

PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORUMS - PROTOCOL

Report By: Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To give further consideration to a draft protocol concerning future working arrangements between the Committee and the Patient and Public Involvement Forums.

Financial Implications

2. No resource implications have been identified in relation to this item.

Background

3. In December 2004 the Committee agreed a draft protocol as a basis for discussions with the Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPIFs). The protocol is designed to help develop and facilitate an ongoing, mutually beneficial working relationship between the Committee and the Forums. The Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing was authorised to revise the draft protocol to allow for HSC members to speak at PPIFs at their Chairman's discretion and agree the protocol
4. For various reasons the draft has not been progressed. As the Committee was advised in March the Government has announced that there are to be changes in the system for patient and public involvement in Health. Further news on these changes is awaited. However, following the Committee's meeting in March the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the PPIF for the Primary Care Trust requested that work to agree a protocol between them and the Committee should continue.
5. A copy of the current draft protocol is appended. This includes a number of relatively minor drafting changes to the draft approved by the Committee in December as a basis for discussion. There is, however, a point of principle upon which the Committee needs to form a view relating to the section on meetings of the HSC. The key extracts are italicised.

Consideration

6. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the PPIF expressed the view that a representative of the Patients Forum should be nominated to attend the Committee on behalf of the PPIF with a right to speak and participate at the meeting alongside members of the Committee.
7. The protocol between the PPIF and the PCT provides in relation to PCT Board meetings that:

"The PPIF member attending PCT Board meetings on behalf of the PPIF will contact the PCT Chairman two working days before the Board meeting if they wish to speak

on a particular agenda item at the meeting, so that the Chairman is aware of this in the management of the meeting. The PPIF member will explain if their mandate is from PPIF members and/or from public soundings. (This is separate from and additional to the ability of PPIF members to attend Board meetings and ask questions at the end of the meeting as already happens. Any member speaking on an individual basis (ie not with a mandate from the forum) should do so from the public gallery.”

8. The PPIF suggest that a reciprocal arrangement should exist at its meetings to govern attendance by representatives of HSC

RECOMMENDATION

- THAT**
- (a) the Committee consider the revised protocol between the Committee and the Patient and Public Involvement Forum for the Primary Care Trust;**
- and**
- (b) subject to the Committee’s decision at (a) above the Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing be authorised to make any final textual amendments.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified