

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
(HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE)**

**Overview  
& Scrutiny**



**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT  
ON TUESDAY 6TH APRIL, 2010**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Hill (in the Chair);  
  
Councillors Fenton, Ibbs, Mcguire, Pearson and Webster.
- Also Present:** Alison Shaw, Acting Head of Provider Services;  
Ann Bisbrown-Lee, Sefton LINK;  
Barry Robinson,  
Colin Speight, Principal Manager, Health and Social Care, Sefton MBC;  
Colin Throp, Deputy Chief Executive & Finance Director, Southport & Ormskirk NHS Trust;  
Lyn Cooke, Head of Communications, NHS Sefton;  
Paul Acres, Chairman, NHS Sefton; &  
Robina Critchley, Assistant Director – Adult Services, Health and Social Care, Sefton MBC.

**98. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Howe and his Substitute, Councillor Mainey and Ian Ross, Sefton LINK.

**99. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declaration of interest was received:-

| <b>Member</b>   | <b>Minute No.</b>                    | <b>Reason</b>  | <b>Action</b>   |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Councillor Hill | No. 104 – NHS Sefton – Update Report | Personal – his wife is employed by Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust | Took part in consideration of the item and voted thereon. |

**100. MINUTES**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2010, be confirmed as a correct record.

**101. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Further to Minute No. 92 of 2 March 2010, the Chair advised the Committee that legal advice was currently being sought with regard to the

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decision by NHS Sefton to withdraw funding of the homeopathic service, and that a report on the matter was expected at the next meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the matter be noted and considered further at the next meeting.

### **102. REVIEW OF CHANGES TO PHLEBOTOMY CLINICS WITHIN LITHERLAND TOWN HALL HEALTH CENTRE**

Further to Minute No. 93 (3) of 2 March 2010, the Committee considered the report of the Interim Chief Executive, NHS Sefton, reviewing the changes that had taken place to the phlebotomy clinics within the Litherland Town Hall Centre, within the last few months. Prior to August 2009, the service had operated as an "open access" service, in that it was not appointment based, which had worked well for a time, but as demand increased during 2009, particularly during the summer months, this had caused a number of issues that were outlined within the report.

In order to address these issues, the capacity and demand for phlebotomy services at the site, and elsewhere in the south of the Borough, had been assessed and an appointment system introduced which created a waiting time for the service. In addition, the introduction of additional services in the area, requiring patients to receive blood tests as part of a programme, created additional pressures on the service, and a small number of complaints had been received in recent months.

A review of the service, particularly in the south of the Borough, remained on-going.

Members raised a number of concerns associated with the service and on-going delays in accessing it.

RESOLVED:

That NHS Sefton be requested to provide further details on the phlebotomy service throughout the Borough, together with the outcome of the on-going review of the service.

### **103. SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE AT WALK-IN CENTRES**

Further to Minute No. 93 (3) of 2 March 2010, the Committee considered a summary of attendance at walk-in centres, produced by the Interim Chief Executive, NHS Sefton.

The summary compared the number of Sefton residents who attended the walk-in centre in Liverpool, with the number of Liverpool residents who attended the walk-in centre in Sefton, for the period April 2009 to February 2010.

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Members raised queries concerning the charging arrangements for residents attending out of Borough centres.

RESOLVED:

That the summary be received.

### **104. NHS SEFTON UPDATE REPORT - APRIL 2010**

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Chief Executive, NHS Sefton, on current issues impacting on healthcare provision within Sefton. Information was provided on the following:-

#### **A. Interim Chief Executive Announced**

Anita Marsland would be acting as Interim Chief Executive for NHS Sefton until a permanent successor to Leigh Griffin could be secured. Anita held similar positions within Knowsley and would continue in those roles whilst carrying out the interim position at Sefton. Dr Janet Atherton, Sefton's Director of Public Health, would be working closely with Anita as her deputy during this period.

The Chair looked forward to working with her, via this Committee.

#### **B. Quality Awards for Community Health Services Staff**

The achievements of frontline healthcare staff had been celebrated at the recent first annual Community Health Services (CHS) Quality Awards.

CHS staff had been invited to make nominations in seven categories, reflecting the core themes in Lord Darzi's report on the future of the NHS, and those short-listed were chosen to display their work at the ceremony. Chief Operating Officer's Awards were also presented at the event. The report outlined the winners in each category.

The Chair offered congratulations for the recognition received by the winners for their contribution towards community health services.

#### **C. Child Measurement Programme**

As part of the National Child Measurement Programme, NHS Sefton was aiming to weigh and measure more of the Borough's children than ever before. The programme would ensure that NHS Sefton had a good understanding of how children were growing across the Borough compared to the rest of the country. More than 5,500 Sefton children had taken part in 2009. During 2010 NHS Sefton wanted to improve on the 95% success rate and was currently informing parents and carers of the new programme. Throughout the programme, NHS Sefton was able to gain information to look at national trends in underweight, healthy weight, overweight and obese children. The information gathered would contribute towards better local planning and service delivery. The programme was

also an effective way to engage with children and their families about healthy lifestyles, as fully- trained NHS Sefton school nurses implemented it.

**D. New Service for Healthy Sefton**

From April 2010 the list of services available through Healthy Sefton would be increased by the introduction of Chlamydia screening services across the Borough. NHS Sefton had been looking at a number of different ways to encourage more young people to be screened for Chlamydia. Other lifestyle services offered via Healthy Sefton included smoking cessation, social prescribing and community weight management programmes.

The Chair requested a break-down of the service in terms of take-up throughout the Borough.

**E. Improving Dental Health**

NHS Sefton had been ranked 16<sup>th</sup> out of 152 primary care trusts for access to dental services and 4<sup>th</sup> out of the 24 PCTs in the North West. A campaign was being developed to increase the number of people accessing dental health services, particularly targeting children and young people in the south of the Borough. The importance of regular appointments and understanding the importance of good dental health was being emphasised as over the previous 2 years, around 35% of residents had chosen not to access regular dental services and the campaign aimed to reduce this figure.

Councillor McGuire requested information regarding the number of orthodontists practicing within Sefton and what the waiting time for services was.

**F. Reducing Smoking-Related Harm in Sefton**

NHS Sefton was aiming to cut smoking rates in the Borough by 10% by 2013 and had already run 3 successful campaigns this year to help raise awareness of the benefits of quitting. Aintree University Hospital now offered on-site assistance from smoking cessation advisors from NHS Sefton and Liverpool who then offered sessions closer to home, once a patient had been discharged. The stop smoking service, SUPPORT could be accessed by calling Healthy Sefton on 0300 100 1000.

**G. Dying Matters Awareness Week**

The National Council for Palliative Care (NCPC) had set up The Dying Matters Coalition to help raise awareness and provide the support and information needed for people to have these conversations with loved ones. The project aimed to change attitudes and behaviours towards dying, death and bereavement and raise the profile and improve end of life care. NHS Sefton staff had supported a number of events during the campaign, which had run from 15 to 21 March.

The Chair requested feedback on the roadshows held in Southport and Bootle, as part of the campaign to raise awareness.

#### **H. Children's Minor Injuries Unit, Southport**

Councillor McGuire reported that no meetings regarding the above facility had been held for some time and questioned the commitment of the PCT to deliver such a service.

The Chair, NHS Sefton, indicated that relevant clinicians had raised a number of queries in December 2009, which had caused delays on the project and offered to forward a note to Councillor McGuire explaining the reasons for the delay.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) NHS Sefton be thanked for the report;
- (2) NHS Sefton's actions against recommendations and proposals contained in the report, and reported verbally at the meeting, be monitored as appropriate;
- (3) that NHS Sefton be requested to provide information to Members of the Committee on the following matters:-
  - (a) a break-down of the Chlamydia screening service, in terms of take-up throughout the Borough, together with the other lifestyle services offered, via Healthy Sefton;
  - (b) the number of orthodontists practicing within Sefton and the waiting time for receipt of services;
  - (c) feedback on the roadshows held in Southport and Bootle, as part of the Dying Matters Awareness campaign;
- (4) that Mr. Leigh Griffin be thanked for his time and input into the work of this Committee; and
- (5) that officers from NHS Sefton be thanked for their regular attendance at meetings of this Committee throughout 2009/10.

#### **105. DEMENTIA WORKING GROUP - FINAL REPORT**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive, formally presenting the final report of the Dementia Working Group.

The Working Group had made a number of recommendations that required approval by both this Committee and the Cabinet.

Members of the Working Group outlined the findings of the review.

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RESOLVED: That

- (1) the thanks of the Committee be extended to the Working Group Members, namely Councillors McGuire, Pearson and the Lead Member, Councillor Webster, and also to the Acting Head of Overview and Scrutiny, for their input into the review;
- (2) subject to the Cabinet approving the recommendations in (3) below, an update report back to this Committee, on the implementation of the recommendations within the review, be requested in six months time;
- (3) the following recommendations be supported and commended to the Cabinet for approval:-
  - A. That care home providers be advised by the Social Care and Well Being Directorate that it is considered to be essential for all care staff in care homes, particularly EMI homes, and domiciliary care staff, to receive training and attend training courses in relation to all aspects of dementia;
  - B. that the Social Care and Well Being Directorate be requested to consider and report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care) on the possibility of the implementation of a voluntary local kite mark or certificate, stating that the staff at care homes have undertaken training in all aspects of dementia care;
  - C. that the Social Care and Well Being Directorate be requested to consider and report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care) on the possibility of delivering training to care staff within some of the larger care homes and that all care homes be advised of relevant training courses and invited to attend;
  - D. that the intention for officers of the Social Care and Well Being Directorate to visit 2 star homes within the Borough be welcomed and the Director be requested to report to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Health & Social Care) on the possibility of extending this to provide for officers to undertake visits to all care homes that are likely to have residents who have dementia;
  - E. that the Social Care and Well Being Directorate be requested to prepare information on dementia and its early detection, to appear within the Directorate's web pages on the Council's website, providing links to the local Alzheimer's Society and other useful organisations;

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- F. that information on raising awareness of dementia, for all members of the public, be prepared by the Social Care and Well Being Directorate and circulated by the Head of Corporate Finance and Information Services with the Council Tax demands for 2011/12, the wording to be approved by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care), prior to its circulation;
- G. that the Cabinet be requested to acknowledge that dementia, and care for people with it, particularly for those people living alone without support networks, will increase in the future and place increasing demands on the Council and the NHS;
- H. that the Cabinet be requested to note that Members of the Dementia Working Group intend to submit a motion to Council in due course, requesting support for a cross-political motion, calling on the government to recognise that Sefton has a high number of older people which is likely to increase, within its population, and that the Central Government Formula Grant should allow the Council to meet adequately the needs that this section of the community requires, in order for them to achieve good quality of life, based on relevant age thresholds that adequately reflect the additional costs incurred in caring for an elderly population;
- I.
  - (i) that the Cabinet be requested to acknowledge the work undertaken by young carers of people with dementia and to request the Director of Social Care and Well Being to report on the provision of respite for them; and
  - (ii) that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) be requested to support the above recommendation;
- J. that the development of the Sefton Dementia Strategy be welcomed and progress be reported to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care) on an annual basis;
- K. that NHS Sefton be requested to provide information regarding:-
  - (i) the amount allocated to deliver the national dementia strategy, whether this figure is ring-fenced and what it will be used for; and
  - (ii) care of patients with dementia who are admitted to hospitals;

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- L. that, NHS Sefton be requested to ensure that GPs are provided with:-
  - (i) training, in order to detect early signs of dementia; and
  - (ii) full information on treatment and support available within the Borough;
- M. that NHS Sefton be requested to note that it is considered to be good practice for GPs to follow up those patients who go into care and nursing homes and to visit them, and to cascade this information to GPs throughout the Borough;
- N. that Mersey Care NHS Trust be requested to consider:-
  - (i) extending facilities for dedicated memory clinics throughout the Borough, particularly in the south and east, to possibly include the centres for health and well-being; and
  - (ii) whether the standard of testing at memory clinics requires revision; and
- O. that One Vision Housing, and other large social housing providers within the Borough, be requested to consider implementing mechanisms to identify, and offer support to, customers with early signs of dementia, particularly those who live alone.

**106. WORK PROGRAMME KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN - 1  
APRIL TO 31 JULY 2010**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive indicating that there were no Key Decisions within the latest Forward Plan that fell under this Committee's remit.

The Dementia Working Group had completed its final report, the findings and recommendations being outlined in Minute No. 105 above.

The cross-cutting Working Group, comprised of the four Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs, had met most recently on 16 March 2010, to continue its work scrutinising health inequalities within the Borough. Members had received background information on the Marmot Review, approved the scoping document, considered a draft communications plan and determined the use of the expert advisers' time. The next meeting was scheduled to be held on 17 May 2010.

Arrangements were being made for an Overview & Scrutiny Away Day event, all Members of the Council to be invited. The purpose of the event would be to consider how the Scrutiny function might operate in the future



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in order to best meet its objectives. Research was currently being undertaken on a number of different models and guest speakers from the Centre for Public Scrutiny had been invited to the event. Members of the Committee were urged to attend the event.

The Chair referred to the fact that this was the last meeting of this Committee for this Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the fact that there are no Key Decisions which fall under the remit of Health and Social Care within the latest Forward Plan, be noted;
- (2) the progress and actions of the Dementia Working Group taken to date be approved;
- (3) the progress and actions of the cross-cutting Working Group, to scrutinise health inequalities within the Borough, be supported;
- (4) arrangements for an Overview & Scrutiny Away Day event be noted and the event be supported;
- (5) Members and Officers be thanked for their input into the work of this Committee during 2009/10.