

Health Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 15 September 2020

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Report of the Health Scrutiny Steering Group

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

Overview of matters presented and considered by the Health Scrutiny Steering Group at its meetings held on 22 June and 15 July 2020.

Recommendation

The Health Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

1. Receive the report of its Steering Group.
2. Agree the establishment of a task and finish group consisting of seven county councillors and the two co-opted members from Chorley Council and South Ribble Council to review the forthcoming proposals from the Our Health Our Care programme on the future of Chorley and South Ribble A&E.

Background and Advice

The Steering Group is made up of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee plus two additional members, one each nominated by the Conservative and Labour Groups.

The main purpose of the Steering Group is to manage the workload of the Committee more effectively in the light of increasing number of changes to health services which are considered to be substantial. The main functions of the Steering Group are listed below:

1. To act as a preparatory body on behalf of the Committee to develop the following aspects in relation to planned topics/reviews scheduled on the Committee's work plan:
 - Reasons/focus, objectives and outcomes for scrutiny review;
 - Develop key lines of enquiry;
 - Request evidence, data and/or information for the report to the Committee;
 - Determine who to invite to the Committee;

2. To act as the first point of contact between Scrutiny and the Health Service Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups;
3. To liaise, on behalf of the Committee, with Health Service Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups;
4. To make proposals to the Committee on whether they consider NHS service changes to be 'substantial' thereby instigating further consultation with scrutiny;
5. To act as mediator when agreement cannot be reached on NHS service changes by the Committee. The conclusions of any disagreements including referral to Secretary of State will rest with the Committee;
6. To invite any local Councillor(s) whose ward(s) as well as any County Councillor(s) whose division(s) are/will be affected to sit on the Group for the duration of the topic to be considered;
7. To develop and maintain its own work programme for the Committee to consider and allocate topics accordingly.

It is important to note that the Steering Group is not a formal decision making body and that it will report its activities and any aspect of its work to the Committee for consideration and agreement.

- **Meeting held on 22 June 2020**

Update on the Our Health Our Care programme

Jason Pawluk, Our Health Our Care, Programme Director for the NHS Transformation Unit, presented an update regarding the Our Health Our Care Programme and the impact of measures to manage the Covid-19 pandemic on the planned schedule.

The following points were highlighted and discussed:

- The original paper indicated that a consultation would commence in summer 2020, this had been delayed as a result of the pandemic. The stage 2 gateway assessment process would now not commence until the end of June at the earliest and the normal process would follow thereafter. A statement had been published to ensure that all stakeholders were aware of the current position. The programme could not progress to the next stage until NHS England had completed the statutory gateway assessment process.
- Once approval had been secured from NHS England the programme could move from the options appraisal phase to the public engagement and formal consultation. It was anticipated that this would begin from late autumn, lasting for 14 weeks (to take into account the Christmas period), completing in mid to late January 2021. The consultation responses would then be analysed independently. It was proposed that a separate consultation could then take

place with the committee to review the options in view of the responses and analysis,

- The options could not be reduced until a decision making business case had been developed and considered and approved by the Our Health Our Care Joint Committee, which was likely to be in the next financial year.
- The current programme activities included developing the draft consultation document, promotional material and a social media campaign. These aimed to raise public awareness of the programme and the options, along with the reasons for the need for change and the delay in progressing. In addition, work had taken place with an independent, not for profit organisation (the Consultation Institute) to ensure the consultation strategy would be likely to deliver an effective broad based response from the public.
- The consultation would highlight similarities and differences between the options and ensure the public had sufficient information to facilitate effective feedback to the Our Health Our Care Joint Committee.
- It was highlighted that as well the duty to restore NHS services at a clinically appropriate time, there was also a duty to work toward public consultation. Therefore the consultation would not necessarily be delayed until the emergency measures currently in place to respond to the pandemic had ceased.
- It was clarified that the above timeframe was dependent on factors relating to the pandemic and would be more clearly defined once the gateway assessment process had completed.

Members expressed appreciation for the NHS' work throughout the pandemic in responding to the crisis and the ensuing operational challenges, as well as the positive changes made to work collaboratively across all sectors.

Resolved: That the update regarding the Our Health Our Care Programme, including the anticipated timelines of the public consultation be noted.

Work programming

Gary Halsall, Senior Scrutiny Officer, Democratic Services, presented the 2019/20 Health Scrutiny work programme.

Members reviewed the current work programme and discussed the most effective way to proceed. It was acknowledged that it would be necessary to remain flexible so as to consider which of the outstanding items to progress, as well as to allow time for issues that may arise as a result of the ongoing pandemic.

Options to effectively manage timings of discussions and questions at the Health Scrutiny Committee were discussed, in order to make the best and most constructive use of the presenters' time.

Resolved: That the 2019/20 Health Scrutiny work programme be considered further at the next meeting of the full committee on 30 June 2020.

- **Meeting held on 15 July 2020**

Review of the Health Scrutiny Committee and Steering Group work programmes for 2019/20 and 2020/21

Gary Halsall, Senior Democratic Services Officer presented a report regarding progressing the Health Scrutiny Committee and Steering Group work programmes for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

It was explained the Chair of the health scrutiny function had determined that the Steering Group would take responsibility for reviewing items for inclusion on the Joint Scrutiny Work Programme.

Members reviewed and discussed the Health Scrutiny Committee topics outstanding from 2019/20, listed in the report that had been put on hold due to the pandemic and resulting lockdown.

Members requested that the following outstanding items be prioritised for inclusion:

- Urgent Mental Health Pathway (Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust)
- Housing with care and support strategy
- Transforming Care (Calderstones)
- Social Prescribing

The clerk agreed to contact the officers concerned with each of these items to establish a realistic timeframe for bringing the items to future meetings of the Health Scrutiny Committee. An update on suicide prevention was also requested. The clerk mentioned that a forthcoming pilot named NHS 111 First was due to be rolled out across the North West. Further details would be provided.

The committee reviewed and discussed the outstanding topics from 2019/20 that were scheduled to be brought to the Health Scrutiny Committee Steering Group.

Whilst some of the work was currently on hold, it was agreed to leave the outstanding Steering Group topics open for inclusion on the agenda as when it was appropriate. In the case of the themed review of Primary Care Networks and Neighbourhoods, the clerk agreed to determine whether this could be resumed in some form as this related to a concern raised at the last Health Scrutiny Committee meeting on 30 June 2020 on the topic of NHS estate adequately supporting neighbourhood working not featuring on the combined plan.

Preparations for the committee meeting scheduled on 15 September 2020

The committee discussed the topic 'supporting the social care sector including domiciliary care workers' scheduled for inclusion at the 15 September 2020 Health Scrutiny Committee meeting. Concerns were raised at the 30 June committee

meeting regarding the lack of detail, which could lead to a dilution of robust scrutiny. In addition, issues were identified at the 30 June meeting that could be considered in conjunction with this topic. Such as, enabling vulnerable groups to access disease management provision and healthcare to prepare for winter and a second peak of Coronavirus. Another concern raised by Health Scrutiny members was in regard to how people with dementia were being supported during the pandemic.

In response to questions the following information was clarified:

- The annual Adult Social Care Winter Service Plan could be reviewed in light of any adaptations made to take into account the pandemic. Further detail on this would be sought.
- Members expressed that the 15 September 2020 Health Scrutiny Committee meeting should concentrate on actions regarding winter and second wave preparations in the adult care sector, concentrating on staffing levels, availability of quality personal protective equipment, isolation measures and visiting. It was noted that a recent report¹ had recommended that the following actions were key in preparation for winter: widespread flu vaccinations, increasing the capacity of the test and trace programme, ensuring sufficient supplies of personal protective equipment in hospitals and care homes and creating Covid free areas in hospitals and care homes. It was suggested that representatives from a home care provider and extra care setting be invited to attend the next scheduled meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee to discuss support provided by the county council.

Substantial variation matter: Our Health Our Care (OHOC) – Chorley A&E/Emergency Department

In terms of the Our Health, Our Care programme, Lancashire Teaching Hospital Trust had indicated that Chorley A&E may re-open in September 2020, following the temporary closure as a result of clinical and operational decisions made by the Trust to best manage the pandemic. Further details on the timeline was awaited, however the Steering Group was advised that public consultation on the long term future of Chorley A&E could commence in October 2020 and the local NHS had previously sought a preference from the Steering Group on the preferred approach for conducting a scrutiny review of the proposals. Establishing a task and finish group to review the proposals was suggested and discussed. Such a group would then report its findings to the Health Scrutiny Committee for evaluation as the power to refer to Secretary of State would remain with the committee. The group would reflect the political composition of the council and it would be beneficial to include a level of joint working with the affected district councils by perhaps including relevant co-opted committee members as a minimum. It was therefore;

Resolved: That

1. The clerk would contact relevant officers regarding their availability for reporting to the Health Scrutiny Committee and its Steering Group.

¹ Preparing for a challenging winter 2020/21 report (14 July 2020 - The Academy of Medical Sciences): <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/file-download/51353957>

2. That an update on winter preparations and how the adult social care sector will be supported going forward be included on the agenda for the Health Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled on 15 September 2020.
3. A report on the Steering Group's preference to establish a task and finish group to review the forthcoming proposals on the future of the accident and emergency department at Chorley and South Ribble Hospital be presented to the Health Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled on 15 September 2020.

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Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A