

Purpose

1. On 15 March 2010 Members concluded a scrutiny review of NHS proposals for future health services in Newark. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to receive a presentation from a group campaigning about those proposals.

Background

2. In November 2009 the Health and Wellbeing Standing Committee was consulted by the primary care trust - NHS Nottinghamshire County – on a substantial variation of NHS services in Newark.
3. A Review Group of elected Members concluded that :
 - i. as a statutory body, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been properly consulted within the consultation process;
 - ii. in developing the proposals for service changes, the health body concerned had taken into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation;
 - iii. the proposal for change is in the interests of the local health service
4. Based on public concern and all of the evidence available at that time the Review Group made three recommendations for improvement which were communicated to NHS Nottinghamshire County and Sherwood Forest Hospitals Foundation Trust in April 2010. Those recommendations were taken account of in the Trust's decision making process in June 2010.

5. The Standing Committee received responses to those recommendations in July 2010. Members also assessed the proposals using revised criteria set by the Secretary of State for Health following the General Election in 2010.
6. Having received a progress report on implementation of the recommendations and concluded that the NHS had met the new criteria, the scrutiny review of this matter has now concluded.
7. The Standing Committee has identified two issues from this review where it has requested further reporting. Representatives of the County Council's transport services group and the local NHS will be attending the meeting on 16 May 2011 to provide further reporting on transport and new services for patient in Newark.

Presentation

8. At the meeting on 28 February 2011 Members agreed to receive a presentation from a campaign group called "Save Newark Hospital".
9. An introduction to the campaign group is attached as an appendix to the report which provides a copy of the "about us" page from the website www.savenewarkhospital.org.uk. Representatives of the group will attend the meeting to provide the presentation.
10. The standing committee has been informed that the Campaign Group have no additional information to provide the Standing Committee that was not available or considered during the review of NHS services in Newark.
11. That review included consideration of issues of public concern and detailed evidence about the proposals. In the absence of any different evidence the conclusions of that review should remain.

12. The Standing Committee may wish to use the information provided at this meeting to identify issues where communication from the local NHS has not been able to mitigate public concern – and seek options from the NHS as to how these might be addressed in the future.

Recommendations

13. It is recommended that the Standing Committee

consider the presentation and identify any issues to raise with the local NHS at the meeting on 16 May 2011.

Councillor Ged Clarke

Chairman of Health and Wellbeing

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Background papers:

NHS Nottinghamshire County, Trust Board Papers – 26 November 2009 & 18 June 2010

Newark's Healthcare Review – Consultation document, November 2009

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

[“About our campaign](#)

This site is the Internet home of the campaign to Save Newark Hospital.

The campaign was started by local Town Councillors Laurence Goff and Harry Molyneux who collected 9,000 signatures on two petitions either side of Christmas 2009 and a Facebook group set up by 14 year old Newark resident Cara Hansen quickly gathered over 5,000 members. Despite this overwhelming support from the people of Newark the local NHS Trust and our other elected representatives chose to ignore the petitions and pursue their objective of downgrading services.

The Bassetlaw MP, John Mann, having experienced and beaten a similar threat to Bassetlaw Hospital in 2003 contacted the Labour Party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Newark, Dr Ian Campbell MBE, to offer his support for the people of Newark and Newark Hospital.

At a public meeting held on March 15th 2010 John Mann MP and Dr Ian Campbell MBE relaunched the campaign to save Newark Hospital. Dr Campbell agreed to head the relaunched campaign and generous donations were made towards a telephone ballot of Newark Residents, the balance of which will be covered by Newark Labour Party. The possibility of calling Parish Meetings to request a referendum on the future of Newark Hospital was also discussed and widely agreed to be an excellent way to get the NHS Trust to listen to the people.

We need as much help as we can get to ensure that Newark Hospital not only maintains its current level of services but is able to expand them in line with the planned growth in the population of Newark and the surrounding area. If you are able to help us please e-mail helpus@savenewarkhospital.org.uk as soon as possible.”