

Minutes of: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 28 September 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Sandiford (Chair)
Councillors L Barnes, Crawforth, Farrington, Lamb, May (substitute for Stansfield), Milling, Morris, Neal, H Steen, C Pilling

IN ATTENDANCE: Steve Spoerry, Chief Executive NHS East Lancashire PCT
Senga Lindsay, LIFT and Commissioning Manager, NHS East Lancashire PCT
Sue Harvey, Chair of LSP Health and Wellbeing Theme Group
Philip Mephram, Environmental Health Manager
Jason Foster, Operations Manager
Councillor Peter Steen, Portfolio Holder, Environmental Services
Councillor Brian Essex, Portfolio Holder, Finance and Resources
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer

ALSO PRESENT: 2 Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, Dickinson, Forshaw, Thorne, Stansfield and Bernard Divine, Co-opted Member.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sandiford declared a personal interest as she was a Member on the LSP Health and Wellbeing Theme Group.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for discussion.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions raised under this item.

5. CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed Members that following the last training session by the IDeA, they had agreed to provide a further session free of charge in January 2010.

She welcomed Mr Steve Spoerry, new Chief Executive of NHS East Lancashire Primary Care Trust, Senga Lindsay, LIFT and Commissioning Manager, NHS East Lancashire PCT, Sue Harvey, Chair of Rossendale's Local Strategic Partnership Health and Wellbeing Group and Philip Mepham, Environmental Health Manager.

6. PRESENTATION ON ROSSENDALE HEALTH BUILDING

Senga Lindsay, LIFT and Commissioning Manager, NHS East Lancashire PCT, presented the progress of the new Rossendale Primary Health Care Centre.

Services to be provided on the Ground Floor would be as follows:

- Building Management
- Health Education Suite – run clinical services, but also allow for meeting rooms for organisations and health education
- Fairmore Medical Practice – which will take an additional 2,000 patients
- Treatment Room
- X-ray and Ultra-sound
- Podiatry
- Urgent Care/Minor Injuries which would be open 7am-11pm
- Birthing Centre which would be open 24 hours
- Ambulance Base – with the intention of a 999 ambulance, rapid response service and patient transport services
- Choose and Book – it was clear that this was a much needed service to be included in the build
- Information Pods – point of information for people to read up on health issues, which would include computer access, but still unclear as to what services would be offered
- Pharmacy – unclear as to the opening times at present

Services on the First Floor would be as follows:

- Ilex View Medical Practice
- Endoscopy
- Out-patients – as currently being delivered at Rossendale Hospital
- Staff Facilities

Services on the Second Floor would be as follows:

- Rossendale Hospice
- Physiotherapy
- Domiciliary Physiotherapy
- Rehabilitation
- Sessional services eg family planning, speech therapy and mental health services

The building would be handed over to the PCT in April 2010 with services to be moved in two phases commencing May 2010. Parking would be available for 120 patients and visitors, with 80 staff parking spaces at the old Rawtenstall Health Centre. There would be no charges for parking.

The Chair indicated that she was disappointed that audiology had not been included and Senga agreed to take this back for discussion.

It was agreed that Senga would contact the Scrutiny Support Officer prior to the opening of the facility to arrange for Councillors to visit the new build.

Resolved:

That the LIFT and Commissioning Manager be thanked for the informative presentation.

7. PRESENTATION FROM THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING THEME GROUP

The Chair welcomed the Chair of LSP Health and Wellbeing Theme Group who gave a presentation on the current and future work of the theme group together with information on the Local Area Agreements (LAAs) related to health and the Rossendale Partnership.

Within the Local Area Agreements there were 7 themes of which health was one. There were 35 indicators, 6 being specific to health, which were:

- Alcohol related admissions
- Overall health and wellbeing
- All age, all causes mortality
- Stop smoking – 4 week quitters
- Long term conditions
- Vulnerable people supported to live independently

The Rossendale Partnership was a mechanism for delivering LAAs in Rossendale.

The Partnership had 6 priority outcomes, 3 being specific to health, which were:

- Increased health and mental wellbeing
- Reduce health inequalities
- Increase physical activity

The Chair of the LSP gave a brief overview of the funding available to Rossendale which included, £1 per head from the PCT, which equates to

around £68,000, Communities for Health Funding and a one off Performance Reward Grant.

Philip Mepham, Environmental Health Manager, who is a representative of the LSP Health and Wellbeing Group gave a snapshot of health and wellbeing in Rossendale, indicating that the Rossendale Health Profile identifies outcomes of how people live their lives.

He explained that local authorities can influence what affects public health.

Resolved:

That the Chair of the LSP's Health and Wellbeing Theme Group and Philip Mepham be thanked for their presentations.

8 PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GRASS CUTTING TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Operations Manager presented a report which considered the recommendations of the grass cutting task and finish group.

Cabinet had received the report in April 2009 and recommended that the Portfolio Holder for Environment provide a response to the Task and Finish Group recommendations and submit a report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

In relation to the recommendation that consideration be given to purchasing a side-arm flail to enable cutting of steep bankings, the Operations Manager indicated that due to budget implications this would not be possible. An option they considered was to approach other authorities. Hyndburn and Rochdale Councils had offered assistance for use of their tractor and side-arm flail on a contract basis at a cost of around £9,000 for three cuts.

The Operations Manager indicated that in 2001 the Council had agreed to remove bankings from cuts, due to budget costs and health and safety reasons.

In relation to the South Ribble pilot scheme whereby LCC agreed for South Ribble to carry out grass cutting to highway verges borough wide, Rossendale had asked to be a part of the next pilot and a meeting had been arranged for 22 October to discuss this further.

With regard to the recommendation of the Task and Finish Group that there was a need for a lead officer to ensure that maintenance schedules are adhered to, the Operations Manager confirmed that he was the lead officer and the Council and LCC are in regular contact to ensure the schedules are matched as closely as possible.

The Operations Manager indicated that a report had been presented to Cabinet on the Residual Highways Agreement and the Council are

liaising with the Highways Agency and are building up better relationships.

With regard to ownership of land and what belongs to LCC and the Council, a report is being sent to Cabinet highlighting ownership of sites.

A question was raised about gritting and the Operations Manager confirmed that the Council and LCC were working together to produce a winter gritting policy.

Members raised concern at the length of time and process for receiving the response following the Task and Finish Group report and a suggestion was made to send the response to Council to enable all members to have discussion.

The Chair felt that whilst things are happening, it may be appropriate to ask for a further update in six months.

Resolved:

That Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee note the ongoing work being undertaken by officers in relation to grass cutting. However, the Committee are disappointed at the lack of substance and apparent progress in the report and would like an update report in March 2010 to include further initiatives taking place which will address the concerns of Rossendale citizens.

9. REPORT OF THE DENTISTRY TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented an interim report of the Dentistry Task and Finish Group.

She informed Members that a meeting was due to take place on 28 October with the Consultant in Dental Health for East Lancashire and the report would be sent to the PCT prior to the meeting to enable discussions to take place on the recommendations of the report.

A further report would be submitted to the next Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in November which would include the response from the PCT to the Task and Finish Group recommendations.

Resolved:

That the Interim report be forwarded to the East Lancashire Primary Care Trust.

10. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES PROGRESS UPDATE REPORT

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented a progress report which highlighted the work of the Policy Scrutiny Committee, the Performance Scrutiny Committee and the Task and Finish Groups.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 9.05pm

Signed (Chair)

Date.....