



meeting **HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE**

date **2 May 2006** **agenda item number**

Report of the Chair of the Health Select Committee

Nursing Outstations

Purpose of the report

1. To provide the Health Select Committee with outline information on the use of non-medical premises for providing nursing in rural areas.

Background

2. Members identified Nursing Outstations as an area for possible Scrutiny and included it in the Health Select Committee's work programme.
3. Information has been received from Ashfield & Mansfield, Bassetlaw, Gedling and Newark and Sherwood Primary Care Trusts (PCTs).
4. The extent of use of non medical premises appears to vary across the County as do the particular services provided.
5. Bassetlaw PCT have highlighted that there are difficulties in providing some services from non-medical premises because of specific guidelines relating to infection control and management of clinical waste.

Non-medical Premises

6. Ashfield and Mansfield PCT provide community nursing, health visiting and school nursing from a number of locations including patient's homes, care homes, Sure Start children's centres, schools, nurseries and family centres to meet identified needs of the community.
7. Routine activity community nursing may also on occasion provide services from community based centres such as leisure centres in order to access hard to reach groups or provide wider coverage.

8. Services provided can include health visitor and baby clinics, sexual health support and flu vaccinations.
9. Bassetlaw PCT provide:
 - health education in schools in Harworth and Tuxford
 - smoking cessation at Harworth community centres and school
 - baby massage and weaning groups at Retford library
 - family planning at a number of venues including schools
 - district nursing services participate in flu fayres held in public places
 - the district nursing service is predominantly provided in people's own homes.
10. Gedling PCT provides a range of services from the Healthy Living Centre at Newstead. A nursing team provide treatment or advice for:
 - wound care
 - blood tests
 - injections
 - pregnancy testing
 - chlamydia screening
 - diabetes screening
 - C-Card Scheme
 - basic foot care
 - blood pressure monitoring.
11. Newark and Sherwood PCT generally use GP practices, with district Nursing Services and Health Visiting Services delivered within the community, mainly in peoples own homes, GP Surgeries and also from PCT community clinics and Sure Start premises.
12. Exceptions to this are:
 - a base for night nursing staff within the Anchor Housing Association Scheme in Southwell
 - support at 'Babes' group in Newark Town Hall
 - a joint intermediate care beds at Woods Court, Newark
 - a temporarily a baby clinic is being held in Rainworth Church Hall whilst the new Health Centre is being built.

Shared Priorities

13. The evidence provided by PCTs indicates examples of joint use of facilities with local authorities, schools and other agencies.

14. PCTs have agreed shared priorities and targets with local authorities and key partners through District Community Strategies, the County Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement (LAA).
15. These priorities and targets encourage partners to work together to achieve common goals, with close cooperation being crucial to achieving the desired outcomes. This close cooperation could include access to and sharing of premises, with it being to the benefit of local authorities and the communities they serve to work with PCTs.

Issues

16. No concerns with the use of non-medical premises have been identified in the collection of this information. Consideration could be given to the effectiveness of the approach currently being undertaken by the PCTs. Any pockets of individual need should be addressed at a local level and are possibly issues for district health overview and scrutiny committees to consider.
17. The co-operation between agencies, shared use and availability of non-medical premises for the delivery of shared health priorities could form an element of future scrutiny reviews of progress towards targets and achievements contained within the LAA and the Community Strategy.

Recommendations

18. It is recommended that

The Health Select Committee consider the information provided and identifies any additional action or information that is required.

Councillor James T Napier
Chair, Health Select Committee

Background papers: correspondence with PCTs