



Meetings/events feedback form

Date of meeting: 1 February 2011

Title of meeting: Staffordshire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Audience: Staffordshire County Councillors and Scrutiny Officers. The meeting is open to the public and full minutes are published on the County Council web site.

LINK representative(s) attending: Dave Bassett

LINK representative completing feedback form: Dave Bassett

Rationale (*Why are we attending the meeting event*). *Note – if you are delivering a message/presenting re: what the LINK is about, this needs to complement the standard presentation. If not provide details of message given.*

I attend as a co-opted non-voting member of the committee representing the Link. I am able to participate in debate, raise issues of concern and ask questions. I am also there to ensure that there is clear communication between Link and the Committee, ensuring collaboration where appropriate and the avoidance of duplication of work.

What were the main issues to come out of the meeting/event from the LINK perspective? (*List between 1 and 6 bullet points would be helpful*).

1. Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Application Update:

The new Chair of the Trust, Barry Picken addressed the committee on progress with the Foundation Trust Application which is now in its final stages with Monitor currently conducting its final assessments. The Trust will be absorbing from 1/4/11 the staff from the current Wolverhampton PCT provider arm to create an integrated healthcare FT. They were experiencing problems recruiting two public governors from the S. Staffs constituency.

2. Mental Health Day Services in S Staffs:

A follow up report on the provision of out of hour's voluntary sector provision in Cannock was presented by Jane Chapman from SSPCT. This became linked with the wider consultation that has started around the closure of Day Hospital provision across the south of the county affecting at least 500 service users.

It became clear through debate at the meeting that members and the public have not been presented with a coherent vision of service redesign of community mental health services in S Staffs and this needs to be reflected back in response to the consultation. The OSC is going to request a more detailed presentation from SSPCT and SSMHFT.

3. Mental Health Redesign Issues in N Staffs:

Fiona Myers (CEO) and Dave Pearson (Acting Chief Operating Officer and Director of Nursing) from Combined Healthcare Trust attended for a pre consultation discussion on issues affecting service reconfiguration at the Bucknall and Harplands sites. The debate was somewhat overshadowed by members concerned that the Trust had not notified the OSC about urgent temporary closures of some of the community resource centre beds over the December/January period due to staff cover issues on admission wards at the Harplands due to the acuity of patients admitted during that period.

Once again changes in treatment pathways, the availability of more effective medications and a more community based approach were cited as reasons for the need to review the way

services are delivered. Discussions are being held with mental health professionals, GPs and service user groups to work through some of the issue. The Trust will return to the OSC with more detailed proposals once the options have been worked up in more detail.

There was some heated debate and once again it was felt that there was a lack of clarity in the overall picture at this time.

4. Fit for the Future:

Tony Bruce (CEO NHS N Staffs) attended for this item and gave an update on progress. The PFI development is on schedule for completion in 90 weeks – about the same time the Olympics take place!

The management of the procurement and planning processes were reviewed in 2010 and there are now four key work streams all being led by clinicians backed up with senior management support. These are admission avoidance, inpatient care, outpatient's services and discharge and community support.

Lengths of stay in a number of specialities are reducing as planned, 99 bed reductions of the final total of 297 have been achieved. The new Haywood Hospital in Stoke is fully functioning and step down arrangements have been delivered. Delayed discharges of care are being maintained below target level for the majority of the time.

5. W Midlands Ambulance Trust FT Application:

Following on from a special meeting, members agreed a formal response to the Trust's consultation document. The feedback was generally positive with some debate about how mechanics of how the W Midlands Trust accounts to all the scrutiny committees across the region and that perhaps one could be nominated to take a particular interest in the Trust on behalf of all.

6. Acute Trust Accountability Sessions:

Both Stafford Hospital and UHNS Chairs and CEOs will be attending separate accountability sessions with a combination of County Council and District Council Scrutiny members to report on the delivery of their business plans. As a co-opted member I have been invited to attend.

7. Public Health Proposals in the New NHS White Paper:

Members were asked whether they wanted a briefing meeting on the implications of this for Staffordshire. I was able to point out that the Staffs and Stoke DPHs have organised such an event at Keele University on 15th February to which the LINK had already been invited.

Action Points/How can the LINK help? *(Bullet points re: what, if any, requests for LINK help were received and from who plus who needs to follow up?)*

- Link could offer to assist WHFT recruit public governors in S Staffs. A follow up letter offering support to be sent to the Chair.
- We need to consider how we as link respond to emerging issues on mental health in both the north and the south of the county.
- I ensured that the scrutiny committee officer had the contact details for the Keele public health session.
- I intend to attend the acute trust accountability sessions and report back to LINK.