



meeting	KIRKBY GP SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE	
date	4 June 2007	agenda item number

Report of the Head of Scrutiny

Consultation Responses

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 how Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust's (NCTPCT) has responded to the views received during the public consultation - Improving access to GPs in Kirkby-in-Ashfield through *Fairness in Primary Care* – to ensure that the final decision taken by the tPCT is in the interests of local people.
2. To allow Members to receive further information requested from NCTPCT in relation to the proposed change to the local NHS and any responses from the tPCT to the recommendations made by the Select Committee.

Background

3. 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.
4. 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.

5. NCtPCT is considering proposals to:
 - Convert Byron Ward (currently not in use) in Ashfield Community Hospital into a primary care centre
 - Advertise 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. NCtPCT carried out a public consultation from 17 January 2007 until 16 April 2007. This consultation was considered by the Select Committee at meetings in March and April 2007.
9. Eleri de Gilbert, Director of Provider Development and Katie Buckle, Head of Planning, NCtPCT attended the meeting of the Select Committee on 27 March 2007 and provided Members with a presentation giving details of the proposals. Katie Buckle and Barbara Brady attended the Select Committee meeting on 16 April 2007.
10. At the meeting on 16 April 2007 Members made a number of recommendations which were incorporated into a response that was submitted to the tPCT Chairman and Chief Executive for consideration by the Trust.

Issues - Consultation

11. The Select Committee has a role to determine whether a Trust has conducted appropriate consultation when bringing forward proposals to alter the local NHS. The aim of formally consulting an Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to allow Members to consider:
 - (i) whether, as a statutory body, the OSC has been properly consulted within the consultation process;
 - (ii) whether, in developing the proposals for service changes, the health body concerned has taken into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation;
 - (iii) whether, a proposal for changes is in the interests of the local health service.
12. Guidance identifies four stages for the tPCT to address in conducting appropriate consultation:
 - at the formative stage, the consulting body must have an open mind on the outcome;
 - there must be sufficient reasons for the proposals, and requests for further information should be supported;
 - adequate time should be allowed for consultation with all key stakeholders, i.e. NHS bodies should not delay consultation until a situation is urgent;
 - there should be evidence of 'conscientious consideration' of responses by the consulting body
13. At the meeting on 16 April 2007 the Select Committee requested a meeting to consider whether appropriate consideration of consultation has been made.
14. The Select Committee requested evidence of conscientious consideration be brought to the Select Committee on 4 June 2007 including "feedback from the responses received during the consultation and how the tPCT has taken on board issues raised".
15. The Board Papers presented to the tPCT on 21 May 2007 are attached to this report. The Board papers make reference to some of the views expressed by the Select Committee but do not include the detailed response submitted. The tPCT is expected to provide additional information in response to the Select Committee's request, including any further information that was provided to Board Members.
16. As part of its response the Select Committee commented on the public consultation that had been carried out by the tPCT. Members may now wish to consider how the Trust has responded to the views it received during the public consultation, including those of the Select Committee.

Issues - Response to Recommendations and Further Information

17. At the meeting on 16 April 2007 Members made a number of recommendations for the tPCT to address:
 - i. the tPCT should immediately contact GPs in Kirkby in Ashfield to explore whether the proposed services and new facilities at the Ashfield Community Hospital could be provided by local GPs under a non APMS contract.
 - ii. there should be no loss or reduction of GP provision if the proposals are taken forward, with no current GPs involuntarily displaced.
 - iii. the tPCT should undertake further work with and encourage GPs in Kirkby in Ashfield to increase the services available to patients.
 - iv. the tPCT should look for further ways to improve health in Kirkby in Ashfield and that the proposals should not be considered as the only solution necessary.
 - v. the tPCT should develop a travel plan that addresses the needs of the Community and reflects the issues of travel, access and parking identified during the consultation.
 - vi. the tPCT should work in partnership with other agencies to develop the travel plan so that it compliments other work to address wider travel issues in Kirkby in Ashfield and the Town's Master plan.
 - vii. the tPCT attend a meeting of the Select Committee on 4 June 2007 and provide Members with the following information:
 - a. feedback from the responses received during the consultation and how the tPCT has taken on board issues raised
 - b. should the proposal progress, an overview of the tendering process and possible contract terms to be used for the APMS
 - c. an update on progress of the tPCT working with local GPs
18. The tPCT is expected to provide the requested information which Members may wish to consider and respond to.
19. Representatives of the tPCT have been invited to attend the meeting on 4 June 2007. The Select Committee may wish to discuss how the tPCT is responding to the recommendations made by the Select Committee.

Recommendations

20. It is recommended that

the Select Committee consider whether the final decision of Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust is in the interests of local people.

Lynn Senior
Head of Scrutiny

Background papers

Report on the public consultation: Improving Access to GPs in Kirkby in Ashfield through *Fairness in Primary Care* – NCtPCT Board Paper B/07/86

Correspondence NCtPCT Chairman and Chief Executive 23 April 2007

Findings and Recommendations on the proposals improving access to GPs in Kirkby-in-Ashfield through *Fairness in Primary Care*- Response of the Kirkby GP Services Select Committee

Correspondence NCtPCT 16 January 2007

Substantial variations and developments of health services – a guide. Centre for Public Scrutiny, December 2005

Overview and Scrutiny of Health – Guidance – Department of Health, July 2003

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