

COUNCILLORS

Mrs. Sue Saddington (Chairman)
Bethan Eddy (Vice-Chairman)

Mike Adams
Sinead Anderson
Callum Bailey
Steve Carr
David Martin - **Apologies**

John 'Maggie' McGrath - **Apologies**
Nigel Turner
Michelle Welsh
John Wilmott - **Apologies**

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Mike Pringle for Councillor John 'Maggie' McGrath
Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan for Councillor David Martin

Officers

Martin Elliott - Senior Scrutiny Officer
Noel McMenamin - Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance

David Ainsworth	-	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust
Lucy Dadge	-	Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB
Robert Simcox	-	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2022

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15 November 2022, having been circulated to all members, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor David Martin (other council business)
Councillor John 'Maggie' McGrath (other reasons)
Councillor John Willmott (other council business)

Apologies for absence were also received from Sarah Collis of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Healthwatch.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Saddington declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 “Newark Hospital - Expansion of Elective Capacity” in that a family member worked for Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, which did not preclude her from speaking or voting.

Councillor Eddy declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 “Newark Hospital - Expansion of Elective Capacity”, in that her husband was a Community Staff Nurse who had previously worked for Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust, which did not preclude her from speaking or voting.

4 NEWARK HOSPITAL - EXPANSION OF ELECTIVE CAPACITY

Lucy Dadge, Director Integration at Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB and David Ainsworth, Director of Strategy and Partnerships and Robert Simcox, Deputy Director of People of Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust attended the meeting to present a report that sought approval for the expansion of elective day-case activity at Newark Hospital.

The report stated that an opportunity had arisen for Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (SFHT) to utilise additional capital investment to expand elective day-case activity at the Newark Hospital site through the construction of a modular theatre and recovery area. It was noted that the expansion of elective capacity at Newark Hospital would support the delivery of significant reductions in elective backlogs in specialities such as Elective Orthopaedics, Urology and Ophthalmology. In introducing the report Lucy Dadge advised that the expansion of capacity would help reduce waiting times, improve the patient experience as well as assisting in the management of future demand.

Lucy Dadge advised that developing the Newark Hospital site would also enable the provision of access to additional services locally for Newark residents and would also help to address health inequalities for those patients. Lucy Dadge further advised that an additional benefit of securing additional elective capacity away from the main hospital site avoided the potential impact on patients of cancelled procedures due to urgent care demand. It was noted that other patients from across the SFHT areas who were facing long waiting times for procedures could also be offered care at Newark Hospital.

In order to progress the proposals during 2023 Lucy Dadge advised that SFHT had secured access to £5.6million of NHS capital funds to provide an additional modular Laminar Flow Theatre (to treat orthopaedic cases) and related recovery area, two ‘Minor Operations’ suites to increase capacity as well as additional capacity that would enable more procedures to be carried out in the outpatient treatment area.

A full briefing note on the proposals was attached as an appendix to the Chairman's report.

The Chairman welcomed the proposals for the expansion of capacity at Newark Hospital, noting that increased service provision at the site had been an area of focus for the Health Scrutiny Committee for some considerable time. The Chairman noted how beneficial this expansion of capacity would be for Newark residents who may have found travelling to Kings Mill Hospital difficult as well as how the expansion would also benefit patients across the wider area covered by the SFHT. The Chairman asked if there were any plans for an MRI Scanner to be provided at Newark Hospital. David Ainsworth stated that there was currently a CT Scanner at Newark and that plans being prepared to make a bid for additional funding for an MRI Scanner also noting the benefits that this would provide for patients.

In the discussion that followed, members raised the following points and questions:

- That the plans to expand elective provision at Newark Hospital were to be welcomed.
- Whether there planned expansion at Newark Hospital would also include paediatric services.
- Whether the current backlogs in the provision of non-urgent services were just the result of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic or whether longer term pressures on health services were also being felt.
- How confident were the ICB and the SFHT that they would be able to recruit to the new positions that would be needed to deliver the expansion at Newark Hospital?
- How many vacancies were there currently across health services in Nottinghamshire?
- When would patients across the SFHT area start to see the benefits of the expanded provision?

In response to the points raised, Lucy Dadge, David Ainsworth and Robert Simcox advised:

- That the current proposed expansion of elective services at Newark would not include paediatric services.
- That before the pandemic the health service in Nottinghamshire had had a good reputation for managing and providing timely elective services and in meeting targets for their provision. It was also noted that whilst increased demand for emergency care did create additional pressures around the provision of elective procedures that the current situation with elective backlogs was directly related to the impact of the pandemic.

- That 13 FTE positions would be needed to deliver the expanded capacity at Newark Hospital. SFHT colleagues were confident that these posts would be filled due to recent a recent proactive recruitment exercise that had led to 20 roles being successful filled. It was also noted that the opportunity would be provided to staff to work across SFHT sites would also make the new roles more appealing to potential applicants. Lucy Dadge also noted that SFHT's excellent reputation also made roles with the Trust attractive to potential applicants.
- There was a current vacancy rate across SFHT of 7% (around 350 vacancies). Members were advised that information around the number of vacancies across the Nottingham Universities Hospital Trust could be circulated outside of the meeting.
- That the practice of enabling staff to work across a range of sites and roles had the potential to reduce staff turnover as it made roles more varied for staff.
- That as the required investment had already been secured, the new services at Newark Hospital would hopefully be operational by April 2023. It was reaffirmed that the proposed services that would be provided at Newark Hospital would be to provide additional capacity across the SFHT area that would also be of benefit to all patients in the area. It was noted that the expansion of elective capacity would be of particular benefit to patients in the more deprived areas in and around Newark and would also increase patient choice and access across the entire SFHT area.

In the subsequent discussion that followed, members raised the following further points and questions:

- Whether there would be sufficient parking at Newark Hospital to cope with the increased number of patients accessing services at Newark Hospital. Members noted their concern at the cost of parking at the hospital and the impact of this on patients accessing services. Members noted that improved public transport links to healthcare sites would be beneficial for patient access to healthcare.
- When it would be known if the bids for increased diagnostic equipment across the SFHT had been successful. Members noted that it would be beneficial to patients if a permanent MRI scanner could be provided at Newark Hospital. Members asked what role that they could play in supporting activity to obtain an MRI scanner for Newark Hospital.
- Members welcomed the focus on proactive recruitment activity but noted that the rotation of roles for staff was not always successful in reducing staff turnover.

- What was the current status of waiting lists for elective procedures across Nottinghamshire?
- That the additional funding for expanded service provision at Newark Hospital was to be welcomed. It was noted that hopefully at a time in the future service provision at Newark Hospital could be further expanded in order to provide A&E services that would benefit residents of Newark and surrounding areas.

In response to the points raised, Lucy Dadge, David Ainsworth and Robert Simcox advised:

- Newark Hospital currently had good parking provision. This would be further enhanced by the addition of approximately 80 spaces that would be available for staff and patients to support the increased demand created by the expansion of services provided at Newark Hospital.
- The outcome of bids for funding for diagnostic equipment would be known in approximately six-months' time.
- There was currently a portable MRI scanner at Newark Hospital and patients from Newark could also access other diagnostic services at other SFHT sites. It was noted that it was an ambition to get a permanent MRI scanner at Newark Hospital given the importance of having good patient access to diagnostic services. Lucy Dadge advised that any future bid to fund an MRI scanner at Newark Hospital would benefit from the endorsement of the Health Scrutiny Committee.
- Waiting lists for elective procedures were actively managed and were reviewed daily. Waiting list management was based on patient need in order to deliver as many procedures as possible.

The Chairman thanked Lucy Dadge, David Ainsworth and Robert Simcox for attending the meeting and answering member's questions.

RESOLVED 2023/1

- 1) That the proposal to utilise new capital investment to expand elective day-case activity at the Newark Hospital site through the construction of a modular theatre and recovery area, be approved.
- 2) That the proposal to start a public and patient information publicity campaign from early January 2023, be endorsed.

5 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its Work Programme for 2022/23.

RESOLVED 2023/2

- 1) That the Work Programme be noted.
- 2) That the following items be considered at the 21 February meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee:
 - NUH Chief Executive - Welcome and Introduction
 - Maternity Services – Current Performance Update
 - Health and Care System Winter Planning 2022-23 Update.
- 3) That the following items be considered at the 28 March meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee:
 - NHS Dentistry Services, with a focus on access to services
 - Community Diagnostic Centres
 - Diabetes Services Update.
- 4) That the Democratic Services Officer liaises with the Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee and the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board to establish if an additional meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee can be convened in advance of the next scheduled meeting to consider the issue of Access to GP Services.
- 5) That the Democratic Services Officer liaises with the senior officers and the Senior Scrutiny Officer to establish the most appropriate way for scrutiny to be carried out on the delivery of the provision of Health Visiting for 0–3-year-olds that is part wider Healthy Families Programme.

The meeting closed at 12:15pm.

CHAIRMAN