

ITEM No 6

JOINT CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 NOVEMBER 2006

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL)

CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 In July this year this Committee received a presentation from Jenny Leggott, Acting Chief Executive of Nottingham University Hospitals Trust, about the Trust's proposals to develop a single site unit for children and young people. The Trust is currently consulting the public on their plans, offering the creation of a children and young people's inpatient unit on the Queen's Medical Centre site as their preferred option.
- 1.2 Given this Committee's unique position regarding major changes to NHS services in Nottingham, the Trust was keen for the consultation to be considered formally. This report provides the opportunity for this Committee to formulate a response to the consultation which can then be forwarded to the Hospitals Trust for consideration alongside any others they might receive.
- 1.3 As agreed at the last meeting of this Committee, and during subsequent discussions with the Chair and Vice-Chair, no representative of the Trust will be attending this meeting. It is intended that Members will formulate a response based upon the consultation document and their previous discussions. The Trust will attend the Committee's January meeting to discuss the outcomes of the consultation and the plans for the service arising from these.

2 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Members are requested to:

- a) consider the information contained within this report alongside the formal consultation document from the Hospitals Trust (attached as appendix A to this report); and

- b) use this information to formulate a response to the consultation.

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Meeting of 11 July 2006

Jenny Leggott, Acting Chief Executive of Nottingham University Hospital's Trust, attended this Committee's meeting on 11 July 2006 and gave a presentation to Members on the Trust's proposals to move children and young people's services to a dedicated unit on the Queen's Medical Centre campus. The slides presented at this meeting and the minutes relating to that item are attached to this report as appendices B and C respectively.

3.2 During the presentation on 11 July the following key points were made:

- It was proposed that Paediatric services be brought together on QMC campus with a designated entrance. Slide three in appendix B highlights which services are currently provided on which site;
- Patients and their parents had been involved in the development of the proposals;
- It was proposed that there would be a reduction in the number of beds to 128 (99 inpatient, 29 day care). This reduction was based upon a bed modelling exercise;
- Following the reduction there would be an average bed occupancy rate of 71%;
- The proposals would help towards achieving financial balance because of the efficiency savings to be gained;
- Other benefits include easier training for staff, no split care for patients, better emergency cover and better staffing arrangements;
- Provision for parents was to be 'optimised'.

3.3 During the subsequent discussion with Members the following areas of concern were raised;

- The impact of potential job losses, in particular specialist roles, on patient care;
- The provision of day and night accommodation for parents;
- Access issues, in particular parking at the site and the accessibility of public transport.

3.4 The Consultation

Nottingham University Hospitals Trust opened their formal public consultation on this issue on 9 October 2006. The consultation will run until 29 December 2006. The formal consultation paper is attached as appendix A to this report. Some of the key points outlined in the document are as follows:

- If approved, the Trust aims to have the new unit up and running by June 07;

- Transfer of services to the community has had an impact on the number of beds required;
- Children coming into hospital need access to specialist skills and a separate unit will help to develop this;
- If the plans are approved, the Trust hopes to have a separate entrance to a children's unit (or women and children's unit) by 2011;
- The unit will include "excellent educational and play facilities";
- Parental accommodation is to be included in the development;
- Queens Medical Centre is served by public transport and has parking;
- The transfer of patients who need to be moved between sites will be managed sensitively.

3.5 Other Consultation Activity

In addition to the formal consultation document, Nottingham University Hospital's Trust is carrying out a number of other consultation exercises including the following:

- Public Meetings
The Trust are hosting two meetings where the public can learn about the proposals and how to have their say as well as feeding comments back to the Trust at the meeting. The Nottingham University Hospital Patient and Public Involvement Forum will also be hosting a public meeting on this issue. Gerry Molumby, the Forum Support Officer for this PPI Forum attended the first of the Trust's public meetings and his opinion of the event is attached as appendix D to this report.
- Consultation Document
The booklet (attached as appendix A to this report) is aimed at the general population and invites individuals to comment on the proposals. It has been circulated widely to doctors' surgeries and other public buildings.
- Targeted Consultation
The consultation team are visiting Sure Start Centres and schools, in particular, special schools to discuss the plans directly with individuals who are likely to be service users or their parents. They have taken staff with them who can respond to individuals' concerns and have provided an opportunity for views to contribute to the consultation.
- Website
Details of the consultation are available on the Trust's website at www.nuh.nhs.uk/consultations. There is also a facility to respond to the consultation on line.

3.5 The Committee's Response to the Consultation

It is recommended that the Committee agree a response to the consultation at this meeting in order that Members' comments can

contribute to the Trust's development of plans. It should be noted that the Trust has already arranged to bring the responses to the consultation, together with their proposals for moving forward, to the Committee's January meeting and therefore this will not be Members' final chance to comment on the proposals.

- 3.6 Members could consider the following questions when discussing their response to the consultation:
- Does the Committee support the proposals for the children and young people's unit on the QMC campus?
 - Do Members feel that the proposals are in the interests of patients?
 - Do Members have any concerns about the proposals?
 - Do Members feel that the issues raised during the meeting of 11 July have been addressed?
 - Are there any additional comments Members wish to make in response to the consultation?

4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- Appendix A "A Proposal for the Future of Services for Children and Young People at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust: Public Consultation Document 2006"
- Appendix B Slides presented to this Committee's meeting of 11 July 2006
- Appendix C Minute of the item on Paediatrics, from the meeting held on 11 July 2006
- Appendix D Description of the public consultation event

5 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

None

6 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None

**Barbara Cast
Head of Overview and Scrutiny
Nottingham City Council**

Contact Officer: Nancy Watson
Telephone number: 0115 915 9827
Email address: nancy.watson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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