

Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 20 October 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the **Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **20 October 2004** when there were present:

Cllr T Livings (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs M A Starke (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Mrs R Brown
Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr D G Stansby

Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr P F A Webster

VISITING MEMBER

Cllr R A Oatham

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C J Lumley and P K Savill.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr C I Black

OFFICERS PRESENT

G Woolhouse - Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
M Martin - Committee Administrator

ALSO ATTENDING

L McGranahan - Director of Primary Care and Partnerships, Castle Point & Rochford NHS Primary Care Trust
J Mackie - Service Manager, Castle Point & Rochford NHS Primary Care Trust

444 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

444a DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs M A Starke declared a personal interest in item 7 of the Agenda by virtue of being one of the Council's representatives on the Joint Health Partnership Board with Castle Point.

Cllr Mrs M S Vince declared a personal interest in item 6 of the Agenda by virtue of being a member of the STaR Partnership.

445 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

The Committee received the schedule relating to progress on decisions.

Review of Policies and Services for Young People within the District

Members noted that a Service Level Agreement was being drafted with the STAR Partnership. A report would be brought to the meeting of this Committee in December and thereafter at 6 monthly intervals. Members requested that this report should contain detailed information around the constitution and financial status of the partnership.

De-Regulation of Francis Walk, Crown Hill, Clarence Road and Tendring Avenue, Rayleigh

Members were advised that consideration of this issue had been deferred to the Housing Management Sub-Committee. It would meet in due course to debate the issue.

Members requested that no action be taken to change the status of these schemes prior to consideration by the Sub-Committee.

Resolved

That the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee give consideration to the recommendations of the Housing Management Sub-Committee once it has completed its deliberations and recommend accordingly to Council. (HRHM)

Sheltered Housing – Security, Health and Safety

A Member referred to a recent incident at Rupert Jarvis Court, Hockley and was advised that the Head of Revenue and Housing Management would be requested to provide details via the Members' Bulletin. (HRHM)

Outstanding decisions would be carried forward.

446 GP PROVISION WITHIN THE DISTRICT

The Chairman welcomed representatives from the Castle Point & Rochford Primary Care Trust (PCT) who had been invited to answer Members' questions relating to the progress being made in improving the provision of General Practitioner (GP) surgeries in the Rochford district. Particular concern had been raised about western Rayleigh.

Members noted that over the last year there had been an increase in the number of GP's within the District from 41 to 45 and that the average list size had decreased slightly. There had also been an increase from 1 training practice to 5 and 1 trainer to 6.

Government funding for Personal Medical Services now amounted to £1.7 million which had enabled the provision of 13.5 whole time equivalent (WTE) GP posts and 7 WTE nurse practitioner posts.

The new General Medical Services contract had placed greater emphasis on achieving the appropriate skills mix of doctors, nurses and health care assistants, which would be measured as outputs in terms of access targets and quality of service. List sizes will, therefore, no longer be monitored.

Current targets are 24 hours to be seen by a primary care professional, such as a nurse or pharmacist and 48 hours to be seen by a GP for routine care. Members were advised that this does cause difficulties for certain sectors of the population, such as those who are in full time employment, or with long term ailments. However, these targets could change during the next financial year.

Members noted that whilst more services were being developed, individual GPs could be constrained by size of premises. The general thrust across the PCT is to develop bigger centres with more staff offering a greater range of facilities, including social care.

In response to Member questions, the following was noted:-

- All trainee GP's are fully qualified doctors who work closely with a trainer in their surgery and provide a worthwhile additional workforce.
- Nurses provide a very thorough service, where it is not essential to be seen by a doctor and they are generally able to spend more time with a patient.
- Phlebotomy is not classed as an 'essential' service and GP's can, therefore, choose whether or not to make provision within their surgery for blood tests.
- Funding for major projects will be through a Local Improvement Finance Trust application, which results in competitive tendering and long-term contracts with the private sector to build the facilities that are needed.
- The Accident & Emergency Centre at Southend Hospital has a 4 hr target during which patients should have been seen; anything beyond that time would be considered a breach of contract.
- The Primary Care Medical Centre would only deal with 'planned care'.

Of particular concern to Members was the issue around GP provision on the former Park School site and that this site be seriously considered as the most accessible position on which to develop a satellite Primary Care Medical Centre at this end of the District.

In response to Members' concerns, the following was noted:-

- The Trust would take note of Members' views that the centre of Rayleigh, with issues around traffic congestion, would not provide easy access for patients to a primary care medical centre.
- The Strategic Service Development Plan would be completed by January 2005, after which a decision would be made regarding the siting of the satellite centre.
- This decision would be reached by 31 March 2005.
- Two workshop meetings had been set up as part of the consultation process and the Chief Executive would be attending the second of these as this Council's representative.
- A letter would be sent to the Council confirming:-
 - (1) the date by which the decision would be taken
 - (2) details as to what the decision would encompass
 - (3) the views of this Council on the siting of the centre.

Ms McGranahan invited Cllrs C I Black and R A Oatham to attend the next meeting as the Ward Members for the former Park School site.

Intermediate Care Facility

Members of the Community Services Committee had raised concerns at their meeting held on 1 September about the time it had taken for the intermediate care facility at Spa Court, Hockley to become operational and requested that a representative of the Primary Care Trust attend this meeting to answer Members' concerns. The unit had been leased to Essex County Council and the Primary Care Trust had undertaken to achieve the joint aims.

Members were advised that the flat itself was entirely fit for the purpose for which it had been set aside, however, the right person had simply not been available to make use of it. Wherever possible it is a better solution to enable a person go back to their own home or in to residential care on discharge from hospital. The real issue was around the fact that the flat was less flexible than it could be and a stakeholder group had been set up to address the issue.

Members requested confirmation in writing from the PCT of how long the flat had remained empty. The Head of Service reported that discussions would shortly be taking place between the Council's housing consultant and the PCT and Social Care services to discuss the strategy for housing provision for the elderly. The outcomes would be reported to the December meeting of this Committee.

Resolved

That the Castle Point and Rochford Primary Care Trust write to the Council in respect of the siting of the satellite Primary Care Medical Centre confirming:-

Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 20 October 2004

- (1) the date by which the decision would be taken
- (2) details as to what the decision would encompass
- (3) the views of this Council on the siting of the centre.

The meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

Chairman

Date