

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND INCLUSION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 25 March 2009

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	A Bridson (Chair)	
	Councillors	D Roberts G Watt IO Coates	P Reisdorf S Taylor
<u>Deputies</u>	Councillors	S Mountney (in place of Mrs S Clarke)	
<u>Cabinet Member</u>	Councillor	M McLaughlin	
<u>Co-opted Members:</u>		Sandra Wall	D Hill

72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had a personal or prejudicial interest in any matters to be considered at the meeting and, if so, to declare them and state what they were. Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any matter to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

No such declarations were made.

73 MINUTES

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Social Care, Health and Inclusion Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 20 January, 2009.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January, 2009, be approved as a correct record.

74 A JOINT RESPONSE TO EXTREME WINTER PRESSURES ON WIRRAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ECONOMY

At the request of the Committee (minutes 69 and 71 (20/1/09) refers) the Director of Adult Social Services and the Chief Executives of Wirral NHS and the Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Trust, submitted a report which outlined the pressures experienced across the Health and Social Care economy during the recent winter period.

The report gave details of the responses made by the three partner organisations following outbreaks of Noro virus and seasonal influenza. This included the purchase of 9 extra beds in the independent sector along with a number of short term transitional beds which had been spot purchased for those who were waiting for long term placements or packages of care already approved.

Work continued to develop alternative ways of preventing admissions including:

- Development of the Primary Care Assessment Unit
- Integrated Care at Home
- Enhancement of single point of access
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease community team and oxygen service
- Improving unplanned care services for children
- Wirral Integrated Services Programme (WISP)

It was of note that delayed discharges had continued to decrease during this period. The Department of Adult Social Services Wirral Home Assessment and Reablement (HART) service had also been used to maximum effect and facilitated a high number of transfers into the service from Arrowe Park Hospital to facilitate the discharge process. During the period from 1 November to 31 January the team dealt with 321 referrals from the hospital discharge services.

All the measures put in place to cope with winter pressures would be subject to evaluation and work with partner agencies continued to refine and develop improved discharge arrangements that would benefit patients and people who used services.

A joint presentation was made by Tina Long, Director of Strategic Partnerships, NHS Wirral, Rick O'Brien, Head of Service (Access and Assessment), Adult Social Services Department and Michael Monaghan, Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Wirral University Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust and they together with Marie Armitage, Joint Director of Public Health and Kathy Doran, Chief Executive of NHS Wirral, responded to comments from members.

The 75% target for 'flu' jabs had been exceeded, although that still left over 20% who had not received one and this past winter 'flu' had arrived somewhat earlier than in previous years. There was also a need to encourage people of a younger age with a long term health condition to take the 'flu' jab as well as health professionals.

There had been a limit of 2 weeks on stays in intermediate care beds and every person had then been moved into the appropriate pathway of care, the majority returning home.

There was a seasonal cycle to illnesses, though this year all the expected winter ones had appeared to arrive at once, thus causing the greater pressure on the services. The Ambulance service did track temperatures and call outs did rise during colder weather. NHS Wirral had provided an extra £500,000 to deal with the extreme winter pressures.

Responding to a further comment, the Director stated that he would be happy to bring a report back to the Committee on emergency plan arrangements for a possible 'flu' pandemic.

Resolved - That

(1) This Committee congratulates all the staff involved in dealing with the extreme pressures placed on the Wirral health and social care services over the winter period.

(2) The Committee notes the effective joint agency response made in relation to the increased pressures across the health and social care economy.

(3) The Committee notes that all agencies are committed to continuing with a whole system integrated approach in the development and implementation of all locality based community and primary care services.

(4) The Committee acknowledge the success of the joint agency response to this winter crisis.

75 **HEALTH INEQUALITIES ACTION PLAN**

Marie Armitage, Joint Director of Public Health, gave a presentation to the Committee on the Health Inequalities Action Plan, including the means of addressing health inequalities and measuring the outcomes.

The action plan priorities included:

- improving access to high quality public services for people with poor health and wellbeing
- addressing the underlying determinants of health
- engaging communities and individuals supporting them to improve their health through the health and wellbeing choices they make
- reducing income inequalities and reducing the consequences of poverty on health
- increasing opportunities for work and other social engagement
- improving and sharing data and intelligence on health and wellbeing

Responding to members' comments both Marie Armitage and Kathy Doran, Chief Executive, NHS Wirral, referred to the causes of childhood mortality and stated that most were related to smoking and alcohol and low birthweight. There was a need to encourage the screening of men over 50 in the more deprived areas. It was not felt that there was an issue on Wirral of residents not being registered with a GP as there were in fact 335,000 registered patients compared with a population of 312,000.

A member referred to the measurable outcomes and expressed concern at the use of the phrase, 'we aim to save 120 men's lives each year....' It was suggested that differing phraseology was used depending upon the target audience and it was another way of saying an increase in life expectancy would be an outcome. Marie Armitage stated that she welcomed all such feedback on how statistics were presented.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and the Committee looks forward to further reports on this issue.

76 **HOSPITAL DISCHARGE SCRUTINY REVIEW - FINAL REPORT**

The Chair submitted the final report of the Hospital Discharge Scrutiny Review Panel. The panel, consisting of Councillors Ann Bridson, Sheila Clarke and Denise Roberts plus Sandra Wall (Older People's Parliament), had focused on an assessment of the

'patient experience' of people aged sixty and over. Details were given of the variety of methods which the Panel had employed to gather evidence, at all times recognising the importance of patient confidentiality.

The report contained 15 recommendations and assuming that the Committee agreed with these, a joint written response to this Committee from Wirral University Teaching Hospital, Wirral NHS (PCT) and the department of Adult Social Services was requested by Wednesday 22 April. It was anticipated that further reports would be presented to future Committee meetings to ensure that the proposed actions had been taken.

The Chair circulated to the Committee a response which had been received on 25 March from Heather Rimmer, Chair of the Wirral Discharge Planning and Review Group, on behalf of NHS Wirral, Wirral University Teaching Hospital and the Department of Adult Social Services. All relevant recommendations which fell within the remit of the group would be included in the 2009/10 Action Plan, an updated version of which would be forwarded to the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the end of April, 2009. They had suggested that a report on the impact of the implementation of the action plan could be made to an October meeting of the Committee.

Members welcomed the Review Panel's final report and congratulated the Chair and the Panel for all their work.

Resolved – That

(1) The Committee requests a joint written response from Wirral University Teaching Hospital, Wirral NHS (PCT) and the Department of Adult Social Services by Wednesday 22nd April which should include an action plan with names and timescales.

(2) Further reports will be presented to future Committee meetings to confirm that the proposed actions have been taken.

(3) The Committee agrees that the report should be submitted to the Cabinet.

(4) Members of the Committee thank all those who have contributed to this scrutiny review.

77 I&DEA HEALTH COMMUNITIES PEER REVIEW ACTION PLAN

The Joint Director of Public Health submitted an update report on the progress made against the Improvement and Development Agency's (I&DeA) Healthy Communities Peer Review Action Plan.

Following the April 2008 Peer Review and report to this Committee in October 2008 (minute 31 refers) an action plan had been developed to implement the recommendations of the review. An update on this action plan was submitted as an appendix to the report.

Responsibility for delivering the actions within the plan had been delegated by Chief Officers Management Team (COMT) to the Council's Corporate Health Group which

included an officer from each department under the leadership of the Joint Director of Public Health.

The Chair commented that the committee would, in accordance with recommendation 5 of the Action Plan, continue to focus on the preventative agenda.

Resolved – That the progress made against the Action Plan be noted.

78 **NHS WORLD CLASS COMMISSIONING ASSURANCE REVIEW**

The Chief Executive, NHS Wirral, submitted a paper on the outcome of the World Class Commissioning assessment process undertaken by NHS Wirral during 2008.

The World Class Commissioning process had required NHS Wirral to undertake a self assessment which was moderated by a review of evidence, views of stakeholders and culminated in a panel assessment on 19 November 2008 by an NHS North West (the Strategic Health Authority) led Panel.

The Panel visited NHS Wirral to interview the Board about the PCT's World Class Commissioning assurance submission and self-assessments. The Local Authority Chief Executive and the Director of Adult Social Services took part in the panel day and a draft Panel report was issued in January after regional calibration of results had taken place. A final report was issued on 5 February 2009 after national calibration had taken place and provided full information about the Panel scores and recommendations.

Overall, the PCT was assessed as one of two top performing PCTs in the North West and the only PCT in the North West not to score 1 for any competency. The Panel report broadly mirrored the PCT's self assessment with the Panel agreeing with 9 of the 10 self assessed competencies. The Panel had assessed NHS Wirral as "Green" for Strategy, Finance and Governance, whilst nationally the majority of PCTs were rated "amber".

The Director of Adult Social Services commented on the significance of this achievement and also that NHS Wirral had been judged very strong in its partnership arrangements.

Resolved – That the report be noted and this committee also notes that NHS Wirral had been assessed as having a quality performance.

79 **ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK 2008-09**

The Director of Adult Social Services submitted a report which identified items considered by the Committee during 2008/09 and how they related to standards in the Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check of NHS organisations.

Resolved – That the programme of presentations and reports by the Health Service organisations and comments of this Committee form the commentary for the Annual Health Check.

80 QUARTER THREE SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

The Director of Adult Social Services submitted an overview of progress against performance indicators and key projects that were relevant to the work of the Committee. The report included a more detailed analysis of sickness absences and also further details on the financial position as at 31 December, 2008.

The Deputy Director informed the Committee that there was a need for more up to date performance monitoring and this was being looked at along with benchmarking against other authorities and whether appropriate targets were being set.

In response to Members' comments the Director stated that sickness was still at an unacceptable level but there were a number of initiatives in place to address this issue. Future performance measures would include more locality based targets.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

81 UPDATE ON WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received an update on its work programme, which indicated the reports which had been considered by the Committee over the past year.

The Chair outlined a number of suggestions for a future work programme, including:

- LINKs
- Patients with dementia in general hospitals
- Children and alcohol related issues
- Dignity in care
- Homelessness and health
- Valuing People Now – Delivery Planning

Diane Hill informed the committee that LINKs were currently in the process of receiving nominations for the Board of 21 members which would be set up in April.

The Chair suggested that one topic which could be scrutinised by Panel over the next few months could be 'patients with dementia in general hospitals'.

Resolved – That the Chair and Spokespersons arrange a meeting to discuss the idea of scrutinising the area of 'patients with dementia in general hospitals'.

82 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR

The Chair referred to a letter from the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust, which had been circulated to the committee, on the latest developments with their modernisation plans. A £7.3m investment, to which all 24 PCTs across the region had contributed, was to be made in the service.

Resolved – That this Committee be kept informed of future progress on these plans.