

MINUTES of the meeting of the Health and Care Partnership held at Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on 13th January, 2005 at 10.30 a.m.**Present:****Herefordshire Council:**

Councillors: P.E. Harling, Mrs M D Lloyd-Hayes, R. J. Phillips, D W Rule, R.V. Stockton

Ms S Fiennes (Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing),
Ms A Heath (For Dr E Oram, Director of Education)

Herefordshire Primary Care Trust:

Mr P Bates (Chief Executive), Mr T Willmott (Vice-Chair in the Chair)(Chair of PCT)

Hereford Hospitals Trust:

Mrs C. Moore (Chair) and Mr D. Rose (Chief Executive)

Hereford & Worcester Ambulance Service:

Mrs J. Newton (Chair)

Other Member Representatives:

Mr W. Lyons (Chamber of Commerce) ,Ms A Stoakes (Primary Care Trust PPI Forum)

In attendance: Ms J. Bruce (PCT), Mrs Y. Clowsley (PCT), Ms L. Davies (Trainee Solicitor, Herefordshire Council), Ms J. Howard (PCT), Mr H. Lewis (Head of Social Care (Children), Herefordshire Council), Councillor W J S Thomas.

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs L.O. Barnett, Mr S. Hairsnape, Mr R. Hamilton and Dr I. Tait.

22. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Ms A. Heath for Dr. E. Oram.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

24. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th October, 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendment:

- The names of Ms C. Moore and Mr D. Rose be added to the list of those giving their apologies.

25. JOINT HEALTH AND CARE COMMISSIONING GROUP BRIEFING NOTES

The Partnership received a report on issues dealt with by the Joint Health & Care Commissioning Group, and the report indicated where further information could be obtained.

During the ensuing discussion, the following key points were raised:

- **Single Assessment Progress:** The Assistant Director (IMPACT) reported that Single Assessment was progressing steadily. It was apparent that most Health Authorities had experienced problems with introducing electronic systems to operate the process and were behind schedule with implementation. Herefordshire also required considerable work in relation to staff attitude and training, and the PCT was researching examples of best practice, such as Lincolnshire, in order to address this. In addition a Trainer had been appointed.

The Chief Executive of the PCT added that the next step beyond Single Assessment Herefordshire would be a total integration of all services. This would involve major changes at organisational level. The Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing reported that the national expectations for this framework had been ambitious, given the resources, making the local targets difficult to achieve. She emphasised that Herefordshire had made above average progress, however.

- **Voluntary Sector Alliance:** The Partnership heard a report on an event that had been held for non-Alliance members, and had produced some very positive feedback. A further meeting had been arranged for 10:30 a.m. on 27th January 2005 at College Hall, Hereford Cathedral.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

26. REPORT ON THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE COMMISSIONING ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Head of IMPACT presented a verbal report about proposed changes to the Health and Social Care Commissioning Organisational Structure, and said that a written report would follow in due course. Members also noted that Cabinet was going to discuss some of the issues later today, which were particularly complex, due to the vast changes that had been proposed in respect of Children's Services.

The NHS Plan had driven the need for change, and in particular advocated joint working, which Central Government believed would bring improvements by creating Health Services that were tailored to local needs. In Herefordshire, this meant finding a way to standardise decision-making, which was currently undertaken via various Boards, LITs, Groups and Section 31 arrangements. There was also a need to improve service planning, which was sometimes fragmented and piecemeal, with gaps and overlaps.

The Head of Impact proposed that a review be conducted, and the Partnership would then consider the resulting report at a future meeting. During the discussion, the following key points were made about the proposed review:

- The review of Children's Services was fundamental to the review of all Health Services, and would need to be in place first. Councillor R. Phillips stated

that one of the greatest challenges would be the integration of Social Services with Children's Services.

- The Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing said that the review of Health Services would be focussed on meeting the needs of the Public, on service development and filling gaps in service provision, and on change and modernisation.
- The review would also address the issue of membership of decision-making and commissioning bodies, ensuring that the optimum mix of people's qualifications, skills and experience were put to use in the right areas. Currently, some of the groups had influence, but no decision-making powers, whilst others had influence, decision-making powers and budgetary responsibility. It would be necessary to define these, reduce bureaucracy and make their terms of reference clearer and simpler. The Chief Executive of the PCT added that the Section 31 Boards in particular needed to become more effective through stronger constitutional and membership powers.
- Those delivering Single assessment would need the Partnership's support, to develop an environment where professional knowledge was readily and easily shared, and the teamwork already apparent could be built further upon.

RESOLVED: That a review of the health and social care commissioning organisational structure be undertaken, and a report be considered by the Health and Care Partnership at a future meeting.

27. THEME FOR THE MEETING: CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Partnership received the following presentations on the principal issues in respect of Children's 'Services in Herefordshire:

Change for Children – Herefordshire Programme (Presentation by Ms S. Fiennes of Herefordshire Council):

The Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing's presentation is attached at Appendix A.

The new arrangements in respect of requirements of the Children's Act 2005 would commence from April 2005, and would affect the Governing and Commissioning functions of Local Authorities. A number of reviews in connection with Children's Services would take place, namely: 1.) 3 Children's Services inspections were currently taking place in the areas of Services for 14-19 year-olds, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Youth Offending Service, and the second round of the Fostering Service inspection; 2.) the Audit Commission's Joint Area Review of Children's Services, scheduled for Autumn 2005; 3.) joint inspections in the areas of Probation, Health and Care Commissioning, and Social Care; 4.) a regulation inspection of Adoption Services; 5.) Comprehensive Performance Assessment in Autumn 2005.

Members recognised that the number of assessments was unprecedented this year, and would place staff under considerable pressure. IN addition, the inspections would take away capacity to deliver services because staff would be assigned to the inspection process at various stages, and there would also be a financial cost to the Local Authority.

The Director of Social; Care and Strategic housing circulated 3 documents from the DfES in connection with the Children's Act 2005, namely: "Change for Children in Health Services", "Change for Children in Schools" and "Change for Children in Social Care". She said that she would be circulating a paper to the Hospital Trust, the Ambulance Trust, the PCT the Voluntary Sector and to the Section 31 Boards on the implications of these documents.

Children's Services – Local Practice (Presentation by Mr H. Lewis and Ms A. Heath, Herefordshire Council):

The Head of Social Care (Children) reported on progress made with the implementation of the Herefordshire Child Concern Model. He explained that the development of a Common Assessment Framework would be a key element of safeguarding children, as would working closely with the Area Child Protection Committee (shortly to be replaced by a Statutory Board).

A Joint Service Manager would have particular responsibility to children with disabilities, bringing together colleagues from the PCT, Child development Centres and Social Services.

The Head of Children's Services reported on the measures that would be put in place to support children with Special Education Needs, in line with the document "Change for Children in Schools", and said that funding was accessible now.

In addition, she reported that Joint Agency Meetings had been established to build on good practice amongst Health and Education professionals, and to make decisions about how to use their joint budget.

Children's National Service Framework (Presentation by Ms Y. Clowsley and Ms M. Colwell):

The Head of IMPACT's Presentation is attached at Appendix B.

Councillor Mrs M. Lloyd-Hayes and Councillor W.J.S. Thomas emphasised the need to address health issues (such as obesity) in children as early as possible, so that they would continue to be healthy for as long as possible in adult life, and the Chief Executive of the PCT reported that these issues had been addressed in a White Paper on Public Health, and would be considered in greater detail. It was noted that the Act did not allow for Schools and General Practitioners to provide input easily, although the excellent relationships already established amongst professionals in Herefordshire would help to ensure that they would be included. The creation of the Children's Services Directorate and 2 new posts within Herefordshire Council, Children's Services Director and Children's Services Cabinet Member, would be a significant strategy in meeting the more challenging next steps of implementation.

The Partnership agreed that Herefordshire was well placed to deal with the significant changes imminent in Children's Services. The Chief Executive of the PCT reported that services would be delivered through a Children's Trust, and although this was not ideal because of its status as a Statutory Organisation, it was likely to prove the best way forward in terms of assessment and achieving recognised targets.

RESOLVED: That

That (i) the reports be noted;

- (ii) a progress report on Children's Services be given at each Partnership meeting for the remainder of the year;
- (iii) the Public Health White Paper be considered at a future Partnership meeting; and
- (iv) the Children's NSF be considered in greater detail at a future Partnership meeting.

28. HEREFORD AND WORCESTER AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Chair of the Hereford and Worcester Ambulance Service reported that there had been significant challenges in meeting some of its targets over the last few weeks, with target ambulance response times being achieved in 70% of cases overall. This figure dropped to and in only 44% of cases over the Christmas period, when additional complications had arisen. The Chief Executive of Hereford Hospitals Trust reported that this had been mirrored in the A&E Department which had seen a 16% rise in patients over the same period. He added that the health system usually felt under particular strain over Christmas and at times it had been particularly challenging, in spite of strong working relationships between the services. It was noted that a significant number of calls to the PCT had been abandoned, raising questions about whether they needed to call in the first place.

The Chief Executive of the PCT reported that this was a growing problem nationwide, and that there had been record levels of demand for beds over Christmas. He also cited the previous evening as an example of when serious acute bed shortages had been reported in some parts of England which had led to emergency requests for additional beds from other regions.

Members felt that there were indications of changes in the way that people were using emergency and acute services, and it was suggested that this might be related to underlying permanent changes in society, and in people's expectations of the Health Service through creating a patient-driven system. The Chief Executive of the PCT said that it would be useful to analyse the situation in order to identify trends and find ways to better allocate resources.

Members noted that a significant proportion of calls to the Primary Care Trust

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Health and Care Partnership would be held at **10:30 a.m. on Monday 11th April, 2005 at Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford.**

The meeting ended at 12.03 p.m.

CHAIRMAN