

## **Lancashire County Council**

### **Health Scrutiny Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 1 September, 2015 at 10.30 am in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

#### **Present:**

County Councillor Steven Holgate (Chair)

#### **County Councillors**

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| M Brindle          | B Murray     |
| Mrs F Craig-Wilson | M Otter      |
| G Dowding          | N Penney     |
| N Hennessy         | D T Smith    |
| Y Motala           | D Stansfield |

#### **Co-opted members**

Councillor Barbara Ashworth, (Rossendale Borough Council)  
Councillor Colin Hartley, (Lancaster City Council)  
Councillor Bridget Hilton, (Ribble Valley Borough Council)  
Councillor Roy Leeming, (Preston City Council)  
Councillor Julie Robinson, (Wyre Borough Council)  
Councillor E Savage, (West Lancashire Borough Council)  
Councillor M J Titherington, (South Ribble Borough Council)

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from County Councillor Mohammed Iqbal and Cllr Hasina Khan (Chorley Borough Council)

#### **2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None disclosed.

#### **3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 15 July 2015**

The Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 15 July 2015 were presented and agreed.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Committee held on the 15 July 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

#### **4. Joint Working - fragmented commissioning amongst partners**

Dave Carr, Head of Policy, Information and Commissioning (Start Well) presented the report to the Committee

The report explained the concerns about fragmented commissioning and delivery of services exists at both a national and local level. It provided members with:

- An overview of commissioning responsibilities for health and social care.
- An overview of the Governance arrangements in Lancashire.
- Examples of activity intended to help determine future commissioning priorities.

Nationally, the Independent Commission on the Future of Health and Social Care in England concluded that "people needing access to care will be forced to continue to navigate the complexities and inconsistencies of the current fragmented systems of funding and entitlement" without a fundamental rethink of how health and social care should be funded and provided.

Locally, there are well known examples of fragmented commissioning. For example, the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board received a report on Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing which identified a number of key issues and areas for improvement in relation to the current partnership and commissioning arrangements.

The report highlighted the fact that it was important to get a consistent view of the current situation regarding commissioning as a starting point to move forward from and members were reminded that the new corporate strategy for the County Council would form the basis for decisions in the future.

Members of the Committee were invited to comment and raise questions and a summary of the discussion is set out below:

- Members were concerned that there didn't appear to be any single overarching organisation with lead responsibility. It seemed that different organisations took the lead for different areas so there was no single level of accountability. Dave Carr responded that it would be the Health & Wellbeing Board who were well positioned to take that role.
- Members were also concerned that the multiple number of partners involved made it even less clear what the overall direction was for the future
- Dave Carr suggested that part of the issue within Lancashire is about the governance of the system and where we take a steer from, normally it would be from partners own individual organisations, however as there are many partners involved he felt that the Health & Wellbeing Board was best placed to take the overall responsibility for governance.
- CC Holgate stated that the Health Scrutiny Committee has the opportunity to hold decision makers and commissioners to account and provided the Committee with the example of ambulance services being commissioned by Blackpool CCG on behalf of all north west CCGs. He questioned whether the Committee would have the capacity to hold each different

service area to account and considered whether members should hold the Health & Wellbeing Board to account instead if they have the lead responsibility for overall governance.

- It was agreed that the members of the Health Scrutiny Committee need to be more aware of the decisions taken by the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) and they were reminded that all HWB agenda and minutes were publically available on the council's website and that they could sign-up for email alerts to inform them each time they were published.
- One member asked if there was a timescale within which to de-fragment the commissioning process. Dave Carr responded that it very much depended on the national agenda for health and social care but stated that locally as the HWB had recently redefined its terms of reference it was a step forward in the right direction and indicated that the Better Care Fund was one example of how to address fragmented commissioning.
- A question was raised about the role of Healthier Lancashire and how they fitted into the process, particularly in respect of governance and it was suggested that officers from the Healthier Lancashire team be invited to deliver a Bite Size Briefing for members.
- Similarly clarity was sought on the role of the Integrated Wellbeing Service and the Committee were keen to know if a Bite Size Briefing was planned for the future.
- CC Motala raised concerns regarding the lack of understanding of GPs of what services are available in their local area and felt better alignment was needed between the Health Scrutiny Committee and the HWB due to the level of the pace of change. It was acknowledged that it was a challenge for many GPs to keep up with all the different services available due to the number of organisations that can deliver them.
- In thanking officers for the report Cllr Leeming felt that commissioning should be done at a very local level to meet the needs of residents but done in a joined up approach. He suggested that the real issue was there wasn't enough money to go around to deliver all the priorities. CC Holgate agreed that the Committee need to be satisfied that what is spent, is spent effectively whilst recognising specific local needs. The priorities of the County Council within its new corporate strategy need to be shared with partners so that they can be aware of what will and will not be delivered when they make their individual organisational decisions.

**Resolved:** That:

- i. officers be invited back to the November meeting of the Committee once the funding situation is a little clearer to continue the discussion on what the priorities will be
- ii. Healthier Lancashire be invited to deliver a Bite Size Briefing

## **5. Report of the Health Scrutiny Committee Steering Group**

On 22 June the Steering Group had met to with the Care Quality Commission to discuss the process for inspections of Acute Trusts. A summary of the meeting was at Appendix A to the report now presented.

On 13 July the Steering Group had met with Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust regarding the review of their clinical services strategy and the current financial position following an inspection by Monitor. A summary of the meeting was at Appendix B to the report now presented.

Wendy Broadley presented the report and informed members that a small amendment to the notes of the meeting held on 13 July with Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust had been suggested by Trust officers

**Resolved:** That the report be received and the amendments be made to the notes of the meeting held on 13 July.

## **6. Work Plan**

Appendix A to the report now presented sets out a draft work plan for both the Health Scrutiny Committee and its Steering Group. A discussion took place on potential different ways to address scrutiny topics and Wendy Broadley suggested that the members be provided with a range of options for the future.

**Resolved:** That:

- i. The report be noted
- ii. A range of options for how health scrutiny can be delivered in the future be produced for consideration by the Committee.

## **7. Recent and Forthcoming Decisions**

The Committee's attention was drawn to forthcoming decisions and decisions recently made by the Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members in areas relevant to the remit of the committee, in order that this could inform possible future areas of work.

Recent and forthcoming decisions taken by Cabinet Members or the Cabinet can be accessed here:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?bcr=1>

**Resolved:** That the report be received.

**8. Urgent Business**

No urgent business was reported.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 13 October 2015 at 10.30am at County Hall, Preston.

I Young  
Director of Governance, Finance  
and Public Services

County Hall  
Preston