

9 October 2018**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****REVIEW OF HEALTH SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2017-2018****Purpose of the Report**

1. To introduce a look back at some of the work of the Health Scrutiny Committee during 2017 and 2018.

Information

2. There are broadly two types of item contained within the Health Scrutiny Committee work programme. Firstly, issues which are of direct concern to Members and their constituents and appear on the agenda at Members' request. Secondly, issues brought to the attention of the Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee by the NHS. These typically involve changes to NHS services and may include substantial variations and developments of service. The role of the committee is to hold the NHS to account and ensure that changes that are being undertaken are in the interest of the local health service and have been properly consulted on.

IN-VITRO FERTILISATION

3. In 2017, Health Scrutiny Members registered severe concerns about changes to criteria for In-Vitro Fertilisation (Newark and Sherwood/Mansfield and Ashfield) how they had been consulted on. The reduction in age criteria for women – from 42 years maximum down to 34 - seemed unfair and created a 'post code lottery' as compared to other Clinical Commissioning Group areas. In addition, Members did not feel that the specific proposal to be implemented had been properly consulted on since it had emerged as a 'hybrid option.' The commissioners actually consulted on reducing the age range to 40. The Health Scrutiny Committee invited the commissioners to think again about this change to health services, and ultimately it was not implemented. Not only does this represent a positive outcome for patients, it also serves to demonstrate that the Health Scrutiny Committee is properly holding commissioners to account regarding consultation.

PAEDIATRIC ADMISSIONS AT BASSETLAW HOSPITAL (A3)

4. In January 2017, Bassetlaw Hospital closed its Paediatric Ward A3 to admissions at night due to national shortages of paediatric staff for safety reasons. This resulted in an enhanced assessment service during the day and inpatient paediatric care at Doncaster Royal Infirmary or Sheffield Children's Hospital. This arrangement was, and continues to be, of concern to Health Scrutiny Members because of the resulting additional travel which must

now be undertaken by patients and their families. This variation of service continues to be monitored by the Health Scrutiny Committee.

CHATSWORTH WARD NEURO-REHABILITATION

5. In October 2017, Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust declared an intention to withdraw from the provision of specialised neuro-rehabilitation at Chatsworth Ward. This was due to reasons of clinical sustainability, and again, was not due to financial factors but reflected difficulties in recruiting clinical staff. This matter was also subject to ongoing monitoring by the Health Scrutiny Committee. In July 2018, the Health Scrutiny Committee heard that the CCG's governing body supported the business case to commission guaranteed Neuro rehabilitation beds on the current Chatsworth Ward as well as to provide a community neuro rehabilitation service for patients in mid Nottinghamshire. Further work is now taking place with prospective providers regarding this service.

WINTER PLANS

6. The Health Scrutiny Committee takes a strong interest in winter planning issues. Bassetlaw Hospital attended in November 2017 to brief Members on their winter plan.

SUICIDE PREVENTION PLANS

7. Further to a request from the House of Commons Health Select Committee, in early 2018 the committee received a briefing from the Director of Public Health on arrangements for suicide prevention in Nottinghamshire. This resulted in Members receiving a briefing on suicide prevention in Rampton Hospital from Dr John Wallace, Clinical Director, and then undertaking a visit to Rampton Hospital. As part of its developing focus on outcomes from CQC inspections, the committee will also be examining Rampton Hospital's improvement plan.

GP FORWARD VIEW - NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

8. In April, the Health Scrutiny Committee held a special meeting solely devoted to examining the General Practice Forward View which commits an extra £2.4 billion a year to support general practice services by 2020/21. The purpose of this additional funding is to improve patient care and access.

NOTTINGHAM TREATMENT CENTRE PROCUREMENT

9. Since the re-procurement of services can result in disruption of services, the Health Scrutiny Committee has taken a strong interest in the re-procurement of the Nottingham Treatment Centre, where a range of different services are currently provided by Circle. The delivery of services at the Treatment Centre is subject to ongoing monitoring. In addition, Health Scrutiny Members have a standing invitation from Circle to observe an operation taking place.

FARNSFIELD GP PRACTICE

10. Councillor Laughton, the local Member for Muskham and Farnsfield, raised concerns about access to services at the general practice in Farnsfield. Councillor Laughton was able to raise the issue at March 2018's Health Scrutiny when the committee considered GP access in Mansfield and Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood. Councillor Laughton has indicated that the Health Scrutiny Committee was pivotal in providing the impetus for improvement and the development of a plan of action. In particular the committee provided a platform which enabled the Councillor to explain what was happening in this community and raise the issues directly with the commissioners. Further to the meeting over 400 residents participated in an engagement exercise – which while recognising that there is still room for improvement also allowed residents to praise doctors for their professionalism and the care they provide.

ASHFIELD HOMESTART

11. Further to the decommissioning of Ashfield Homestart services in 2017, in March 2018 the Health Scrutiny Committee asked Mansfield and Ashfield/Newark and Sherwood CCG and its partners to undertake a review of the decision, properly informed by the impact of the loss of the service on the families concerned. Members were very unhappy at the decommissioning of the service and felt that there had been a fundamental misjudgment about the importance of this service.

SHORTAGE OF HEAD AND NECK CANCER SERVICES

12. In June, after Members had been briefed by commissioners and the provider (NUH) on the shortage of clinical staff which had led to patients living outside the Nottingham City boundary having to be transported to other areas (e.g. Derby, Leicester and Sherwood Forest), the Health Scrutiny Committee registered strong concerns about the rationale behind this decision – i.e. levels of deprivation. Commissioners are seeking to address the shortage of staff across the East Midlands region, and once proposals are developed they will feature on the agenda of the Health Scrutiny Committee in the usual way.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Health Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Considers and comments on the information provided.

Councillor Keith Girling
Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Gately – 0115 977 2826

Background Papers

Nil

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All