



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
(ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH)

SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE  
ON TUESDAY 23RD MAY, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor Page (in the Chair)  
Councillor Dams (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors Burns, Carr, Linda Cluskey, Dawson,  
Lynne Thompson and Marianne Welsh (Substitute  
Member for Councillor McGuire)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Cummins, Cabinet Member – Adult Social  
Care  
Councillor Moncur, Cabinet Member – Health and  
Wellbeing

**1. MANCHESTER ARENA ATTACK**

The Chair referred to the attack on Manchester Arena the previous evening and paid tribute to the emergency services, taxi drivers and the people of Manchester for the community spirit and resilience they had displayed in the aftermath of the attack. The Committee observed a period of silence and reflection in honour of those who had lost their lives or been injured in the attack.

Reference was made to Dr. Rob Caudwell, Chair of Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group, as a relative of Dr. Caudwell's friend had been killed in the attack, and the Committee expressed its deepest sympathy for the family concerned.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bliss and his Substitute Councillor Jones, Councillor McGuire, and Mr. Brian Clark and Mr. Roger Hutchings, Healthwatch Co-Optees.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**4. INTRODUCTIONS**

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Introductions took place.

### **5. CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS - PROPOSED MERGER.**

Further to Minute No. 60 of 21 March 2017, the Committee considered a letter received by Sefton Council's Chief Executive, submitted jointly from the Chairs of NHS Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), NHS South Sefton CCG, and NHS Liverpool CCG, formally requesting support regarding plans to merge the three CCGs.

Copies of a presentation entitled "CCG Working Together in Sefton and Liverpool", together with copies of a briefing paper entitled "Joint Working across South Sefton, Southport and Formby, and Liverpool CCGs", which had been submitted previously to the Committee at its Special Meeting on 21 March 2017, were circulated at the meeting.

Fiona Taylor, the Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton CCG, and NHS Southport and Formby CCG; Dr. Andy Mimmagh, Chair of South Sefton CCG; Dr. Kati Scholtz, Southport and Formby CCG; and Tracy Jeffes, Director, South Sefton CCG, and Southport and Formby CCG; were present from the CCGs to present the matter to the Committee and respond to questions put by Members of the Committee.

Fiona Taylor and Dr. Mimmagh went through the presentation entitled "CCG Working Together in Sefton and Liverpool" that outlined the following:-

- Background to the proposed merger;
- Reasons why the merger had been proposed;
- Merger to strengthen commissioning;
- Next steps involved in the process; and
- An invitation to discuss the matter and consider how the Committee would like to be involved in this work.

Members raised the following issues and a summary of the responses provided is outlined below:-

- How would Sefton's specific locational needs continue to be met, particularly regarding ageing populations and different needs required in the north and south of the Borough?

Commissioning for areas with different needs followed nationally agreed pathways and Sefton's specific requirements would continue to be met.

- How would residents be advised of the proposals before July, when the application deadline for any merger on 1 April 2018 was required by NHS England?  
'Big Chats' within local communities would be taking place in June.

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- What was the role of AQuA (Advancing Quality Alliance)?  
The role of AQuA was clarified and it was explained that it was discretionary whether to buy in services from the organisation, the role of which was that of a 'critical friend'. AQuA had led discussions with the CCGs considering joint working.

- What had been the initial reaction of NHS England?  
The CCGs were required to go through an NHS England ratification process if the proposals were to be agreed. NHS England had indicated that the delivery of care could not slip in the event that the merger was agreed and took place. NHS England had also pointed out that nationally agreed strategies may impact on plans and that, if the merger was feasible, it had to deliver on the financial side.

- Reference was made to the tripartite work undertaken between Sefton, Liverpool and Knowsley Councils. Why was Knowsley CCG not part of the merger?

Knowsley CCG had considered at the options but had decided not to be part of merger at the moment.

- Concerns were expressed that Sefton would play a minor role in formulating strategic policies and choices under a merged CCG and that local accountability would be lost.

Under the merger, a governing body would consider strategic measures and there would be representation from Sefton on that body. Sefton GPs would continue to be involved in decision making.

- Concerns were expressed that insufficient information and detail had been provided on the proposed merger.

The detail requested was considered to be operational in nature and was not necessarily fully available at the present time.

- What would happen if support was not obtained from the Councils concerned?

The CCGs would prefer to be able to demonstrate support from the Councils concerned and would need to discuss the matter further with governing bodies.

- How would the merger affect patients in Sefton?

The merger should not make any difference for patients and the delivery of care.

The CCG representatives also advised on the level of efficiency savings they were required to make and annual reductions to available budgets, causing on-going pressures to service delivery. They did not anticipate significant savings to be made in staffing reductions by the proposals, rather stronger commissioning capacity was anticipated in the delivery of care and savings were expected to be made in that delivery.

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With the agreement of the Committee, the Chair requested the CCG representatives to withdraw from the meeting in order for the Committee to formulate a resolution on the matter. Further discussion then took place on the issue.

The CCG representatives were invited back into the meeting and the following resolution was proposed:-

That, at this stage, the Committee considers it has insufficient information on which to reach a decision on whether the merger will mutually benefit all communities. An outline business plan and further assurances regarding opportunities, risks and funding are required before support could be given.

A show of hands indicated that there was unanimous agreement by those Committee Members present that the proposed resolution was agreed.

RESOLVED:

That, at this stage, the Committee considers it has insufficient information on which to reach a decision on whether the merger will mutually benefit all communities. An outline business plan and further assurances regarding opportunities, risks and funding are required before support could be given.