

minutes



Meeting	NHS CHANGE SELECT COMMITTEE (MILLBROOK)
Date	Monday, 20th November 2006 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Edward Llewellyn-Jones (Chair)
Mrs K L Cutts (Vice-Chair)

A	John Allin	A	Susan Saddington
A	VH Dobson		Parry Tsimbiridis
	Andy Freeman		Brian Wombwell
	Pat Lally		

Co-opted Members:-

Rev. David Turner) Patient & Public Involvement Forum
Ms. Barbara Venes)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Dr Mike Harris – Acting Chief Executive - NHCT
Dr Peter Rajan – Clinical Director - NHCT
Nick Daibell – General Manager – Adult Mental Health North Notts-NHCT
Karen Glynn – Joint Strategic Development Manager-NHCT
Sharon Eaton - Business Manager – Adult Mental Health North Notts-NHCT

Heather Jackson) – Central Notts MIND
Bob Painter)
Anita Jones)
May Clay)

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 20th November 2006 were agreed and signed by the Chair, subject to the last line of Page 3 being corrected to read Kingsley Ward.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allin and Dobson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest by members or officers.

NHS CHANGES (MILLBROOK) – PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE OF USE BY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HEALTHCARE TRUST

Councillor Llewellyn-Jones welcomed everyone attending from the Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust (NHCT) and Central Notts. Mind.

Matthew Garrard, Scrutiny Officer, presented the additional information that had been provided for the Committee by NCHT and stakeholders, as requested at the last meeting, which described the consultation process to date. In reply to a question from Councillor Cutts, Dr Peter Rajan, Clinical Director of the NCHT, confirmed that the 90 day formal consultation that began on the 1st November was not specific to the changes at Millbrook, and that it referred to the overall strategy for the county.

Dr Mike Harris, Acting Chief Executive of the NCHT, explained that the consultation specific to the changes at Millbrook had taken place between May and October 2006, and had included Advocacy Alliance, Mind, Rethink, service users, carers and staff representatives. Consultations with the Primary Care Trusts had taken place early in the process, and the Lit meeting in September had given them a more detailed account of the proposals. Councillor Freeman asked if the original outline communication strategy discussed at the June meeting had been met. Nick Daibell, General Manager Adult Mental Health North Notts, said that it had.

Reverend David Turner, of the Patient & Public Involvement Forum (PPIF), pointed out that Lit meetings were mainly for health service professionals and, although Mind had attended the Lit meeting in September, the PPIF had not been invited or consulted. At a meeting of the PPIF on 13th September, one of the members referred to an item in the local newspaper that a ward at Millbrook was closing. The Forum had then made contact with Mr Daibell, who had informed them of the proposed changes. Dr Harris confirmed that the Press had been notified as part of the consultation process.

Councillor Tsimbiridis asked the Trust to confirm that clinical need was the priority driving the proposed changes. Dr Harris said that the reduction in bed occupancy at Millbrook, moving 15 beds for the elderly to a more appropriate environment and improved care and support in the community, had allowed the opportunity to address the need for 'out of area' care and provide proper facilities for mental health care in the Central Notts. and Bassetlaw area by adapting the existing wards at Millbrook. He believed this could only be in the best interests of all the patients.

Councillor Llewellyn-Jones referred to the comments from Jon Wilson of the County Council's Adult Social Care & Health Department, who took the view that the proposals would provide proper facilities for the care of patients with mental ill health, and make certain that the treatment they received was appropriate for their needs. The department would monitor the impact of the reduction in the number of beds at Millbrook on its residential/nursing care provision so that the service did not suffer.

In response to a question from Barbara Venes, of the PPIF, Mr Daibell explained that the Trust had received an allocation of £1.5 million for the capital project, and that it would take approximately 12 months to complete the building work. He gave an assurance that any financial savings resulting from the closure of Trent Ward would be invested in the costs for the Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU).

Councillor Freeman wanted to make sure that the County Council's strategic overview was working, and that organisations planning changes did not rush into projects without proper consultation, because of unrealistic time limits set for raising the finance. He was concerned that the views of patients, carers and their supporters should not be an afterthought. Dr Harris agreed that the four weeks allowed for bids did mean that plans had to be drawn up quickly, but in this case, the provision of intensive care facilities had been part of the future plan for Millbrook for the last four years.

Councillor Llewellyn-Jones asked the representatives of Mind for their view of the proposals. They were concerned that the level of care and support required was available in the community, and that the reduction in the number of beds meant patients needing admission would be refused. Mr Daibell was confident that the figures provided demonstrated that there would be sufficient beds, and explained that this had been the case since the temporary closure of the ward in August. He confirmed that the crisis telephone number used by carers would be operational 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Patients who had accessed Trent Ward before would still have continuity of care as the staff had been relocated to the other two wards.

Councillor Freeman said the Committee needed to ensure that any decisions taken by the Trust should be made in a lawful manner, and with due regard to the opinions of service users and their carers, and the staff providing the service. Councillor Llewellyn-Jones agreed, and said that the consultation process was a time to encourage dialogue between the people involved, and to allow any issues to be resolved.

Councillor Lally commended the Trust for developing the proposals which he thought would improve service provision in the area.

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm.

CHAIR

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