

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER, 2012 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Gamble, B. (Chairman)
Bennett, C. (Vice-Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F. Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Freeman, Miss. M.

10. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G.D. Ball

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

There were no interests declared.

12. Minutes

The Chairman reported that Councillors C. Bennett and Mrs. A.F. Bernard had expressed an interest in attending Staffordshire County Council's Joint Health Accountability Sessions and indicated that there were still a number of places available. He reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 27 September, 2012 commencing at 5.00 p.m. at Staffordshire County Council.

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 July, 2012 be approved as a correct record.

13. Items Arising from Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman reported on the following:-

NHS Direct

A presentation was given as it was proposed that a new service would replace the current NHS Direct which was due to come into effect from April, 2013. The Chairman had requested a copy of the presentation for Members of the Committee.

Health Scrutiny

The Chairman advised that a report would be made available at the next meeting on 1 October, 2012 regarding the Department of Health review of Health Scrutiny arrangements and the County Council's operation.

Councillor C. Bennett asked about the formation of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Health Scrutiny and who would serve on the Boards. In response to this Mr. S. Shilcock, Head of Environmental Health reported that the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board was already in operation with a Member each from South Staffs and North Staffs serving on the Board.

Councillor C. Bennett asked if a report could be produced for the next meeting detailing the current situation in respect of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Head of Environmental Health would provide this for the next meeting.

AGREED:

That a report be produced for the next meeting detailing the current situation in respect of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

14. Cannock Chase Hospital Closure of Kitchens

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Cummings, Director of Finance and Mr. Eccles, Associate Director of Estates and Facilities from Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust to the meeting.

Mr. Cummings reported that it was important to maintain a high quality service for patients within the allocated finances, and as a consequence of meeting the current financial gap there was a requirement to review catering provision across both Mid Stafford Hospital and Cannock Hospital.

He reported that due to the reduction in the usage of catering facilities over the past 5 years at Mid Staffs Hospital, the Trust was losing approximately £500K per year on catering services. He advised that the decision was made by the Management Team to look at various options which included outsourcing using companies such as ISS or Medi Rest, however the Trust Board decided against this option.

Mr. Cummings then reported that there were a number of items which had been short listed for consideration which included a service reduction for the Nightingale Restaurant at Stafford Hospital. The facility would open and close 1 hour earlier and also close at weekends which would result in an estimated saving of around £300K.

He then reported that consideration had been given to transferring all production of patient meals from Cannock to Stafford with a proposal for a hostess service delivering a mix of plated hot and cold meals to ward areas. By moving the production from Cannock a facility would then be made for snacks. Under the proposals which included the changes to the Nightingale Restaurant an estimated saving of around £450K would be achieved each year.

Mr. Cummings advised that a consultation was currently ongoing and the process would come to an end on 28 September, 2012 and it was envisaged that the change would come

into effect around Christmas time.

Councillor. C. Bennett asked how the changes would improve patient care and he also highlighted the concern raised by members of the public to the proposals.

Mr. Cummings reported that the Trust Board had identified the need to ensure that a high quality service was still provided for patients. He advised that the production of food would remain the same with food being transported in bulk and plated on wards by the introduction of a Ward Hostess service with investment of around £200K.

Councillor C. Bennett referred to the needs of the NHS and the funding required by hospitals and asked where savings would be made in the future.

Mr. Cummings reported that £1.6 million of surplus funds would be protected and then referred to the 'Nicholson Challenge'. He advised that the Trust Board at Mid Staffs Hospital would be considering corporate opportunities which currently formed part of the business plan.

Councillor Mrs. A.F. Bernard expressed concern with the hours of operation of the Nightingale Restaurant. She explained that the restaurant gave carers and families the opportunity to have time away from the Ward they were visiting and have a nutritious meal particularly if they were visiting all day. She was also concerned that the restaurant would be closed at weekends particularly when the number of people visiting patients was higher.

Mr. Cummings reported that the restaurant area would still be open with increased vending facilities offering snacks. Advice would be taken from nutritionists who are employed to advise on menu choices as to what should be offered.

Councillor Miss. M. Freeman asked a number of questions and referred to the transportation of food from Stafford Hospital to Cannock Chase Hospital and asked if research had been undertaken to see if similar services had been provided elsewhere. With regard to this she also asked if any provisions were in place if any major road incident occurred which would delay the transportation of food. She also asked how many times per day food would be transported between both hospitals as she was concerned that patients who were transferred throughout the day may not have a meal, and she was keen to know if those with special dietary requirements would be catered for.

Mr. Cummings responded to the questions and advised Members of the Committee that it was rare for patients to be transported out of hours, however if a patient did arrive a ward kitchen service would still be made available to provide snacks. With regard to those with special dietary requirements, catering would always be prepared and provided. With regard to road incidents he indicated that there would be several routes into Cannock to use, however there were contingencies in place for adverse weather conditions and indicated that this had formed part of the tender.

Councillor Miss. M. Freeman asked if there would be any redundancies as a result of the changes and also asked if any arrangements were in place for those currently employed at Cannock who would be required to travel to Stafford. Furthermore, she asked if employees of Cannock would be expected to travel on more than one occasion to Stafford given that meals would be served twice per day.

Mr. Cummings advised Members of the Committee that no redundancies were planned and as part of the consultation process all employees had received notification. He advised that there were currently 92 staff with 30 employed at Cannock who would all go through the interview process which would include providing details of proposals. He also indicated that there were in excess of 30 vacancies at Stafford Hospital for those employees who were classed at risk but also stated that hostesses would be based at Cannock.

He reported that staff rotas would be reviewed in order that appropriate travelling arrangements could be put in place for those staff travelling from Cannock, and consideration would also be given to costs.

In response to a question raised by Councillor C. Bennett, Mr. Cummings advised that all employees' terms and conditions would remain the same. With regard to evidence that the changes would work he reported that the Trust had already reviewed other hospitals who had tried to implement similar changes and taken on board what could be learned from their experiences.

15. Dementia Care Services

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Schulp, District Commissioning Lead for Cannock Chase and Ms. Young, Commissioning Manager, Staffordshire County Council to the meeting.

Ms. Young provided information on the various types of dementia which included Alzheimer's and Vascular dementia. She explained that early diagnosis could be made through referral to memory clinics, awareness raising campaigns and public and professional awareness.

Information was provided on the current diagnosis rates and Memory Clinics, although it was reported that there had been a number of issues with MAC UK who ran the clinics which included not meeting key performance indicators.

Ms. Young provided information on the services that were currently available in Southern Staffordshire, and in response to a question raised by the Chairman she advised that respite care was available in terms of attending a day session where the carer and patient were both encouraged to attend and also in the form of equipment which would help the patient.

She then reported on current service problems which included trying to resolve issues with MAC UK, problems with the referral process and trying to increase day care services for those with dementia.

Ms. Schulp provided details on good news stories and then discussed technological support available to those with Dementia such as the Buddi system which enabled the user's whereabouts to be tracked.

Councillor Mrs. M. Freeman asked about the cost involved for the Buddi system as many people were not on the 'direct payment' facility. Ms. Schulp advised that there was a monthly fee; however the device could be issued through the Alz Café, Maze Groups, hospital or even community care teams.

Councillor Mrs. A.F. Bernard explained that she knew of people who were experiencing and struggling to diagnose a family member who may have dementia. She commented that there was a need for greater support and for the condition to be diagnosed earlier in order that the carers of people could receive support.

Ms. Schulp advised that diagnosis and support was available through GPs although the Clinical Care Groups had accepted that more support for dementia was a priority. She referred to MAC UK and indicated that there had been problems with the service although a review of referrals would take place to make sure that people were being diagnosed earlier.

She then referred to the Buddi system and advised Members of the Committee that an information pack could be compiled for Members in order to aid anyone they may know who may have dementia or a further presentation could be given on the equipment that was available.

In response to a number of questions raised, Ms. Schulp advised that raising awareness of dementia was not just a local but a national issue. She explained that further training was needed to identify the condition. With regard to the condition being seen as a stigma by GPs, she advised that there were gaps in the CPN service and many people did not know of the services available. This was an issue which needed to be addressed.

AGREED:

That Members received a further presentation on the equipment available to those with dementia.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted the date of the next meeting scheduled for Monday 1 October, 2012.

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting closed at 5.55 p.m.).