

Purpose

1. This report provides Members with an update on work being undertaken by Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust and Doncaster Primary Care Trust which is expected to lead to changes to acute health – hospital - services in North Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire.

Information

2. The County Council's Overview and Scrutiny function has a statutory duty to receive consultations from NHS Trusts for proposals for substantial variations or developments of local health services. It provides Members the opportunity to respond to the consultation and to consider:
 - i. whether as a statutory body the OSC has been properly consulted within the consultation period
 - ii. whether in developing the proposals for service change, the Trust has taken into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation
 - iii. whether the proposals for change are in the interests of the local health service
3. This report provides Members the opportunity to give consideration to work by Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust (PCT) that could lead the variation/development of acute health services in North Nottinghamshire, prior to the commencement of public consultation.

4. The Health and Wellbeing Standing Committee included a discussion on Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's "Ambitions for the Future" project in its programme of work in December 2009.
5. At that time Members expected to be informed that a public consultation was to be undertaken on the 'Ambitions for the Future' project. The project included four proposals for change which would affect the care provided to patients in Bassetlaw, Doncaster and Mexborough hospitals.
6. As part of the assurance process undertaken prior to the commencement of the consultation it was recommended that the proposed service changes should form part of a wider strategy.
7. At meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Standing Committee on 18 January and 1st November 2010, Phil Mettam, Director of Commissioning for NHS Bassetlaw informed Members that NHS Bassetlaw and Doncaster PCT would be taking forward recommendations from the assurance process. The Committee was told that the consultation on service changes put forward by Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals Foundation Trust as part of 'Ambitions for the future' project would not take place until the strategies identified in the assurance process had been developed.
8. At these meetings, the Standing Committee concluded that the proposals arising from the work undertaken would lead to a substantial variation or development of service. As with any possible change in health service, the Standing Committee expects PCTs to demonstrate ongoing public and patient involvement in:
 - Planning services
 - Developing and considering proposals for changes in the way services are provided; and
 - Decisions to be made that affect how those services operate

9. Guidance on the duty to involve and consult recommends:
 - a) discussing with patients and the public how services could be improved and resources used more effectively, to produce plans for change – this constitutes involvement in planning;
 - b) discussing ideas, experiences, and the reasons why the NHS body has Identified the need for change with patients and the public, and with key partner organisations – this constitutes involvement in the development of health services;
 - c) consultation on proposals for change, using evidence from the Involvement activities as well as clinical evidence for improvement of treatment and care – this constitutes consultation
10. A short briefing from NHS Bassetlaw and NHS Doncaster on the current position is attached as an appendix to this report.
11. Representatives of NHS Bassetlaw have been invited to attend the meeting to provide Members with an update on the progress of the Review and the emerging proposals for services across Doncaster and Bassetlaw.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that the Social Care and Health Committee agree to schedule further consideration of the proposals as appropriate.

Councillor Ged Clarke

Chairman of Social Care and Health

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Background papers:

CfPS Substantial Variations and Developments of health services, a guide
2005