



meeting	KIRKBY GP SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE	
date	27 March 2007	agenda item number

Report of the Head of Scrutiny

Change to Local NHS – Improving access to GPs in Kirkby-in-Ashfield through *Fairness in Primary Care*

Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust

Purpose of report

1. To invite the Select Committee to consider a proposed change to the local NHS by Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust (NCtPCT) - Improving access to GPs in Kirkby-in-Ashfield through *Fairness in Primary Care*.

Background

2. S11 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 places a duty on NHS Trusts to involve and consult public and patients in
 - Planning services
 - Developing and considering proposals for changes in the way those services operate
 - Decisions to be made that affect how those services operate
3. S7 requires NHS Trusts to consult Overview and Scrutiny Committee on substantial variations/developments. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee initially considered the proposal from NCtPCT - Improving access to GPs in Kirkby-in-Ashfield through *Fairness in Primary Care* - on 26 February 2007.
4. This Select Committee is invited to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and should principally consider:
 - whether the proposals are in the best interests of patients and
 - whether appropriate consultation and consideration of consultation has been made.

5. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered that the proposals have a local context for Ashfield and has invited Ashfield District Council to nominate up to 4 Members to be co-opted onto the Select Committee. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also considered that the proposals have some strategic relevance in that the changes could be applied elsewhere in the County in the future.

Issues

6. NCtPCT is considering proposals to
 - Convert Byron Ward (currently not in use) in Ashfield Community Hospital into a primary care centre.
 - advertises for a new Alternative Provider of Medical Services to run the primary care centre at Ashfield Community Hospital.
 - move Kirkby Health Centre GP Practice (Dr Aye and Dr Gundkalli and all their staff) to the new development and become salaried GPs to the new provider.
7. The proposals are being brought forward as part of a national initiative - Fairness in Primary Care - in response to information showing that Ashfield is ranked third nationally for having fewest family doctors per head of population.
8. It is suggested that the proposals will ensure that there is sufficient access to a GP for the population and through developing and enhancing GP services aims to improve the health of the local population.
9. NCtPCT launched a public consultation on 17 January 2007 which runs until **16 April 2007**. A copy of the consultation is attached as an appendix to this report.
10. The Trust has been invited to attend the Select Committee meeting on 27 March 2007 and the Deputy Chief Executive, Eleri De Gilbert has accepted the invitation.
11. The proposals are specific to services provided in the County and are the responsibility of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and not the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has delegated authority to this Select Committee which has been invited to consider the proposals and provide a response.
12. A second meeting of the Select Committee has been scheduled for 2pm on Monday 16 April 2007. Members could identify further information that they require to be brought to this meeting. It is proposed that the Select Committee make a response on 16 April 2007.

13. In considering whether appropriate consultation and consideration of consultation has been made Members may wish to analyse how the Trust responds to the views it receives during the public consultation. A meeting has been provisionally scheduled for Monday 4 June 2007 should Members wish to pursue this option. This date could be altered if it does not suit the tPCTs timetable.

Recommendations

14. It is recommended that

the Select Committee consider the proposals and identify any further evidence that they require to be brought to the meeting on 16 April 2007.

Lynn Senior
Head of Scrutiny

Background papers

Correspondence NCtPCT 16 January 2007

NCtPCT Consultation - Improving access to GPs in Kirkby-in-Ashfield through
Fairness in Primary Care