

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MONDAY 1 OCTOBER, 2012 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:

Councillors

Gamble, B. (Chairman)

Ball, G.D.

Freeman, Miss. M.

Bernard, Mrs. A.F.

17. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Bennett (Vice-Chairman), P.A. Fisher and Mrs. H.M. Sutton.

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

There were no interests declared.

19. Minutes

The Chairman referred to Minute 13 and advised Members of the Committee that he would request a copy of the presentation regarding the proposals for the new NHS Direct.

AGREED:

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

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

The Chairman reported on the following:-

Consultation on becoming a Foundation Trust - Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent Partnership Trust

He reported that there were plans by the Trust to apply for Foundation Trust status and advised that a meeting would be held at Cannock Leisure Centre on Monday 8 October, 2012 commencing at 5.00 p.m. and all members of

the public were invited. It was expected that the date for the end of the consultation was around 20 October, 2012.

Councillor Mrs. A.F. Bernard reported that she had attended meetings in respect of consultations that had taken place with both Stafford Hospital and Birmingham Children's Hospital. When asked about finances both organisations reassured people that they were in a position to deal effectively with their budgets, however both had failed. This resulted in a reduction in care which impacted upon patients.

Consultation - Draft Care and Support Bill

It was reported that a draft was currently with Staffordshire County Council and the Health Scrutiny Committee had been asked for comments. The closing date for responses was 19 October, 2012.

Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust Accountability Session

The Chairman reported that the last Accountability Session was held on 27 September and questions had been raised regarding the closure of the kitchens at Cannock Chase Hospital and a petition had also been received.

Councillor Mrs. A.F. Bernard referred to the Session and reported that Cannock Chase District was discussed with regard to the District's health profile and she was of the opinion that the information circulated showed that there had been failures in areas such as obesity and concern was expressed with deprivation in Cannock Chase.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's)

Councillor Mrs. A.F. Bernard reported that a brief discussion had taken place concerning CCG's and it was found that only 4 GPs in Cannock had decided to join, she advised that the only consultation that had taken place was with GPs.

Councillor Miss. M. Freeman also reported that questions has been asked at the last Cannock Community Forum regarding CCG's.

Steve Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health reported that that a meeting had been arranged for 24 October between the Leader, Cabinet and CCG lead to discuss the CCG's. The CCG lead had originally agreed to come to the Health Scrutiny Committee when the consultation document into the Francis enquiry concerning Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust had been published, however the findings into the enquiry would not now be published until next year.

AGREED:

That the Head of Environmental Health invite the CCG lead to a future meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

21. Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board

The Head of Environmental Health reported that the Health and Wellbeing Board would not take effect until April, 2013, however some concern had been raised regarding the way the Shadow Board operated. It was hoped that the Board would eventually meet less often and deal with more strategic and less operational issues.

It was reported that Councillor Lees of South Staffordshire Council represented southern Staffordshire Authorities on the Board, with Councillor Finlay of Stafford Borough Council representing Northern Staffordshire Authorities. Dr. McMahon, Chair of the Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group currently sat on the Board and was joint Chair.

22. Proposed Closure of Restaurant Facility at Cannock Chase Hospital

The Head of Environmental Health reported that a discussion had taken place with Dieticians at Stafford Hospital. From the discussion that had taken place it was noted that hostesses would be based at ward level to serve breakfasts, help patients fill out menu cards and be on hand to help with dietary requirements.

He reported that the food that was kept hot at Stafford would lose some of its nutritional content; however the Trust would ensure that other foods such as salads and fruit juices were made available. Members expressed concern about this.

The Head of Environmental Health reported that a 3 day supply of food which would include meals for other diets would be kept frozen at Cannock Hospital with guidelines issued to hostesses and staff at ward level. He also commented that if a patient arrived during out of hours wards would have access to the freezers in order to provide a meal.

He commented that during the trial, temperatures of food would be checked and Environmental Health would liaise with Stafford BC in terms of food safety. He suggested that Members of the Committee may wish to undertake a visit to the hospital when the trial starts and also ask someone from the Trust to attend a meeting in the near future to provide an update.

It was hoped that the Trust would provide information to patients in order to allow them to provide feedback on the service, as patients had previously been happy with the food provision supplied.

Members of the Committee expressed concern particularly with regard to transportation and loading of meals and how transportation would be affected in light of the weather conditions over the winter months.

AGREED:

That the Head of Environmental Health produce a Briefing Note for a future meeting with regard to the operation of the new catering arrangements.

23. Work Programme 2012-13

The Head of Environmental Health advised that he would liaise with the CCG with a view to asking someone to attend the next meeting to discuss Members concerns.

AGREED:

That the Head of Environmental Health liaise with the CCG with a view to asking someone to attend the next meeting.

24. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted the date of the next meeting scheduled for Monday 10 December, 2012.

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.).