

Central Area Committee – 11 September 2008

Minutes of the meeting of the **Central Area Committee** held on **11 September 2008** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs C A Weston
Vice-Chairman: Cllr M R Carter

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher
Cllr P A Capon
Cllr Mrs L M Cox
Cllr M Maddocks

Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr D G Stansby
Cllr M G B Starke

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs M A Weir - Hawkwell Parish Council
Cllr B Hazlewood - Hockley Parish Council
A Hilsdon - County Highways

VISITING

Cllr Mrs T J Capon

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Bugeja - Head of Legal Services
R Evans - Head of Environmental Services
J Bostock - Committee Services Manager

Representing South East Essex Primary Care Trust:
M Hathaway and I Stidston

262 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs R Brown, Mrs H L A Glynn, K H Hudson and J Thomass.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the inclusion of apologies from Cllr Mrs L A Butcher.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr J R F Mason declared a personal interest in the update on future primary care/GP provision by virtue of being on the governing body of the Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

At this point the Committee adjourned the formal meeting to move into the community forum to hear contributions from members of the public.

263 COMMUNITY FORUM

Requests for information had been received and a document summarising these and the responses given at the meeting is appended.

At this point the Committee reconvened into formal session.

264 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

(1) Update by South East Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT) on Future Primary Care/GP Provision Within the Centre of the District

Margaret Hathaway, Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) Project Director, outlined plans for estates development in the South East Essex area and how they would impact on GP and other health care services. The PCT's aim was to upgrade premises and the range of services provided and thus improve access to health. A series of primary care centres was being developed, which would deliver a range of health care services under one roof and enable out patient treatment to be provided alongside GP practices.

Ian Stidston, Deputy Director of Commissioning and Contracting (Primary Care), advised that the PCT's aim was to improve primary care in the community in the following ways:-

- Improve access.
- Offer a choice of GP practices to patients.
- Deliver high quality standards in updated buildings.
- Integrate services offered – provide a seamless service for patients.
- Deliver more services from a primary care setting.

Responding to questions, the PCT representatives advised that:-

- Whilst there had been media attention around the term “polyclinics”, the PCT was working with GP practices on providing a range of primary care centres, not large polyclinics. There were no plans for the development of these centres in the central area of the District in the near future.
- GP practices are encouraged to deliver a wider range of services that could be provided from a primary care setting. The PCT is keen to work with practices to help bring this about.
- The public are fully consulted on any PCT proposals and would be aware if there were any plans for their area and invited to have their view on the proposals.

- Patients are free to register with any practice they choose to do so provided they reside within the practice list of the practice. Choice is also now available to patients when they need to be referred to hospital. Patients can choose their hospital and choose their appointment time and date.
- There are many stages to estate development programmes, which need to be seen in the context of long term strategy.
- The immediate future would see the PCT addressing issues such as the availability of dental facilities for care home residents and the commissioning of additional dental services to match general demand. Community pharmacists could now deal with minor ailments.
- From the financial perspective, the PCT was confident it could deliver its programmes. A system of payment by results was in place. LIFT allowed the PCT to access funds from financial markets. The PCT's financial strategies are distinct from those of hospital trusts.
- Where possible there is a general shift away from emergency acute care in hospitals to a more controlled environment in a patient's home.
- There is a local contract in place for the removal of clinical waste from GP practices. The Trust is happy to respond to any specific issues relating to clinical waste.
- There is no pressure on GP practices to move to primary care centres in areas where they are proposed. The Trust can review situations where a GP practice is stretched by a need to take on more patients. If patients feel they are having issues with a practice they should let the PCT know.
- Where primary care centres are proposed general practices have a choice about whether they want to be involved. If a practice decides not to get involved, this does not exclude its patients from services provided by a centre, every patient needing to have the same accessibility to services. There can be patient referral across centres.
- The PCT is concerned to work with local communities to deliver their needs and ensure that the best care is delivered for patients.

During discussion some reference was made to how it appeared that the PCT was re-introducing facilities that had been available previously and how the concept of open access to GP practices had been an objective of the NHS since inception. Reference was also made to how changes can have implications for the local health economy. It was observed that there could be value in the PCT providing further information on its activities locally in, say, three months time.

(2) Highways Matters Within the Central Area

Andrew Hilsdon reported on works completed and being undertaken within the Central Area. There had been surface dressing in two locations at Lower Road, Hockley and on the B1013 Main Road, Hawkwell. Greensward Lane, Hockley, had seen carriageway surfacing.

Carriageway surfacing was in-hand at four locations (Rectory Road and Hill Lane, Hawkwell, Clifton Road, Ashingdon and Dalys Road, Rochford). Bids had been placed for footpath reconstruction and kerb replacement at eight locations. Footway slurry sealing would be completed in eight locations before November and work under the locally determined programme involved a new footpath in Lower Road, Ashingdon and verge protection at Ashingdon Road, opposite St Teresa's School.

Responding to questions Andrew advised that:-

- Highway consultants would be asked to consider if any changes could be made to the phasing of the traffic light facility at the junction of Greensward Lane with Plumberow Avenue.
- Consideration would be given to a Hawkwell Parish Council petition (supported by the local school) relating to the installation of a crossing between Poplar Avenue and Mount Bovers Lane. The petition would need to be reviewed in the context of a standard process that takes account of aspects such as site history and location.
- A map identifying the location of the new footpath in Lower Road, Hockley, could be provided on request.
- Enquiries would be made on whether three broken bollards on the Betts Farm Estate are to be repaired.
- A site visit would take place to ascertain the condition of the footways on the Betts Farm Estate, Hockley.
- There could be a review of traffic flow statistics for the B1013 Main Road which are indicating that there has been a 5% reduction in traffic movement per annum. As with all statistics, there can be different interpretations. Overall figures can be lower notwithstanding high peak volumes at certain times.
- Whilst road resurfacing can be a messy process, there should not be instances of tar flying onto pavements or under cars – concern that this was the case with Greensward Lane would be taken up with the contractor.

265 CENTRAL AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the Central Area update.

Extending the White Lines Already Introduced Near Bullwood Hall to Fountain Lane, Hockley (08/07)

An early meeting was being arranged with Cllr M Maddocks and other interested Members.

Replacement of Footpaths 8 and 9 Adjacent to Brandy Hole on the River Crouch (11/07)

Information on the current position with regard to an enactment of the draft marine bill would be provided at the next meeting.

Traffic Issues at White Hart Lane (07/08)

An inspector would visit this location to check out whether there is some inappropriate garden extension activity at two locations along the lane.

Issues with Green Bin Waste (13/08)

It was confirmed that the District Council made it clear to the Council's refuse contractor that it had a duty to return bins to the location that they are left for emptying. Any problems in this respect should be reported to the Council.

Where appropriate, the contractor would hose any green liquid that had seeped from refuse vehicle compaction activity.

The meeting closed at 9.21pm.

Chairman

Date

If you would like these minutes in large print, braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.

Appendix

Question	Response
<p>P A James, Hawkwell</p> <p><u>Exhibition Roadshow Consultation, Hawkwell Village Hall, Hawkwell West</u></p> <p>Please can you advise me and the residents of Hawkwell West and give us assurance that the times of the above will be extended through to the evening. For example, 4.30pm to 8.30pm or to be conducted at the weekend during daytime hours? The last exhibition was held at the same venue but at 4.30pm to 6.30pm, this did not allow those that work to attend. It was also poorly advertised prior to the event and therefore not well attended. Can you please advise of the date of the exhibition and how you are going to advertise beforehand to allow the public to know and to avoid a repetition of last time?</p>	<p>Detailed consideration would be given to this question with a response provided and reported to the next meeting.</p>
<p>Mrs M Barter, Hockley</p> <p>I do not think polyclinics are necessary or desirable in this area. Will both patients and doctors be consulted on their wishes with regard to polyclinics? If the local community makes it clear polyclinics are not wanted, do I have your assurance that this idea will be dropped?</p>	<p>This question was picked up by the representatives from the Primary Care Trust during their presentation (Minute 264(1) refers)</p>
<p>R Everett, Hawkwell</p> <p>Has the Authority looked into the public transport situation for non-drivers and the elderly getting to a doctor's central surgery in Rayleigh.</p>	<p>This question was picked up by the representatives from the Primary Care Trust during their presentation (Minute 264(1) refers)</p>

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<p>R Chapman, Hockley</p> <p>Concern at educational and other provision for members of the 14+ age group not wishing to follow further/higher education.</p>	<p>Whilst educational provision is the direct responsibility of the County Education Authority, the need for appropriate provision for the 14+ age group could be understood. Cllr Mrs L. A. Butcher, the Portfolio Holder with an interest in this area, referred to formal partnership arrangements that had developed between the four senior schools within the District and confirmed that she would be happy to discuss any education related questions.</p>
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