

## Minutes

of the Meeting of the

## Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel

**Monday, 12th December 2016**

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

Meeting Commenced: 1.30 p.m. Meeting Concluded: 4.20 p.m.

### Councillors:

P Roz Willis (Chairman)

P Ruth Jacobs (Vice-Chairman)

A Michael Bell

P Andy Cole

A Ann Harley

A Reyna Knight

P Liz Wells

P Sarah Codling

P Bob Garner

P David Hitchins

P Ian Parker

P Georgie Bigg (Co-opted Member)

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**Also in attendance:** Councillors Dawn Payne; Jill Iles, Tom Leimdorfer

**Health colleagues:** James Rimmer (Weston Area Health Trust); Mary Backhouse, Mary Adams, Debbie Campbell (North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group); Laila Pennington, Scott Bailey, Denys Raynor, Elizabeth Kuhl (NHS England)

**NSC Officers in attendance:** Emily Van De Venter, Jo Mercer, Lodee Dudley, Natalie Field, David Jones, Alun Davies, Mike Jackson, Leo Taylor

### **HEA    Brian Sheldrake - Public Discussion (Agenda Item 2)** **18**

Brian Sheldrake, local resident, addressed the Panel about the lack of easily accessible General Practice (GP) availability for residents of central Weston-super-Mare. He was concerned about the role of NHS England in the re-location of surgeries to other areas of Weston-super-Mare and what he felt was a lack of action from all agencies to address health inequalities in Weston-super-Mare.

The Chairman thanked Mr Sheldrake for his address.

**HEA 19 Alan Rice - Public Discussion (Agenda Item 2)**

Alan Rice, Chairman of Graham Road Patients' Participation Group, addressed the Panel. In addition to concerns about the lack of clarity over future GP provision in Weston-super-Mare, he also raised concern about the recently published NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). He felt that the STP's target reductions in demand on General Practice, hospital admissions, outpatient practice appointments and hospital stays were undeliverable and were an indication that reducing cost was the principal driver behind the STP.

The Chairman thanked Mr Rice for his address.

**HEA 20 Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 3)**

None.

**HEA 21 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 July 2016 (Agenda Item 4.1)**

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

**HEA 22 General practice provision in Weston-super-Mare (Agenda Item 9)**

Laila Pennington (Head of Primary Care, NHS England SW) explained that NHS England recognised the concerns about GP access in Weston-super-Mare and had come to the meeting to engage with the panel on how to support the delivery of sustainable GP access in the area.

She emphasised that, unlike hospitals, GP practices were run as contracted businesses and the role of NHS England, as commissioner, was therefore limited. It had no mandate to provide primary care services itself but was focussed on encouraging innovation, making the best use of existing capacity and ultimately for delivering the best use of taxpayers' money through the commissioning process. She outlined the basis under which GPs were contracted and the challenges that were leading to a move away from smaller, less sustainable practices towards larger practices or federations/partnerships of practices.

In respect of the practices in central Weston-super-Mare, she said that NHS England was committed to working with co-commissioners, North Somerset CCG, to find short and long term solutions for the Graham Road practice. The Stafford Place/Locking Castle practice was more challenging and, though a formal closure notice had not yet been received, careful consideration was being given to the implications for patients. She encouraged the Panel's input as to how the patient list might be dispersed.

Members sought and received clarification on the following issues:-

- The process and governance arrangements used by NHS England to consider and determine applications for variations to GP contracts;
- The means by which NHS England could incentivise the recruitment of GPs to North Somerset practices; and

- The implications for smaller local practices of national recommendations encouraging larger practices or confederation of practices;

In response to concerns raised by Members around delays in resolving the Stafford Place application, NHS England officers emphasised that this had nothing to do with the engagement questionnaire (used in the application process). They emphasised that an application had not yet been received and the delays were primarily about the requirement that the Practice provide information about public transport availability.

Members then discussed the proposal from the Council at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November that the Panel undertake a review of GP provision. In considering the working group's remit, the Chairman of Healthwatch North Somerset (co-opted HOSP member) said that many of the constraints around potential long-term solutions related to the circumstances in which the Town found itself now. There were ambitious plans for Weston-super-Mare going forward and it was important that the future needs of the population were factored into this work.

**Concluded:**

- (1) that a Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) task and finish Working Group be established to undertake a full scrutiny review of the provision of GP services in Weston-super-Mare; and
- (2) that its Membership include the following: Councillors Ian Parker (chairman), Ruth Jacobs, Mike Bell, Richard Nightingale, Roz Willis; together with any further Panel Members wishing to self-nominate.

**HEA 23 Health Protection Committee Interim Report (Agenda Item 6)**

The Director of Public Health presented the report which provided a summary of activity reported to the North Somerset health Protection Committee during the period January to September 2016.

Members noted that a full annual report for the financial year of 2016/17 would be provided in summer 2017.

**Concluded:** that the Panel was assured by the reported progress against Health Protection Committee priorities between January and September 2016 and that the report be noted.

**HEA 24 Consultation version of the People and Communities Strategy (2017-2020) (Agenda Item 7)**

The Director of Public Health presented the report and attached consultation draft of the People and Communities Strategy. The Strategy brought together actions requiring the greatest attention, focussing on the things that could be delivered in collaborative working between partner agencies and that would make the biggest difference. It also included details of how

success could be measured and what impacts and outcomes would be achieved.

Having been invited to provide feedback on the document, Members' comments included the following:-

- The need for the Strategy to be considered by other Scrutiny Panels;
- The map on page 3 of the documents was missing some wards and it was unclear what the green shading signified;
- Private sector partnerships were important and also needed to be acknowledged and included in the strategy;
- The consultation questions would be made more specific/better linked to the issues and service users could be specifically asked what they wanted the Council to do about it (eg Mental Health);
- The consultation document could be more accessible to the general public;
- Could more have been done to actively "engage" rather than passively "consult" eg with particular service user sectors. Officers said that they were looking at full "co-production" of the strategy at the next formal revision in three years' time.
- There should be some reference in Priority Theme 4 to the fear of crime

There was discussion about the lack of non-executive Councillor representation on the People and Communities Board. Although it was recognised that Executive Members sat on the panel in a non-political capacity and that the statutory meetings were open to the public and other non-executive Councillors could participate, there was concern that the lack of political balance might not provide for a more representative range of views to be expressed on the Board.

In concluding discussions, Members heard that there would, going forward, be annual reports to the People and Communities Board tracking implementation of the strategy. The Director of Public Health agreed to give consideration to a request from Members that the Panel receive six monthly update reports on implementation but was doubtful that the team would have sufficient resources to compile two reports per year.

**Concluded:** that the Members' comments be forwarded to the Public Health team in the form of the minutes.

## **HEA 25 Sustainability and Transformation Plan (Agenda Item 8)**

The Chief Executive (Weston Area Health NHS Trust) updated Members on the development of, and progress against, the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP).

The Chairman reported that the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees had met in a

“meeting in common” on 1<sup>st</sup> December at Bristol City Hall to discuss in outline the emerging Plan and engagement going forward.

Panel Members that had attended the meeting in common expressed some concerns about the recommendation (set out in the meeting report) which a North Somerset Councillor had requested be amended in order to incorporate reference to the statutory requirement that there be a public consultation and scrutiny phase prior to implementation of specific proposals. Members noted that this recommendation and amendment had not been voted on at the meeting but asked that representations be nevertheless made to officers to ensure that the minutes of the meeting recorded the proposed amendment.

Members noted that, as the Plan would involve the development of projects and proposals that would have significant cross-boundary impacts, there was a statutory requirement that joint scrutiny arrangements be established.

**Concluded:** that subject to agreement on Terms of Reference and working arrangements, the Panel supports, in principle, the establishment of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel involving Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Council’s Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees for the purpose of maintaining joint oversight of the ongoing development of the BNSSG STP and for jointly scrutinising the specific projects and proposals emerging from the Plan which have implications across all three local authority areas.

**HEA     The Panel’s Work Plan (Agenda Item 10)**  
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Members considered the Work Plan which had been updated to reflect the outcome of discussions from the previous Panel meeting.

**Concluded:** that the Work Plan be updated, picking up actions and discussion outcomes from the present meeting.

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Chairman

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