



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Overview and Scrutiny

Findings and Recommendations on proposals from Bassetlaw PCT and Nottinghamshire County tPCT to develop GP-led health centres

DRAFT

23 June 2008



Background and Introduction

The Access to GPs: Walk-in Centres Select Committee is pleased to provide comments on the proposals from Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust (tPCT) to develop two new GP-led health centres.

The proposals are specifically that each PCT will commission a new GP-led health centre to be open from 8am-8pm every day of the year. The GP-led health centres will include an ordinary GP Practice and will also allow patients to attend on a walk-in basis.

The Access to GPs: Walk-in Centres Select Committee is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee designated responsible by Nottinghamshire County Council for considering this proposal. The Chair of the Select Committee is Councillor EDW Llewellyn-Jones

The primary aims of health overview and scrutiny are to ensure that:

- health services reflect the views and aspirations of local communities
- all sections of local communities have equal access to services
- all sections of local communities have an equal chance of a successful outcome from services.¹

The aim of formally consulting an Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to consider:

1. whether, as a statutory body, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been properly consulted within the consultation process;
2. whether, in developing the proposals for service changes, the health body concerned has taken into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation;
3. whether, a proposal for change is in the interests of the local health service.

The Select Committee met to consider the proposals on

- 13 May 2008
- 23 June 2008

The agenda, reports and minutes of these meetings are public record.

The content of this final response was agreed at a meeting of the Select Committee on 23 June 2008.

¹ substantial variations **and developments** of health services – a guide – CfPS 2005

Response

The Select Committee welcomes the proposals to commission two new GP-led health centres to be open from 8am-8pm every day of the year.

Addressing the specific aims of consulting the Select Committee:

whether, as a statutory body, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been properly consulted within the consultation process;

Both Primary Care Trusts approached the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide information on the proposals and an opportunity to respond. Further information has been forthcoming particularly with regard to consultation events and the Trusts have provided with all the information requested by the Select Committee.

whether, in developing the proposals for service changes, the health body concerned has taken into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation;

Both Primary Care Trusts have provided the Select Committee with evidence that they have attempted to consult with the public. The approach to consultation has been different with one Trust providing the public with a greater range of options regarding services and location for the GP-led health centre.

The Select Committee notes that location of the health centre has provided healthy public debate engaging some elected Members as local representatives.

whether, a proposal for change is in the interests of the local health service

The Select Committee notes that both primary care trust have developed their proposals based on local health needs and with a view to tackling health inequalities. The Select Committee supports this approach.

The Select Committee notes that walk-in type services are not widely available across the whole county of Nottinghamshire and that this proposal provides an opportunity to increase access to these services for residents. Whilst supporting the placing of the new GP-led health centres to meet local needs the Select Committee encourages the PCTs to ensure that the health centres are located in a way that provides as greater access as possible to these services for the wider community. Because of this the Select Committee would expect to see particular emphasis placed on travel and access.

Additional Comments

The Select Committee notes that several locations were proposed in Nottinghamshire for these centres based on local health needs. Only one of these communities will receive these services as a result of these proposals. The Select Committee requests that Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust contact the Overview and Scrutiny Committee within 3 months to provide details of how the health needs of the 2 unsuccessful locations might be addressed.