

16 April 2012**Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR GED CLARKE****WALK-IN CENTRES UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To Provide the Social Care and Health Standing Committee with an update on service changes following the closures of Ashfield and Stapleford Walk-in Centres.

Information

2. The County Council has a statutory duty to receive consultations from NHS Trusts for proposals for substantial variations or developments of local health services.
3. After detailed independent consideration of such proposals the Standing Committee has power to make evidence based recommendations to improve and develop the proposals for the benefit of local communities.
4. The Standing Committee also has a statutory power to refer proposals to the Secretary of State for Health where it has not been consulted or it determines that they are not in the best interests of the local NHS. The local NHS is expected to put implementation of the proposals on hold once any referral has been made.
5. Following receipt of a referral the Secretary of State for Health may invite the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) to conduct an initial assessment to determine whether an independent review – to which the Standing Committee would be expected to provide detailed evidence - should be conducted.

6. On 21 March 2011 Members concluded a scrutiny review of NHS proposals for walk-in centres in Stapleford and Kirkby-in-Ashfield.
7. On 4 April 2011 the Committee referred the proposals to the Secretary of State for Health because it considered that the proposals were not in the interests of the health service. This was by virtue of:
 - insufficient assurance of adequate alternative services of the same or greater quality being in place before the proposals are to be implemented
 - the Trust not taking into account the public interest communicated through the consultation
8. In this instance the Secretary of State for Health invited the Independent Reconfiguration Panel to carry out an initial assessment. The Panel concluded that a full review would not be appropriate.
9. The Secretary of State for Health has accepted the IRP's comments which are set out below, and expects the local NHS to resolve them:
 - clarity from the users' perspective about how enhanced primary care, better access to GP services and their local Accident and Emergency Departments will combine to match or better what is on offer now, both in normal hours and out of hours.
 - implementation plans demonstrating the capability and commitment of the relevant providers (primary and secondary care) to deliver the proposed services to agreed standards
 - a comprehensive public communication programme
 - effective evaluation of the changes and a process of review and amendment as required
10. Representative of NHS Nottinghamshire County attended the meeting of the Standing Committee on 5 September 2011 and proposed action to address these issues and progress the proposals for walk-in centres in Stapleford and Kirkby-in-

Ashfield. NHS Nottinghamshire provided further quantifiable evidence which was accepted by Members. In addition, Dr Doug Black of NHS Nottinghamshire County stated that he was confident that local services and the primary care streams at King's Mill Hospital and QMC could accommodate extra patients arising from the closures.

11. The Standing Committee requested a further report in six months on the findings of the "effective evaluation of the changes and a process of review and amendment as required" and requested that the findings of the evaluation should include details of any impacts on emergency departments, out of hours GP services and GP practices.

12. Information provided by NHS Nottinghamshire County is attached as Appendix A.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Social Care and Health Standing Committee consider and comment on the update provided

Councillor Ged Clarke
Chair of the Social Care and Health Standing Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Background Papers

NHS Nottinghamshire County, Have your say... Walk-in Centres Review
Referral to Secretary of State for Health
Response of the Secretary of State for Health and IRP

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected All