

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
HEALTH & WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND
HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 4.00 P.M.

IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:

Councillors

Gamble, B. (Chairman – Health Scrutiny Committee)
Stretton, Mrs. Z.P. (Chairman – Health & Wellbeing PDC)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Jones, R.
Davis, Mrs M.A.	Preece, J.
Freeman, Miss M.A.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Grocott, M.R.	Whitehouse, Miss. S.

Also Present: Staffordshire County Council Rep – Councillor Mrs. C. Mitchell
Corporate Director

10. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs. A. Allt, R. Todd and J. Toth, and Hester Parsons (Healthwatch Staffordshire).

11. Declaration of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

The Corporate Director advised that his wife worked for the Douglas MacMillan hospice based in Stoke-on-Trent.

No Declarations of Interests were made by Members in addition to those already confirmed in the Register of Members' Interests.

12. MacMillan End of Life Care Project

Justine Palin, Programme Director for the Project, and Lesley Savage, Non-executive Board Member for the Project were in attendance for this item. They delivered a presentation on the Project which covered the following aspects:

- Programme vision –4 Staffordshire based Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS England and Macmillan Cancer Support;
- Macmillan have a history of working in the County with £4 million of funding spent by Macmillan over recent years has been to support

services across Staffordshire, the Project is being funded by Macmillan up to the point of the contract being let

- Programme core components;
- 10 year contract is –split into two years and then an eight year contract
- Macmillan 9 outcomes and vision for the future;
- Patient centred care;
- Appointment of non-executive Board members;
- Partnership group, Patient Champion Network and engagement activities;
- Procurement process

Councillor Grocott left the meeting at the end of the presentation and did not return.

Councillor Freeman queried where and when the bidders' day and market warming events were held.

Justine Palin replied they had both been held at Britannia Stadium in Stoke-on-Trent as it was one of the largest available locations in the county.

County Councillor Mitchell asked if Macmillan had an active presence in hospitals based in the areas covered by the Project.

Justine Palin replied that Macmillan had information centres based in several hospitals, the purpose of which was to provide information and sign-posting to patients. Certain hospitals also had Macmillan nurses in place. Lesley Savage further replied that the information centres were not 'staffed' but supported by volunteers whose purpose was to ensure the centres well resourced and information up to date.

County Councillor Mitchell then raised that the proposed ten year contract would be subject to an open and competitive tender process, but she had been told in other meetings that such services covered by the Project would not be privatised.

Justine Palin replied that the Project had become caught up in political issues regarding wider privatisation of the NHS. The Project was going to be fully funded by Macmillan, which received its own funding via charitable donations, and the organisation(s) awarded the contract would still be subject to review and monitoring by the NHS.

Councillor Davis asked where the £1.2 billion in funding for healthcare services was being sourced from.

Justine Palin replied that this is the current spend on both cancer and end of life care.

Councillor Davis then asked that as the Cannock CCG was currently over £9 million in debt, was there any likelihood that some of the £1.2 billion funding would be drawn back if further financial difficulties arose.

Justine Palin replied that regardless of what happened to the CCGs in the future funding would continue to be made available to fund cancer and end of life care service.

Councillor Davis then queried whether or not a 'break clause' would be included in the proposed contract.

Justine Palin replied that it was the intention to insert such a clause, as a review of the success of the contract would take place 2 or 3 years after its commencement.

The Corporate Director asked for clarification on where the funding was coming from for the first two years of the contract and what the likely contract values would be in Year 1 and Year 2.

Justine Palin replied that £1.2 billion was existing spend on cancer and end of life care. There would be separate funding for management costs for the bidders for the last two years of the contract, but she was reluctant to say where that would come from first.

Lesley Savage further replied that the £1.2 billion was split between cancer care and end of life support and then divided by 10, but Macmillan would be definitely be funding the contract for the first two years.

County Councillor Mitchell asked how and by whom the commissioners would be made accountable for management of the Project.

Justine Palin replied that all commissioners, regardless of status, had a legal duty to monitor the contract. It was also hoped that the commissioners would join an overarching commissioning body with the responsibility of monitoring the work of the lead bodies for the Project.

Councillor Freeman asked what the £4 million so far received from Macmillan had been spent on to date, and would they continue with future funding.

Justine Palin replied that it had been spent on a variety of services across Staffordshire over the past four years which were all separate from this Project, but was unsure as to what their plans were for future funding.

The Chairman raised that Members had concerns about what was really going to happen once the contract was up and running, as the likelihood was that in ten years time fewer services would be provided with the same level of funding as provided at the start of the contract.

Justine Palin replied that in all likelihood current spend is not what will be needed in ten years' time. A range of other services will be needed to meet increases in the number of people living with cancer and enabling choice at the end of life.

The Chairman then commented that the CCGs have kept on making announcements about what services they want to deliver, but so far nothing seems to have happened.

Justine Palin replied that at present there were 36 end of life contract in place across Staffordshire, however in reality only one Commissioning Manager is responsible for the management of all 36 contracts as well as poor patient experience, poor survival rates and outcomes. CCGs are committed to making changes.

Councillor Preece queried that as private companies would be subject to pressure from shareholders, how would the Project Board ensure quality of service wasn't diminished?

Justine Palin replied that checks and balances for performance management would be written into the contract, as well as the requirement for an annual strategic plan to be produced and adhered to.

The Chairman commented that as only a limited number of care organisations existed, services could become stuck if not delivered properly.

Justine Palin replied that the focus would be put on service providers to ensure that the right patients services were being delivered, and that caps and limits would be placed on the contract to ensure financial security and viability.

Councillor R. Jones commented that a lot had been said about the CCGs and contracts, but little information given about patient care, and there was concern funding would be diverted to resolve other issues.

Lesley Savage replied that the main purpose of the Project was to ensure that patients were given a smooth journey, that the patient experience was improved which would lead to reduced mortality for patients. Macmillan had chosen Staffordshire as a pilot area, with the aim of extending the Project elsewhere if successful.

County Councillor Mitchell left the meeting at this point and did not return.

Councillor Preece asked what Macmillan's role would be in the Project once year 2 of the contract had finished.

Justine Palin replied that they would still be greatly involved in supporting service transformation and to ensure patient experience is improved.

The Corporate Director queried how improving the patient experience would reduce mortality rates.

Lesley Savage replied that patients could be suffering from psychological and/or mental health issues, so being given positive support to overcome these issues could help with their long term health.

The Chairman noted that a number of issues had been clarified, but further detail was needed to fully understand the proposed changes. The Chairman advised that it was likely that Justine would be invited again to the Committee for further discussions and updates to be provided. Justine agreed to attend further meetings.

Justine Palin replied that she would distribute a document to Members which explained in more detail the plans.

The meeting closed at 5:38pm

CHAIRMAN