

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

BRIEFING NOTE

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JANUARY 2012

BRIEFING NOTE FROM THE HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

UPDATE ON CANNOCK HEALTH CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

1. Purpose of Briefing Note

- 1.1 To advise members of the current position concerning the Cannock Health Centre development.

2. Recommendation(s)

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| 2.1 | Members are recommended to consider the current position with the Cannock Health Centre development and determine if they wish to pursue any particular issues. |
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3. Key Issues

- 3.1 A letter (copy attached) dated 28 November 2011 was sent from Graham Urwin, the Chief Executive of the Staffordshire Cluster of PCTs to a number of interested parties. The letter states that at a meeting of the PCT board in early November a decision was taken to abort the Cannock Health Centre scheme. An invitation was made for a further detailed discussion or briefing.

- 3.2 In due course a meeting was arranged and took place on Monday 9th January 2012. The meeting was attended by:

Cllr George Adamson Leader of the Council

Cllr Muriel Davis Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

Cllr Ann Bernard Chair of Health Scrutiny

Steve Shilvock Head of Environmental Health

Graham Urwin Chief Executive, Staffordshire Cluster of PCTs

Tony Matthews Finance Director, Staffordshire Cluster of PCTs.

- 3.3 Graham Urwin advised of several factors that brought the PCT board to their decision:

- i) In the current financial climate health services will find the next 6 years very challenging. This has changed the appetite for taking risks and a more cautious approach is now required.

- ii) The project no longer has the support of the local GPs. The list of requirements for the Health Centre from the GPs would have undermined the viability of Cannock Hospital.
 - iii) Changes to Planning and Building Regulations would require major redesigns by the developer in order to realise the project. This would incur further cost.
 - iv) An independent survey commissioned by the PCT revealed that only one out of seven GPs interviewed would commit to moving into the new Health Centre.
- 3.4 Members expressed their concerns over the condition of a number of GP practice premises and the services offered. Graham Urwin confirmed that the PCT was working with several practices regarding improvement plans and the necessary investment to secure the required improvement works. This role and any enforcement required will be undertaken by the National Commissioning Board following the demise of PCTs in April 2013. Members again expressed their concern that shortcomings with premises had been identified as far back as 2002 but improvements were only now being pursued.
- 3.5 When asked, Graham Urwin confirmed that the Cannock Health Centre project would not proceed unless the GPs came back and supported the project.

Our reference: GU/np

28 November 2011

Mr Nicolas Poutney
Chair of Staffordshire OSC
PO Box 28
Beecroft Road
Cannock
WS11 1BG

Dear Mr Poutney

Re: Cannock Health Centre Development, Mill Street.

I write to update you on the difficulties we have encountered and subsequent decision the PCT Cluster Board has had to make in relation to the Cannock Health Centre development, which was due for completion this year.

As you are aware the development dates back to November 2007 and has been through a long drawn out process, including public meetings in 2009, PCT Boards and SHA outline business case approval. As things have progressed we have seen a change in the political and economic landscape, which has tested the viability of this scheme.

At the beginning of this month, the PCT Cluster Board had a detailed discussion around the support from General Practice for this scheme and the consideration thereof in the wider context of NHS estate utilisation in the Cannock area, and the need for the emerging Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) to develop their own 'Strategic Service Development Plan' which will set out the CCG's whole system approach to the development of capacity in primary care and its associated services.

This resulted in the Board having to take the difficult decision to abort the scheme, and to review the needs of primary care service across Cannock in line with the wider discussions across all healthcare services in Stafford and Cannock.

I understand that this may be disappointing and recognise all the hard work, effort and participation that organisations and people have given to move this development on, however in order for us to carry out our responsibilities to deliver high quality, efficient services, it is incumbent upon commissioners to ensure that all such investments demonstrate value for money and are supportive to the wider healthcare system.

I would like to offer you the opportunity for a further detailed discussion or briefing from an officer of the PCT so we can share with you how we reached the decision we did. Please contact my Executive Assistant, Lisa Taylor on 0300 7900 233 x 8202 or lisa.taylor@northstaffs.nhs.uk, to organise a meeting.

Yours sincerely



Graham Urwin
Chief Executive

Cluster Chief Executive: **Graham Urwin**

Cluster Chair: **Alex Fox**