

Minutes

of the Meeting of the

Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 24th September 2015

held at the Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

Meeting Commenced: 1.30 p.m. Meeting Concluded: 3.05 p.m.

Councillors:

P Roz Willis (Chairman)
A Liz Wells (Vice-Chairman)

P Michael Bell	P Sarah Codling
A Andy Cole	P Bob Garner
P Ann Harley	A David Hitchins
P Ruth Jacobs	P Reyna Knight
P Tom Leimdorfer	P Ian Parker

P Eileen Jacques (Co-opted Member – substitute for Georgie Biggs)

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Also in attendance: Councillor Jill Isles (Assistant Executive Member Public Health)

Health Colleagues in attendance: James Rimmer (Chief Executive, Weston Area Health NHS Trust), Mary Backhouse (Chief Clinical Officer, North Somerset CCG)

NSC Officers in attendance: Alun Davies, Sheila Smith (People and Communities); Leo Taylor (Corporate Services)

HEA Declarations of Interest by Members

1

None

HEA Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd July 2015

2

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

HEA Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection of Weston Area Health NHS Trust (attached)

3

The Chief Executive (WAHT) presented the report providing an update on the CQC inspection of Weston Area Health NHS Trust and plans to address the findings.

He summarised the inspection outcomes and focussed on the Trust's response in the following key areas:-

- Emergency Care
- Ambulance queues/handover
- Medical Care
- Urgent Care

In concluding, he said that, whilst the Trust's overall "requiring improvement" assessment was clearly disappointing, it was important to recognise there were some notable positive findings: the Trust was rated as "good" or "outstanding" for "caring" across the board; six out of the ten service areas assessed were scored as "good"; and he highlighted the "outstanding" assessment for Children's Services.

Nevertheless the Trust fully accepted the concerning "inadequate" rating for safety and had already taken action to address this. Similarly it acknowledged the "requiring improvement" findings against the "effective", "responsive" and Well-led" assessment domains and was fully committed to delivering improvements in the identified areas.

The Chief Clinical Officer (NSCCG) added that the CCG was working alongside the Trust and the Trust Development Authority to consider the outcome of the inspection, emphasising the importance of working in partnership to address the challenges facing health care in the area.

The Chief Executive (WAHT) responded to Members' comments and queries as follows:-

(1) *Harptree Ward High Care Unit* – staff/patient ratios had been improved. The main challenge was patient flow - ensuring that high/intensive care beds were not taken up by patients that were fit to leave and the Trust was now confident that the balance was right and that the high care unit could be stood down, returning the beds to normal ward usage.

(2) *The areas requiring improvement were those of greatest importance to the public: how did the Trust intend publicising the steps it was taking to address these?* – The Trust placed the greatest importance on effective communication with the public, patients and its own staff. A great deal of media work and staff briefings had already been undertaken and he welcomed any suggestions on how the Trust could do more.

(3) *The CQC was critical about senior leadership; what steps were being taken at senior/board level to drive forward change?* – A range of measures had been implemented including additional clinical leadership support and more support for and input from Junior Doctors. The Trust was working closely with the board to support sustainable leadership going forward.

(4) *Recruitment and succession planning* – Strategic planning was being hindered by recruitment issues and he said that the Sustainability Board was considering options going forward including the potential for a joint approach to recruitment across neighbouring NHS Trusts.

The Chairman indicated that the Panel supported this approach and she intended writing to the appropriate body to advocate its implementation.

(5) *Concern about the capacity and hence sustainability of the Intensive Care Unit (CSU)* – He gave assurance that there was sufficient intensive care capacity at the Weston General. The critical issue was around patient safety: ensuring that patients with specific acuity dependencies were treated at the most appropriate locations. The processes underpinning these judgements were constantly under review.

(6) *Concerns about comments from Junior Doctors reported by the CQC* – He emphasised that new process were now in place following the CQC feedback and messages about zero tolerance for verbal and physical abuse had been reinforced. He agreed to share the Trust's bullying and harassment and whistle-blowing policies with Members.

(7) *Emergency Care Improvement Programme (ECIP)* – He said that North Somerset Council officers were involved in the work being undertaken focussing on winter pressures. The Director People and Communities (NSC) confirmed that the Panel could seek updates on this work through officers.

Concluded:

- (1) that the report be received; and
- (2) that the Trust be requested to keep the Panel updated on progress in respect to the implementation on the action plan and further follow-up inspections from the CQC.

HEA 4 Membership of Quality Accounts Sub-Committee, Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Joint Ambulance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Resolved:

- (1) that Councillor's Roz Willis, Mike Bell, Sarah Codling, Ruth Jacobs and Bob Garner be appointed as Members of the Quality Accounts Sub-Committee;
- (2) that Councillors Ian Parker, Reyna Knight and Ruth Jacobs be nominated to stand as the Panel's representatives on any future statutory Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- (3) that Councillors Bob Garner and Andy Cole be appointed as Members of the Joint Ambulance Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

HEA 5 Assistant Executive Members Update

Councillor Jill Isles (Assistant Executive Member Public Health) gave a brief verbal update on current developments including the following:

- The North Somerset Public Health Strategy Implementation Plan and performance indicators;
- Primary Care procurement; and

- Health Champions Training

Concluded: that the update be received.

HEA 6 The Panel's Work Plan

The Chairman referred to the Panel's recent work planning seminar, noting that feedback from Members about the event had been very positive. At the Seminar, it was proposed that Members would individually, or in groups, take on lead responsibility as "Member Champions" for monitoring specified healthcare provider activities, performance and forward plans.

Concluded: that this approach be formally endorsed by the Panel and that the following Members' Champions and associated portfolios be agreed:

- (1) Councillor Roz Willis - **Strategic Commissioning and Urgent Care;**
- (2) Councillors Ann Harley and Ian Parker - **Weston Area NHS Health Trust;**
- (3) Councillors Roz Willis, Bob Garner and Ann Harley - **North Bristol NHS Trust and University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust;**
- (4) Councillors Mike Bell and Ian Parker - **Primary Care Services;**
- (5) Councillors Reyna Knight and Ian Parker - **Community Health Services;**
- (6) Councillors Tom Leimdorfer, Sarah Codling and Ann Harley - **Mental Health Services;** and
- (7) Councillors Bob Garner, Ruth Jacobs, Liz Wells and Ann Harley – **Ambulance and Out-of-Hours services.**

Chairman
