

Purpose

1. To consider further information from NHS Nottinghamshire County on the proposed actions to implement the recommendations of the Secretary of State for Health for walk-in centres in Stapleford and Kirkby-in-Ashfield.

Information

2. The County Council has a statutory duty to receive consultations from NHS Trusts for proposals for substantial variations or developments of local health services.
3. After detailed independent consideration of such proposals the Standing Committee has power to make evidence based recommendations to improve and develop the proposals for the benefit of local communities.
4. The Standing Committee also has a statutory power to refer proposals to the Secretary of State for Health where it has not been consulted or it determines that they are not in the best interests of the local NHS. The local NHS is expected to put implementation of the proposals on hold once any referral has been made.
5. Following receipt of a referral the Secretary of State for Health may invite the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) to conduct an initial assessment to determine whether an independent review – to which the Standing Committee would be expected to provide detailed evidence - should be conducted.

6. On 21 March 2011 Members concluded a scrutiny review of NHS proposals for walk-in centres in Stapleford and Kirkby-in-Ashfield.
7. On 4 April 2011 the Committee referred the proposals to the Secretary of State for Health because it considered that **the proposals were not in the interests of the health service. This was by virtue of:**
 - **insufficient assurance of adequate alternative services** of the same or greater quality being in place before the proposals are to be implemented
 - **the Trust not taking into account the public interest** communicated through the consultation
8. In this instance the Secretary of State for Health invited the Independence Reconfiguration Panel to carry out an initial assessment. The Panel concluded that a full review would not be appropriate and made a number of comments which are attached as an appendix to the report.
9. The Secretary of State for Health has accepted the IRP's comments which are set out below, and expects the local NHS to resolve them:
 - clarity from the users' perspective about how enhanced primary care, better access to GP services and their local Accident and Emergency Departments will combine to match or better what is on offer now, both in normal hours and out of hours.
 - implementation plans demonstrating the capability and commitment of the relevant providers (primary and secondary care) to deliver the proposed services to agreed standards
 - a comprehensive public communication programme

- effective evaluation of the changes and a process of review and amendment as required
10. Representative of NHS Nottinghamshire County attended the meeting of the Standing Committee on 5 September 2011 and proposed action to address these issues and progress the proposals for walk-in centres in Stapleford and Kirkby-in-Ashfield.
11. The standing committee requested that NHS Nottinghamshire County provide further quantifiable evidence in support of the actions proposed by the local NHS to progress the recommendations of the Secretary of State. Representative of NHS Nottinghamshire County will attend the meeting to present the information.

Recommendations

12. It is recommended that the Standing Committee
- i. agree that the findings of the “effective evaluation of the changes and a process of review and amendment as required” be presented to the Standing Committee in due course
 - ii. request that the findings of the evaluation should include details of any impacts on Emergency Departments, Out of Hour GP services and GP practices
 - iii. recommend that the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee consider including behaviour in Emergency Departments in its programme of work.

Councillor Ged Clarke

Chairman of Social Care and Health

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Background papers:

NHS Nottinghamshire County, Have your say... Walk-in Centres Review

Referral to Secretary of State for Health

Response of the Secretary of State for Health and IRP