

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 2014, AT 4:00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Gamble, B. (Chairman)  
Freeman, Miss. M. (Vice-Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Preece, J.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Jones, R.	

By invitation: Ms. M. Espley, Director of Planning and Contracting and Dr. J. Odum, Medical Director of Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals Trust  
Staffordshire County Council Representative – Councillor Mrs. C. Mitchell  
Also present: Mrs. H. Parsons – Healthwatch, Staffordshire

**13. Apologies**

All Members were present.

**14. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members**

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

At this point the Chairman changed the order of the Agenda and it was agreed by the Committee that the presentation from Representatives of Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals Trust take place.

**15. Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals Trust – Presentation**

The Chairman welcomed Ms. M. Espley, Director of Planning and Contracting and Dr. J. Odum, Medical Director.

Dr. J. Odum reported that the following would be discussed:

- Planned care at Cannock Chase Hospital – our proposal
- What this would mean for patients in Cannock and surrounding areas
- Proposed timelines for speciality enhancement and transfer

It was reported that Senior doctors at the Trust had led the process and looked at clinical models that worked well in other parts of the country and abroad, and using Cannock Chase Hospital would benefit all patients being treated by the Trust.

In addition to the current activity at Cannock Chase Hospital, it was proposed to deliver the following care:

- Day case surgery
- Day case medicine
- Planned inpatient surgery

Slides were shown which showed day case surgery for specialities which included general surgery, breast surgery and urology which would also be available at New Cross, and also day case investigations and treatments which included endoscopy, rheumatology and dermatology.

It was also hoped to offer planned inpatient surgery, and preoperative assessments to be offered at the hospital closest to the patient. However, more complex cases would be undertaken at New Cross.

For patients of Cannock this would mean:

- A wider range of outpatient/daycase and inpatient services
- Access to clinical teams from RWT
- Better care pathways for secondary and specialist services
- Support with travel between Cannock and New Cross
- In some areas more choice about where they have their care
- Making Cannock Chase Hospital a busy, thriving site as part of RWT

A slide was shown which gave proposed timescales with work commencing August-September, 2014 and being completed by Quarter 4 of 2017.

Refurbishing and remodelling of the facilities at Cannock Chase Hospital had already started and included:

- Building a new Endoscopy Unit
- Creating a Musculoskeletal Unit for rheumatology patients
- Refurbishing the inpatient and day case Wards
- Refurbishing the outpatients areas
- Building some new theatres

Benefits for patients would include more certainty over the date of a procedure, a better experience for patients, improved clinical services and outcomes and more effective use of public resources.

Members of the Committee were then given the opportunity to ask questions.

A County Council Member referred to a recent meeting held between Members of the Council and Mr. David Loughton, Chief Executive where discussions were had concerning the Minor Injuries Unit and plans for a GP Suite, and was keen to know any further details.

Dr. Odum reported that the Minor Injuries Unit was not included in the Trust's proposals and this would be dealt with separately by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). However, discussions were ongoing with the CCG concerning the lower floor at the hospital and how this could be utilised for GP services.

A Member referred to the CCG's future plans regarding the opening of an urgent care unit at Cannock Chase Hospital.

Ms. Espley reported that the CCG in Wolverhampton were currently in discussions with commissioners concerning the creation of an urgent care centre. She advised that both Minor Injuries and urgent care provided access for patients, although both provided slightly different care needs.

In response to a question raised by a Member, Dr. Odum reported that Wolverhampton currently supplied 2 hospitals with a cook-chill meal service. This would be extended to include Cannock Chase Hospital.

With regard to the issue concerning parking arrangements, Ms. Espley advised that this issue was a shared concern for both RWT and the Council, particularly with the plans to expand. Therefore, a meeting had been arranged for sometime next week between the Chief Executives and Senior Officers to discuss this issue.

Ms. Espley advised Members that the Trust was considering ways transport and parking could be improved, and reported on plans to provide a bus service between Wolverhampton and Cannock and vice versa. In response to concerns regarding chaperones, it was explained that as part of the plans, if a patient required assistance on the bus service the chaperone would travel free.

A Member asked a question concerning the frequency of the service, it was explained that the Trust had commissioned a company to undertake work on this and create a plan that included the logistics of how the service would operate. It was anticipated however that the service would initially run hourly and eventually on a continuous loop, however further discussions would be undertaken at a meeting with the company this week.

A Member was keen to know with all the changes, whether or not a patient would stay with the same consultant. In response to this, Dr. Odum explained that the same services would be provided in Cannock although services would divide as a whole and it was a patient's choice if they wished to stay with the same consultant.

The representative from Healthwatch highlighted where there may be a situation where a patient may have a serious problem and could be referred to the University Hospital of North Staffs NHS Trust, and was of the opinion of the importance to some patients that they maintain contact with the consultant they have always seen.

In response to a question concerning the standard of English spoken by nursing staff and Doctors, Dr. Odum responded and stated that the GMC's guidance stated that Doctors were required to have the necessary knowledge of the English language. He explained that processes were in place when candidates were interviewed and there were similar requirements for nursing staff to have an adequate standard of English.

Ms. Espley responded to a question concerning regular communication and stated that there would be regular contact with the public concerning the changes and direct communication with some patients. She also commented that a communications strategy was in process and as part of the process GP practices, libraries and the voluntary sector would be kept informed and information in the form of leaflets, posters etc would be produced.

The Chairman was keen to know if the CCG was in agreement with the Trust concerning the proposals and whether they had confirmed which services they would commission from Cannock.

Ms. Espley responded and reported that the CCG was in agreement with the proposals and a signed agreement setting out the model had been forwarded to the Secretary of State. She advised that the CCG had signed heads of terms of the contract last week and the finance and activity for the model was also agreed.

Dr. Odum in response to a question concerning the proposals and the long term future of the hospital advised that there was a lot of demand within Cannock and outside of the area, particularly for the rheumatology department. He was of no doubt that with both the clinical and financial viability, it would succeed.

A Member pointed out that Cannock Chase Hospital was known as a Hospital of Excellence and was keen to make sure that this was maintained, particularly in view of the problems surrounding Stafford Hospital.

In response to a question raised concerning Governors, Ms. Espley advised that there were a number of different Governor positions and some Governors came from beyond Wolverhampton. She explained that the Governors were committed in the first year of operation to review the current Constitution of Shadow Governors, and look at whether they should be trying to attract Governors from as far as Cannock. She also advised that she would check to see if there was a Governor from within the District.

**16. Minutes**

22 July, 2014

Mr. S. Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health referred to Minute 8. Update on the Review of the Provision of Disabled Facilities Grants in the District. He reported that a letter had been forwarded to Angela Schulp, District Commissioner (Staffs County Council) concerning the shortage of Occupational Therapists and would provide the Committee with a response shortly.

25 September, 2014

The Head of Environmental Health referred to Minute 3. Proposed changes to the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) – Cannock Chase Hospital. He reported that a response was forwarded to the CCG concerning the MIU consultation and he would circulate an email to the Committee with the CCG's response.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 22 July and 25 September, 2014 be approved as a correct record.

**17. Update on Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee**

RESOLVED:

That the Digests summarising the proceedings of meetings held on 11 August and 22 September, 2014 be noted.

**18. Healthwatch Staffordshire – Update**

Mrs. H. Parsons referred to the Carers Report which was accepted by both North and South Carers and was available on the Healthwatch website by following the link: <http://www.healthwatchstaffordshire.co.uk/reports-downloads/research-reports/>

She reported that work was currently being undertaken regarding GP services in consultation with Telford, Stoke and Shropshire. There was a geographical spread of practices and 15 across the County which would be chosen. She advised that 5 were known to Healthwatch, 5 had a good reputation and 5 who Healthwatch had never had contact with. Healthwatch would undertake focus groups, discussions with Practice Managers, talks with patients etc as part of the work being undertaken.

Mrs. Parsons also reported that Healthwatch were currently involved with the transitional arrangements with the University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust (North Staffs Hospital) and Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust (Stafford Hospital).

With regard to end of life care it was reported that a meeting would be taking place tomorrow with the Health Select Committee in London. Andrew Donald, Chief Officer of the CCG, Healthwatch representatives and others had been invited.

**19. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee would be held on Tuesday 25 November, 2014.

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CHAIRMAN

(The meeting concluded at 5.25 p.m.).