staff do in educating our children in all schools. Council also supports our parents who wish to have a selective offer available for their children, as well as those who choose not to put their children forward for the eleven plus.

We therefore call on Council to strongly support any measures that raise progress and attainment for the children of Wirral. We ask that ideology is put aside for evidence-based policy, and if further selective places will improve the outlook for our most disadvantaged, then Wirral should look to support this outcome.

3. OUR HEALTH SERVICE – AVAILABLE FOR THE FUTURE OF ALL *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Alan Brighouse

This Council notes that the Cheshire & Merseyside Sustainability and Transformation Plan was only made public on 16th November 2016.

It has been issued at a time when, in the view of the King's Fund, the real additional funding to the NHS is £4.5bn and not the £10bn the Government claims. In addition, the Government is proposing significant reductions to the funding of pharmacies.

It also has to be seen in the context of the developing crisis in social care as Lord Porter, Chairman of the Local Government Association, has said:

"Councils, the NHS, charities and care providers have been clear about the desperate need for the Chancellor to take action to tackle the funding crisis in social care. It is unacceptable that this has not been addressed in the Autumn Statement."

Council is concerned that the driving factor behind the review is a determination to make savings with only limited references to re-investing genuine savings.

Council notes that the Cheshire and Wirral approach sets out a vast range of possible savings from 'demand management', 'reconfiguration', 'back & middle office collaborations' and 'changing how we work together'.

Council has concerns about the desire to '*explore an option to consolidate elective care*' between the Countess of Chester Hospital and the Wirral Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust on the Clatterbridge hospital site, the references to the '*consolidation of Acute care*' and references to the development of Cheshire and Wirral-wide '*clinical services at scale*' and believes that these have progressed with little or no public discussion, save for references to the long term strategy in WUTH's Annual Report.

Council believes the detail of all the proposals requires in-depth consideration and is therefore concerned that the Engagement Plan in the STP fails to set out clear ways of involving the public and local authorities in shaping future services in a clear and meaningful manner.

Council therefore requests that arrangements are made to ensure a thorough and adequate discussion of the issues at each stage of the development of the Plan. Such arrangements should involve the Constituency Committees which would provide the necessary opportunity for public participation. It requests that officers make arrangements for this.

Council notes that the Leader of the Council has arranged a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board which should be given a full explanation of the background and purpose of the Plan and the contribution of the various agencies in its preparation.

As part of this process, Wirral's Members of Parliament should be kept apprised of the findings and requested to press the Government to secure a long term sustainable settlement for our National Health Service.

4. TACKLING RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND HATE CRIMES *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies

Seconded by Councillor Ian Lewis, and supported by Councillor Stuart Kelly and Councillor Ann McLachlan

Council is proud that the United Kingdom is a diverse and tolerant society and believes that racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country.

Council therefore condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally and will work with Merseyside Police to challenge such incidents.

Council welcomes the work undertaken by its Minority Ethnic Achievement Service and partner organisations such as the Wirral Multicultural Organisation and Wirral Change.

Council will continue to work to ensure that local organisations and programmes have the support and resources they need to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia.

Council reassures all people living in Wirral they are valued members of our community who, regardless of background, will be encouraged to play a full and positive role in our Borough.

5. INFORMATION DEFICIT CONTINUES *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green

Seconded by Councillor Adam Sykes

Council recalls the Labour Administration were warned on several occasions that it was an expensive folly to enter the newspaper business but the Administration insisted that there was an information deficit in the Borough which the distribution of Wirral View to every household and business in the Borough would solve.

Council notes the woeful distribution of the first two editions of Wirral View with residents and businesses in Birkenhead, Rock Ferry, Oxton, New Brighton, Leasowe, Pensby, Hoylake, Thingwall, Claughton, West Kirby, Upton, Meols and Greasby not receiving copies.

Council is also concerned that the promises given that it would not become a Labour Party newsletter have now been seen to be fanciful.

Therefore Council calls on the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Communications to:

- (a) apologise to the Council Taxpayers of Wirral for this flagrant waste of their money and;
- (b) call a halt to this disastrous Labour Administration exercise before the Council's reputation is tarnished further.

6. CRISIS IN SOCIAL CARE *(the Civic Mayor to refer to the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee)*

Proposed by Councillor Chris Jones

Seconded by Councillor Angela Davies

Council believes that the failure of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to address the social care crisis in his recent Autumn Statement was a huge missed opportunity.

This Council is appalled at the government's failure to address the crisis in social care. In recent months the entire health and care sector, including councils, care providers, charities, the NHS, health economists, Parliamentarians and the Care Quality Commission have united around the urgent need to address the

unsustainable pressures facing adult social care and the growing funding gap those pressures are creating.

The Local Government Association estimates that adult social care faces a funding gap of £1.3 billion by 2019/20.

The failure to deliver additional funding will have knock-on effects on the viability of care providers and the sustainability of the NHS. Most importantly, the impact will fall on residents. Unmet need is likely to increase and elderly and vulnerable people will continue to face uncertainty in the care they need to support their independence and wellbeing.

The crisis in social care simply cannot be ignored any longer. Council therefore calls on all parties on the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Health requesting an urgent meeting to secure the additional funding needed in this area.