

Membership

Keith Girling (Chairman) **A**
Martin Wright (Vice-Chairman)

Richard Butler
John Doddy
Kevin Greaves **A**
David Martin
Liz Plant

Kevin Rostance
Stuart Wallace **A**
Muriel Weisz
Yvonne Woodhead

Substitute Members

John Handley for Keith Girling
John Longdon for Stuart Wallace
Jim Creamer for Kevin Greaves

Other County Councillors in Attendance

Keith Girling (Items 5-7)

Officers

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| Melanie Brooks | Nottinghamshire County Council |
| Martin Gately | Nottinghamshire County Council |
| David Hennigan | Nottinghamshire County Council |
| Noel McMenamin | Nottinghamshire County Council |

Also in attendance

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| John Brewin | Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust |
| Sharon Creber | Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust |
| Deborah Wildgoose | Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust |

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 14 January 2020, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were signed by the presiding Chair.

2. APOLOGIES

The following apologies for absence were reported:

Keith Girling (Chair) – Medical/illness
Stuart Wallace – Other Council business
Kevin Greaves – Medical/illness

In Keith Girling's absence, the Chair was taken by Martin Wright, the Vice-Chair.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HEALTHCARE TRUST CQC INSPECTION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Before inviting attendees from Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust to introduce the item, the Chair expressed disappointment on behalf of the Committee that the information provided by the Trust lacked detail, making it difficult for the Committee to conduct meaningful health scrutiny on residents' behalf.

In response, Dr John Brewin, Chief Executive, apologised on behalf of the Trust. He undertook to provide a public-facing version of the Improvement Plan for the Committee's consideration at future meetings, and also undertook to provide additional information both verbally at the meeting and in writing afterwards, if requested.

Dr Brewin and Trust representatives Dr Deborah Wildgoose, Interim Director of Nursing and Sharon Creber, Deputy Director of Business Development and Marketing introduced the item, providing an update on the Trust's progress in addressing the significant issues identified by the Care Quality Commission inspection between January and March 2019.

Trust representatives made the following points:

- The inspection report overall finding that the Trust 'required improvement' was acknowledged as a fair and accurate assessment of the Trust's performance. The Trust had been working hard to address concerns raised, particularly in respect of some 25 'must do' requirement notices issued. The Trust was also anxious to highlight and showcase services demonstrating outstanding practice;
- Each action identified within the inspection improvement plan had been assigned an executive lead and clinical lead, responsible for completion. Regular updates were provided to the Trust's Quality Board and to its Board of Directors;
- While progress had been made in a number of areas, significant challenges remained, particularly in respect of staffing cultures, recruitment and retention.

Facilities and estates shortcomings identified during the inspection, for example the continued use of dormitory accommodation, would take longer to resolve;

- The Care Quality Commission was expected to conduct a comprehensive re-inspection of areas identified for improvement at some point shortly after April 2020.

During discussion, a number of issues were raised and points made:

- Melanie Brooks, Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Health highlighted a lack of direct engagement and co-operation between the Healthcare Trust and the Adult Social Care and Health department in Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) on development and improvement plans;
- In response, Dr Brewin acknowledged that the Healthcare Trust had been an inward-looking organisation for some time, and while steps were being taken to change its culture, there was considerably more work to do in this area. He expressed the view that the way that the competitive internal NHS market worked was not conducive to building links with external partners;
- Concern was expressed that a separate CQC inspection of high secure forensic services had identified instances of racist language used at Rampton Secure Hospital. In response, Dr Brewin expressed the view that while the incidence of racist language was isolated, it was taken extremely seriously and as a result a comprehensive package of support and training had been provided to create an environment of respect for both staff and patients;
- It was confirmed that the issue of having patient information on view on whiteboards had been addressed to the CQC's satisfaction, and the resulting learning had been shared throughout the organisation;
- It was confirmed that a majority of the Trust's Board membership at the time of the inspection had moved on, while there had also been several key senior executive appointments, which would help embed new cultures and practices within the Trust;
- Work was ongoing with the universities to fill vacancies, some of which were on a rolling programme of advertising. However, staff vacancies were proving a national challenge;
- Trust representatives highlighted a number of actions taken by the Trust following the inspection. These included changes to complaints procedures to make them accessible to those with learning disabilities and autism, the appointment of a Physical Health Modern Matron to improve the physical health and wellbeing of those needing mental health interventions, and the introduction of more robust medical management arrangements;

- It was explained that difficulties with ‘hand held observation devices’ referred to in the report were software issues with standard ‘tablet’ devices, for which an interim non-technical solution was in place;
- Councillors commended the Red – Amber – Green – Blue ‘traffic light system to demonstrate that actions had been addressed and completed. It was explained that the Blue ‘completed’ designation was only used when the action had been audited and verified. The real challenge, however, was to embed and maintain the improvement;
- Technical issues had until now prevented the completion of sound-proofing of the S136 suite to date, but these were being resolved;

In view of the paucity of information provided in advance of the meeting, and the scale of improvements required as a result of the CQC inspection, the Committee requested a further update, to include a public-facing version of the improvement plan, for consideration at the Committee’s May 2020 meeting.

5. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HEALTHCARE TRUST CHANGE OF SERVICE - MILLBROOK

Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust representatives Dr John Brewin, Chief Executive, Dr Deborah Wildgoose, Interim Director of Nursing and Sharon Creber, Deputy Director of Business Development and Marketing introduced the item, explaining the Trust’s recent agreement to purchase a hospital site in the Mansfield area from St Andrew’s Healthcare. The site had been identified as a suitable location to deliver the adult mental health care currently provided at the Millbrook Unit at the King’s Mill Hospital site, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

Trust representatives highlighted the following points:

- The current 78-bed unit had a number of shortcomings not considered conducive to current best practice. These included an over-sized ward, dormitory style wards, poor lines of sight for patient observation, inadequate secure facilities limited indoor space, first-floor accommodation which did not have direct access to external space and inadequate therapeutic and Section 136 facilities;
- The St Andrew’s Healthcare site – with appropriate remedial work – offered solutions to the issues highlighted above, which hampered the Trust’s ability to assure that services were compliant with Care Quality Commission standards;
- The site was 4 miles from the existing unit, was served by public transport, and was well-placed geographically to deliver a service in and for mid-Nottinghamshire;
- While adult mental health services will relocate to the new site, mental health services for older people will continue to be delivered at the Millbrook site. However, older patients will be able to occupy refurbished ground-floor ensuite accommodation which does comply with CQC standards;

- Work was ongoing with St Andrew's Healthcare to secure safe and appropriate transfer of St Andrew's patients to alternative accommodation. The Trust was buying the estate and not the service provided by St Andrew's Healthcare, so TUPE arrangements did not apply. However, a joint workforce plan was being compiled to enable transfer, subject to suitability.
- Service users and their families were being closely engaged so that they had input into these substantial service changes.

The Committee welcomed and commended the Trust's significant commitment to ensure CQC compliance for its service provision. The following points were raised during discussion:

- It was explained that the current cohort of patients at the St Andrew's facility came from a wide geographical area, and that transfers already taken place had freed up one ward on the site. It was also confirmed that the building had been built in 1985 and while not ultra-modern, was in no way obsolete;
- A request was made for further information on the cohort of medium secure St Andrew's patients being transferred, better to understand how and where these were to be accommodated, and how many were originally from Nottinghamshire;
- The difficulties of finding suitable accommodation for transferring adult mental health patients into a community setting were raised, both in respect of housing supply and provision of multi-agency support. It was suggested that further discussion and engagement by the Committee with District and Borough colleagues in Nottinghamshire could be beneficial.

The Chair thanked Dr Brewin, Dr Wildgoose and Ms Creber for their attendance at the meeting and requested a further update at the Health Scrutiny Committee's September 2020 meeting.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

Subject to agreeing to consider the following:

Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust CQC Improvement Plan - May 2020;

Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust - Millbrook – September 2020;

the Committee's Work Programme was approved.

It was also agreed to add the following the list of potential topics for scrutiny:

- Dentistry (specifically free care for those with cancer),

- Health Inequalities – reduced life expectancy (for discussion either under NHS LTP or Integrated care),
- Homelessness and Mental Health (with insight/input from Nottinghamshire Districts and Boroughs)

The Scrutiny Lead Officer, Martin Gately, was also tasked with exploring the possibility of having standing representation from Nottinghamshire Districts and Boroughs at future Health Scrutiny Committee meetings.

The meeting closed at 12:15pm.

CHAIRMAN