
MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2012 AT 7.30 P.M. AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY

- Present:** Councillors Miles (Chairman), Amos, Broderick, C Callender, Calver, D R Mayzes and Tracey.
- In Attendance:** Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney) and Democratic Services Officer (Janey Nice).
- Also In Attendance:** Dr Shane Gordon (North East Essex Primary Care Trust), Pam Green (Head of Contracting, Clinical Commissioning Group), John Henry (Assistant Director of Estates, North East Essex Primary Care Trust) and Ian Stidson (North East Essex Primary Care Trust).

30. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present to this meeting of the Committee and, in particular, the visitors from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the North East Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT). The Chairman then outlined the Fire and Safety procedures to be undertaken in the event of the Fire Alarm being activated.

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors I J Henderson (with Councillor Calver substituting) and Patten (with Councillor D R Mayzes substituting).

32. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 September 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:

1. Minute 26 – Page 3 – Paragraph 2, second sentence to read “The Head of Life Opportunities confirmed that other housing associations had been concerned about the viability of Foyer Schemes and the future was not looking good for Foyers.”
2. Minute 26 – Resolution (b) to read “A Worklessness Working Party has been set up and a Cabinet Member be asked to report back to this Committee with any progress at the Committee’s meeting on 10 December 2012; and”

33. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE-MENTIONED MINUTES

Minute 26 – Foyer Scheme to Support Young People

Councillor Broderick reported that she had not received any information from Councillor Patten as to how a similar antisocial behaviour problem in Manningtree had been resolved. She confirmed that any helpful suggestions would be useful.

Minute 29 – Forward Work Programme

Members asked when the postponed item on the Locality Board would be coming to the Committee for discussion. The Democratic Services Manager confirmed this would now be in January 2013.

34. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 15.3

There were none.

35. PRESENTATION BY THE NORTH EAST ESSEX PRIMARY CARE TRUST (PCT) ON THE VIRTUAL WARD AND HOW THIS FUTURE SCHEME WOULD WORK

Dr Shane Gordon gave a presentation on the implemented Virtual Ward scheme which was already delivering a service in the Tendring area which had started in Clacton in January 2011. He explained how the scheme worked and how patients benefited especially being cared for in their own homes rather than in hospital. He said that the core of the people who were working within the scheme were a Community Matron, GP's, Social Workers and Ward Clerk with the voluntary sector also giving support. This, he said, could include a pharmacist going to the patient to arrange medication.

Dr Gordon explained that the aim of the Virtual Ward was pre-emptive care and patients being released from hospital would not normally be entered into the Virtual Ward. The co-ordinated approach he said was to stop people entering in and out of hospital unnecessarily.

Dr Gordon said that the Virtual Ward in Essex was one of the leading lights in the Virtual Ward scheme which had been borne out of necessity as patients' needs were complex and varied.

Dr Gordon said that there were two sites available on You Tube, a long and short version which gave me details of how the scheme worked. Dr Gordon confirmed that copies of the presentation would be sent to all members of the Committee which gave details of the You Tube sites and other information.

During discussion and questions from Members points were raised which included:-

- It was confirmed that the Virtual Ward scheme would be extended out to further areas and the Committee would be advised as to when and where this would happen;
- The voluntary sector were not contractually committed to the scheme but were able to advise of people who needed support, and could be placed into a patient's care package; and
- The Virtual Ward was still evolving and it was possible other areas could be included, e.g. dental care.

The Chairman thanked Dr Gordon for his very interesting and informative presentation and for talking about the valuable work the Virtual Ward was doing in this District.

36. PRESENTATION BY THE PCT TO DISCUSS FUTURE PLANS FOR GP PROVISION IN HOLLAND-ON-SEA

Ian Stidson briefed members of the Committee on the changes currently underway in the National Health Service (NHS) and of the significant changes within the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The PCT, he said, would cease working after the end of March 2013 and the CCG would be establishing seven offices with North East Essex being one of them. Mr Stidson said that the office would be responsible for services across Essex and that the National Commissioning Board would still be responsible for contracts taken over from the PCT with a responsibility for the continuance of services. Mr Stidson stressed the importance of consistency of services across the North East Essex area.

Mr Stidson said that the PCT and CCG were still committed to finding a suitable site for the GP Surgery at Holland-on-Sea even though the Brighton Road site had now been designated as a Village Green and was no longer an option available to them. He stated that Ipswich Road had already been identified as a potential site which was opposite the current practice and was ideally sited. John Henry, the Assistant Director for Estates,

stated that the PCT was currently looking at options for the new surgery and confirmed that the PCT was fully committed to a new GP surgery there.

Mr Stidson confirmed that there were financial problems and the whole project needed to go back to the start to draw up a timeline to see how the project could be pushed forward to completion and that he would be starting on this in the near future.

Councillor Halliday agreed that a timeline was needed and suggested that Councillor McWilliams be a suitable point of contact for passing information to the Cabinet.

Mr Stidson said that within a year, he hoped that the practice would be well on its way to completion. He confirmed his commitment to the completion of the project and that while siting of a new surgery at Ipswich Road was a possibility, he would be looking at other viable sites which would not necessarily be in the ownership of the Council. He confirmed that he would like to come back to the Committee in a year's time with a report on the progress of the new surgery at Holland-on-Sea and, in the meantime, would keep the Committee fully informed as to the progress being made.

It was recognised that the GP surgery at North Road, Great Clacton was excessively busy and it was possible that the potential for siting of the North Road surgery to Kennedy Way could be done in parallel with the GP surgery at Holland-on-Sea.

The Chairman thanked Ian Stidson and John Henry for attending the Committee to talk about the issue of the GP Surgery at Holland-on-Sea and looked forward to seeing them in a year's time with an update as to the long-awaited progress of the new surgery.

37. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

38. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the items to be discussed at future meetings of the Committee.

Councillor D R Mayzes asked if he could be invited to any meetings of the Committee where the issue of Family Projects would be discussed.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Chairman