

Lancashire County Council

Health Scrutiny Committee - Steering Group

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 14th September, 2015 at 2.00 pm in Room B18b, County Hall - County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Steven Holgate (Chair)

County Councillors

M Brindle
Mrs F Craig-Wilson
Y Motala

1. Apologies

None

2. Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 3 August were agreed as a correct record

3. New ways of working

Following comments on how the Committee and Steering Group receive and scrutinise information it was agreed that Steering Group need to consider the current ways of working and discuss ideas and suggestions for the future. The key points identified were:

- Does the way that the Committee and Steering Group engages with NHS Trusts need to be more formal? Does an informal 'critical friend' approach work?
- Ways to more efficiently and effectively carry out task groups should be explored
- Further training for Committee members was required
- Should the Committee try 'pre-meetings' again to discuss lines of questioning and expected outcomes?
- Increase the level of partnership approach to reviews with District scrutiny members.

Members of the Committee have been asked to provide Wendy Broadley with their thoughts and comments which will be discussed in detail at a future Steering Group meeting.

4. Task Group toolkit

Following a request from CC Holgate the Steering Group were asked to consider whether a 'tool kit' for task groups would be useful to members to enable their full participation and involvement in future task group reviews.

It was suggested that members undergo refresher training on best practice in terms of scoping reviews and evidence gathering

5. Actions from Committee

Steering Group were provided with an update on the outstanding actions from previous Committee meetings and it was agreed that all information received be forwarded to the full membership.

6. Work plan

The current work plan was noted and relevant updates made.

7. Chorley Urgent Care Centre - 3.00pm

In response to concerns raised by CC Holgate about GPs using the Urgent Care Centre (UCC) at Chorley Hospital Ian Crossley, acting Chief Officer and Nicola Walsh, Interim Head of Operations and Delivery from Chorley South Ribble/Greater Preston CCG attended the meeting to provide members with a status update and discuss the plans for the future.

Prior to the meeting the CCG had provided the following statement:

A spokesperson for NHS Chorley and South Ribble Clinical Commissioning Group said: "The new building work to increase space at the 'front end' of Chorley Hospital's accident and emergency (A&E) department was commissioned to provide areas to treat patients with more minor, but still urgent, illnesses and injuries. "This is key to helping to reduce pressure on the A&E department, and to free up the staff there so that they can focus on emergency and life threatening cases. "The first phase of work to the building is now complete and is already being used to treat patients with urgent care needs. There are a number of clinical rooms being used, as well as new areas, including a children and families waiting area. The second phase of construction is expected to be completed by the end of September. In total the cost for the building is around £2million.

"This urgent care service housed in the new building will continue to grow as part of an on-going plan to reduce pressure on emergency services, which is also dependent on increasing access for patients to services in the community and closer to home. Many of our local GP practices are now offering increased opening times, and there are a number of schemes in place to make sure that only patients with an emergency needs are taken to hospital.

"For example, GPs can be contacted by the ambulance service to do home visits, and we are working with voluntary organisations to support elderly people who may have had falls in their homes. "Separately, there is a national review of GP out-of-hours services and we will continue to work with our local providers as part of this review. This review does not affect the urgent care service at Chorley Hospital."

CC Holgate informed officers that his concerns centred around the negative feedback on the availability of GPs at the UCC despite a commitment to provide the service. He stated that during an evening visit to the centre there had been no triage and no ability to direct patients to the GP service on site as there was no one there.

A discussion took place between members and officers and the main points were:

- A new model of service is being introduced and the CCG has currently been piloting it for approximately 18 months. It involves the change of some roles and shifts between different providers. The Preston site has been an early adopter of the 111 service but Chorley is further behind
- The extended access to GPs (Sat & Sun), had been previously provided by the Out Of Hours companies (Preston Primary Centre and Chorley Medics Ltd). 111 calls in Chorley will also take work away from these providers.
- Tensions exist between the differing levels of service the OOH provides are able to deliver in terms of extended hours
- Currently the service provision in Chorley is not able to provide a 24/7 service therefore a decision has been taken by the CCG end the pilot in Chorley and to go out to procurement.
- Members were informed that an interim service would be agreed for delivery from 1st October until the procurement process concludes and the contract is awarded

It was agreed that officers will provide the Steering Group with updated information on the interim measures at the Chorley UCC as soon as is possible

8. Date of next meeting

The dates of the next Steering Group meetings are:

- 5 October –
 - Paul Simic – Lancashire Care Association re falls in care homes
 - Janice Scanlon – Trust Development Agency re appointment of Non-Exec Directors
- 26 October –
 - Gill Brown – Healthwatch re working relationship with Health Scrutiny Committee
 - Sam Nicol – Healthier Lancashire re latest developments

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