

It was reported that the changes proposed reducing the numbers affected by 500 people from around 2000. The document also proposed an eligibility criterion which could lead to those with mild to moderate hearing loss not being supported.

Members of the Committee discussed this issue and it was agreed to place it on the Work Programme for 2015-16.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March, 2015 be approved as a correct record.
- (B) That the Health Scrutiny Committee add to their Work Programme for 2015-16 the issue concerning the withdrawal of hearing aids.

4. Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust

Consideration was given to the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust's Quality Accounts for 2014-15 (Item 3 plus Quality Accounts and Checklist).

The Head of Environmental Health reported that the Health Scrutiny Committee had been asked for any comments they may wish to make on the Trust's Quality Accounts for 2014-15, although due to the short timescale any comments would need to be received by next week.

Members of the Committee discussed the Trust's Quality Accounts and provided comments on the priorities contained within the document.

- Members were keen to see that one of the Trust's priorities would be the End of Life Care
- Members considered it positive that the 6 C's values to improve care for patients would be incorporated within the Care of Older Person priority
- More time in which to consider the document, together with visuals and the process being explained would have been advantageous
- Overall, Members of the Committee were positive about the document

The Head of Environmental Health would draft a response to the Royal Wolverhampton HNS Trust concerning the Trust's Quality Accounts for 2014-15 highlighting the comments that had been made by Members.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That a response be forwarded to the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust with Members views that were expressed concerning the Trust's Quality Accounts for 2014-15.
- (B) That the Trust be requested to attend a future meeting in order to explain the process followed around the Quality Accounts.

5. Appointment of Representative to Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

RESOLVED:

That Councillor B. Gamble was confirmed at the Annual Council meeting held on 27 May, 2015 as this Council's representative to Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee for the 2015-16 Municipal Year.

6. Healthwatch Staffordshire – Update

Hester Parsons, Healthwatch reported that an A&E survey had been undertaken at the Royal Stoke University Hospital. The survey was aimed at people entering the hospital and of 450 people asked to complete it, only 100 failed to do so.

She reported that when analysed, the survey showed that 43 per cent of people who had contacted a GP had not been offered an appointment, therefore they utilised the services of A&E. People referred through Walk-In Centres, via GPs, Minor Injuries Unit and 111 accounted for 56 per cent and the average wait for treatment was 2-3 hours, although there were 40 cases with waits of between 10-20 hours. Other issues related to complaints around parking and it was also noted that the TV screen available for patients to view in the waiting area which provided information about waiting times, was unavailable.

Hester Parsons reported that one of the recommendations that had come out of the survey was for a fast track referral service and a clinical review of long term conditions.

Members discussed issues around the fast track service, duplication of services and the problems surrounding the GP appointment system. Hester Parsons reported that a project aimed at GP services would soon be made available on the internet.

She reported that a project regarding mental health would soon commence across the County. The project would help identify the stigma surrounding mental health, child and adolescent services, emotional wellbeing and other services. Any issues picked up through the project would be looked at by focus groups.

RESOLVED:

That the Health Scrutiny Committee add to their Work Programme for 2015-16 GP Services, Mental Health provision and the Better Care Fund.

7. Formulation of the Work Programme

Consideration was given to the draft Work Programme for 2015-16 (Item 4).

The Head of Environmental Health reported on the draft Work Programme.

Cannock Chase Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) – Update following changes to service provided

It was agreed that this item also include and cover Local Healthcare Commissioning.

The Head of Environmental Health would forward details to Members of upcoming CCG meetings.

NHS Hearing Aid service provision

This would be placed on a future Agenda for consideration.

Cannock Chase Hospital – update on progress following the transfer of the Hospital to the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust

A progress report would be made available and placed on a future Agenda.

Supporting People

An update would be made available and placed on a future Agenda.

Other items which would form part of the Work Programme for 2015-16 would be:

- GP Provision in Cannock
- Mental Health Provision
- Better Care Fund
- Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust – to be invited to a future meeting to discuss the process around the Quality Accounts

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme for 2015-16 including the additional items be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 5.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN