
Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being)

**Report of the meetings held on 3rd January and
7th February 2012**

Matters for Information

**48. NHS CONSULTATION – PROPOSED REDESIGN OF MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND
PETERBOROUGH**

Following a presentation by representatives of NHS Cambridgeshire at the January meeting and having received a number of representations from service users, their carers and family members, the Panel has submitted a response to NHS Cambridgeshire's consultation on its proposals to redesign mental health services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Panel has unanimously expressed the view that the mental health facility in Acer Ward at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital should not be closed.

In reaching its conclusions, the Panel has questioned the clinical rationale for closing the Ward, expressed concerns over the travel implications of the proposals and queried whether better outcomes will be achieved by transferring the service to other sites. Members are not satisfied that sufficient evidence has been provided that better outcomes will be achieved for the residents in Hinchingsbrooke Hospital's catchment area if the changes are implemented. The case for the closure of Acer Ward, therefore, has not been justified. It is also held that the proposals do not adequately take into account anticipated population growth projections in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Furthermore, relocating the inpatient service will have a detrimental effect on the health and well-being of both patients and their visitors, which could have an impact on patients' rehabilitation.

At the January meeting, the Chairman had been tasked with meeting with Circle Healthcare to discuss options to preserve the mental health facility within Hinchingsbrooke. This meeting took place on 13th January 2012, when NHS Cambridgeshire representatives and the Executive Councillor for Healthy and Active Communities were present. Circle have confirmed that they will submit their own response to the consultation but this will be from an operational perspective to ensure that a robust model is in place at the Hospital when dealing with mental health patients. NHS Cambridgeshire offered a briefing session to all Members on the proposals and this took place on 1st February 2012.

Given the strength of the views expressed, representatives of NHS Cambridgeshire have attended the Panel's February meeting and responded to each of the concerns that have been raised. The Panel are still not satisfied that the case for the closure has been justified and Members have reiterated the view that an acute facility in Hinchingsbrooke Hospital forms an integral part of the redesign of mental health services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Panel is supportive of the proposals to strengthen and further enhance the primary community services available to mental health patients, their carers and their families and in particular, have welcomed the decision made by NHS Cambridgeshire to relocate the Crisis Resolution Home Team in Huntingdon with effect from 1st February 2012. In addition, the Panel has sought assurances that, if Acer Ward is closed, a budget will be established on an ongoing basis to assist patients travelling to and from the alternative wards. NHS Cambridgeshire have been formally notified of the Panel's views.

49. VOLUNTARY SECTOR REVIEW (INDICATIVE FUNDING)

In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for Economic Well-Being (Item No. 39 their Report refers), the Panel has discussed a proposal to establish an indicative voluntary sector budget for 2013/14 of £273,000 and to establish a mixed grant system for the future allocation of funds. The proposal has been developed in conjunction with and is supported by the Panel's Voluntary Sector Working Group.

Having received assurances that sound governance arrangements will be in place when determining applications for grant funding, the Panel has recommended the Cabinet to agree:

- ◆ an indicative voluntary sector budget of £273,000 for the 2013/14 financial year;
- ◆ to the adoption of a mixed method of allocating funds with the method to involve a level of bureaucracy proportionate to the level of funding required; and
- ◆ to the establishment of a modest "Community Chest" to create an accessible source of funds to help local community projects.

50. CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL INVESTMENT PLAN

The Panel has been apprised of changes to the level of funding available to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the implications of them for the Cambridgeshire Local Investment Plan (CLIP). A reduction in funding has prompted the HCA to review the way in which it allocates funds. The funds will now be delivered through Registered Providers (formerly known as Housing Associations) who will be expected to deliver a portfolio of schemes in return for a lump sum of HCA investment.

A new "Affordable Rent" scheme has been introduced as part of the changes whereby rents are charged at up to 80% of market level

rents. Those Registered Providers who have a HCA funded programme are expected to convert a percentage of their existing stock from social rents to affordable rents to generate more income.

The Panel has discussed whether the CLIP will be effective in releasing planned developments, whether it will affect the delivery of affordable housing and the process by which the Council's priorities are captured and incorporated into the priority setting process for planned developments within the District.

51. HUNTINGDONSHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING THEMATIC GROUP

The Panel has received a presentation on the Huntingdonshire Health and Well-Being Group. The priorities for Huntingdonshire are based on evidence of need, which has been identified through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. They appear in the Huntingdonshire Sustainable Community Strategy and the Health Inequalities Strategy. Attention has been drawn to the Group's Action Plan, membership and its strategic links to other key groups including the Huntingdonshire Children and Young Peoples Partnership, the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership and local Clinical Commissioning Groups. New strategic governance arrangements are in the process of being developed through a County Health and Well-Being Board. A Shadow Board has been established to oversee the transition.

The Panel has discussed the role of the District Lead Members' Forum for health and well-being and acknowledged the rapidly changing and complex environment in which the Group is operating. Members have requested sight of the draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy before it is adopted and confirmed their wish to review the Group's performance against its Action Plan at future meetings.

52. FUNDING FOR CCTV

(The following item was considered as a confidential item under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.)

In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for Economic Well-Being (Item No. 43 of their Report refers), the Panel has received an update on the future funding and operation of the CCTV service. Members have discussed the effect of the changes on employees and the role of the Police. They have accepted a suggestion by the Economic Well-Being Panel that they should monitor the impact of any changes arising from future budget decisions. The Panel has requested a report back from the Head of Operations on the service changes in 2012/13.

53. MONITORING OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS (PLANNING OBLIGATIONS)

The Panel has received an update on the receipt and expenditure by the Council of money negotiated under Section 106 Agreements. Members have welcomed the progress that has been made over the previous year to implement various schemes that had been negotiated a number of years ago. An update has also been received on the development of an intranet site which will give Members access to S106 documents and provide updates on schemes.

54. ONE LEISURE WORKING GROUP

In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for Economic Well-Being (Item No. 41 their Report refers), the Panel has been acquainted with the outcome of the deliberations of the Working Group, which had been established to review the financial performance of One Leisure and to make recommendations on the services' future direction.

A comment has been made that the One Leisure service should adopt a more business-like approach to its operations, with more challenging targets being set to reduce the cost of the service to the Council. In the context of the Council's current budgetary position, and the fact that the Council is not statutorily required to provide leisure services and that the service is only utilised by a small proportion of the District's residents, it has been suggested that One Leisure should increase its prices. However, it has been pointed out that there are areas within the One Leisure service that are successful at generating income and that it is planned to investigate whether the service should employ a new business model.

The Cabinet has subsequently accepted the study's recommendations. The Working Group will also now assist the Executive Councillor for Healthy and Active Communities with the development of a new business model for One Leisure and a methodology for the quantification of "social value".

55. NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS WORKING GROUP

The Panel has received a brief update on the progress made at recent meetings of the Neighbourhood Forums Working Group. Based on responses received to consultation undertaken by the Panel in September 2011, revised Forum boundaries have been developed, though it is likely that they will require further work to promote the Localism agenda. Draft constitutional terms for the new Forums and the elected Member representation for each area are currently under review. The Working Group has met with the Huntingdonshire Area Commander for the Police and preliminary discussions have been held with Cambridgeshire County Council on developing a model for the Forums, which will be rolled out throughout the County.

56. CAMBRIDGESHIRE ADULTS WELL-BEING AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Panel has been informed of the matters discussed at recent meetings of the Cambridgeshire Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Other Matters of Interest

57. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING) - PROGRESS

The Panel has reviewed its programme of studies at each of its meetings. Starting next year, work to scrutinise the budgets of those services falling within the remit of the Panel will be undertaken as part of the existing budget setting process. Before then, the final report of the Cambridgeshire Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee's study into domestic abuse will be delivered to Members and representatives of Circle Healthcare will be in attendance at the Panel's April meeting to discuss their plans for Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. In addition, the Panel has requested sight of the draft performance framework through the Corporate Plan Working Group before they are adopted.

58. WORK PLAN STUDIES

The Panel has received details of studies being undertaken by the other Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

59. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 – FORWARD PLAN

The Panel has been acquainted with the current Forward Plan of Key Decisions at each of its meetings.

60. SCRUTINY

The Panel has considered the latest editions of the Decision Digest and discussed matters contained therein.

S J Criswell
Chairman