

Outline of Activity undertaken by this Committee on the Social Inclusion and Wellbeing Service	
Activity	Date
Introductory Report from Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust – Members agreed to examine the proposals	12 September 2006
Presentation from the Trust – Further information provided on the proposals	10 October 2006
Consideration of the formal consultation Information from Trust representatives, a service user, the Patient and Public Involvement Forum and Adult Services	14 November 2006
Further information from the Trust Committee agrees an initial response to the proposals (see appendix B)	12 December 2006
Consideration of the outcome of the public consultation Committee agrees a further response to the proposals (see appendix C)	13 March 2007
Update from the Trust	11 September 2007

Joint Health Scrutiny Committee 12 December 2006

Background and Introduction¹

The Joint City/County Health Scrutiny Committee is pleased to provide initial comments on the proposals from Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust to changes in the local NHS to provide a social inclusion and well-being service.

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee designated responsible by Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council for considering this proposal. The Chair of the Committee is Councillor EDW Llewellyn-Jones and the Vice-Chair is Councillor Gill Haymes. The Joint Committee is comprised of Members, who consider issues affecting the conurbation of Greater Nottingham, from the following local authorities:

- Nottingham City Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Ashfield District Council
- Broxtowe Borough Council
- Gedling Borough Council and
- Rushcliffe Borough Council

The primary aims of health overview and scrutiny are to ensure that:

- health services reflect the views and aspirations of local communities
- all sections of local communities have equal access to services
- all sections of local communities have an equal chance of a successful outcome from services.¹

The aim of formally consulting an Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to consider:

1. whether, as a statutory body, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been properly consulted within the consultation process;
2. 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;
3. whether a proposal for change is in the interests of the local health service.²

The content of this response was agreed by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee following from the meeting of the Joint Committee on 12 December 2006. It forms the initial comments of the Joint Committee.

¹ substantial variations and developments of health services – a guide – CfPS 2005

² see1

Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

Response

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee provides this initial response based on the information available to it on 11 December 2006 for consideration with the other responses to the consultation.

The Trust is requested to provide any additional information asked for in this response to the Committee's meeting of 13 February 2007.

Addressing the specific aims of consulting the Joint Committee:

whether, as a statutory body, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been properly consulted within the consultation process;

Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust approached the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee to discuss the proposals and Members are satisfied that there has been good dialogue between the Trust and the Joint Committee at a strategic level. The Trust has been forthcoming with all the information requested by the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee would expect to continue this relationship and receive further detail on the issues outlined later in this response.

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;

Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust is currently consulting patients and the public on the proposals for change. The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is concerned that to date the consultation has caused some confusion and anxiety.

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee will provide further comment on this issue when the Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust considers the responses to consultation. The Trust is invited to provide the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee an analysis of responses to the consultation (if available) and details as to how the responses will be considered as part of any decision. The Trust is also requested to provide the Committee with details of how service users and carers were involved in the development of the proposals.

whether, a proposal for change is in the interests of the local health service

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee recognises and supports the ambition of Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust to implement these changes. The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee does not believe that sufficient information is currently available to determine whether the changes are in the interests of patients. Members are concerned that the link between the proposals and the evidence

upon which they are based has not been clearly stated in the consultation documents

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee seeks further information from the Trust with regard to the following issues:

1. Timeline for change

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee invites the Trust to outline a clear timetable for implementing the Wellbeing and Social Inclusion Service.

2. Transition

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee welcomes the commitment to transitional support for service users but requests further detail. The Joint Committee invites the Trust to provide justification for the proposed duration that the support will be available and details as to the level of finance that will be available to provide it.

3. Appropriate for all?

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee recognises that concerns have been expressed that the proposed service may not be appropriate for the needs of every patient and that there is evidence of success from the current service. The Joint Committee notes that evidence is available in support of the benefits of the proposed wellbeing and social inclusion service but asks what evidence Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust has considered that supports or highlights the benefits of the current approach. The Joint Committee asks whether the new service will be appropriate for all and how the Trust will cater for those who can not engage with the new service.

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee notes that service users have expressed as part of the benefit of the current service, being able to interact with people with similar circumstances and being able to draw support, comfort and inspiration from them. The Joint Committee invites the Trust to comment on whether similar opportunities will be available as part of the new service.

4. Liaison with Other Services

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee notes that there are other services that would be affected by this change but that little detail is available as to the impact on those services. The Joint Committee asks the Trust to provide comment on how the new wellbeing and social inclusion service will operate with other existing services such as the Open Door Service in Beeston and Rushcliffe. (any services provided by Adult services?)

5. Patient Choice

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee notes that part of the national agenda for health and social care is patient choice and that little detail is provided in the proposals as to how the new service will promote patient choice. The Joint Committee invites the Trust to provide further details as to how the patient choice will operate in the new service and how it will link to local authority adult care departments and the use of direct payments and individual budgets.

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee seeks to provide further comment to the Trust as to whether the proposed changes are in the interests of patients following the close of the public consultation.

Joint City/ County Health Scrutiny Committee

Proposals to Develop a Well Being and Social Inclusion service

13 March 2007

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee considered proposals from Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust to develop a Well Being and Social Inclusion Service on 13 March 2007. The Joint Committee welcomes the proposals brought forward and the changes that have been made in response to public and patient involvement. The proposals appear to be in the interests of patients. The Joint Committee encourages the Trust to ensure the continued involvement of the public, users and partners in taking the proposals forward, as well as this committee as set out below.

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee provided a detailed response to proposals in December 2006 after consideration of the proposals since September 2006 and wishes to review progress on the development of this service. The Joint Committee asks the Trust to report developments in September 2007 with the opportunity for further updates in January/February 08 and July/September 08.

In September 2007 the Joint Committee would welcome:

- Details of the implementation plan and progress to date
- An overview of how the Trusts services work together – an operational perspective – and how transitions will be managed
- Information on how services are being enhanced and how the new domains and pathways are to work.
- Information on access and the use of resources such as buildings
- Evidence of continued user involvement and the involvement of partners

The Joint Committee would invite the Trust to keep the Chair and Vice-Chair informed of any difficulties encountered as plans progress.