

Purpose

1. The County Council has a statutory duty to receive consultations from NHS Trusts for proposals for substantial variations or developments of local health services.
2. On 15 March 2010 Members concluded a scrutiny review of NHS proposals for future health services in Newark. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to receive the response of the local NHS to the findings from that scrutiny review.

Information

3. In November 2009 the Health and Wellbeing Standing Committee was consulted by the primary care trust - NHS Nottinghamshire County – on a substantial variation of NHS services in Newark.
4. The proposals from NHS Nottinghamshire County included:
 - A redesign of the way urgent care is delivered to ensure **'right place, first time'** care and treatment.
 - **More community support 24/7** for people with **mental health** problems, and their carers, so fewer patients need a hospital admission.
 - Streamlined and improved cancer services including investigation and recall.
 - **Specialist-led integrated hospital and community teams** and services available 24/7 for people with **long term conditions**, to provide improved ways of caring for patients.

- **Increased range and availability** of outpatient services at Newark Hospital.
 - Increased range and availability of **diagnostic tests**.
 - **More day case operations.**
 - **Newark Hospital beds for people to recover or receive rehabilitation** locally, after specialist treatment at other hospitals.
 - Newark Hospital beds for **local care of patients**, such as those patients with long term conditions.
5. A Review Group of elected Members was set up to fulfil the statutory role to consider whether:
- i. as a statutory body, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been properly consulted within the consultation process;
 - ii. 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;
 - iii. a proposal for change is in the interests of the local health service
6. The findings of the Review Group to each of these areas based on the information available at the time are attached as an appendix to the report.

Progress

7. The Trust Board met on 18 June 2010 to take a decision following the consultation. Representatives of NHS Nottinghamshire County have been invited to the meeting to provide further details to the Standing Committee of:
- the final decision taken by NHS Nottinghamshire County
 - how consultation was considered in the decision making process and
 - what happens next for services in Newark.

8. The Trust has also been invited to provide a response to the findings of the scrutiny review.

Further Scrutiny Role

9. The Standing Committee is invited to consider the further information provided and the response to the findings of the scrutiny review.
10. Based on any additional information the Standing Committee may consider whether the findings of the scrutiny review are still valid and whether the Trust has satisfied the need to take into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation and put forward proposals that are in the interests of the local health service.
11. Representatives of Sherwood Forest Hospitals Foundation Trust which provides services at Newark Hospital have also been invited to attend the meeting. Members may wish to discuss with them how the proposals will be implemented at the hospital.
12. The standing committee may wish to consider whether progress on implementing the proposals and additional services should be provided in due course.

Recommendations

13. It is recommended that the Standing Committee
 - i. consider the response to the findings of the NHS Services in Newark Review
 - ii. agree to include a report on progress developing additional NHS services in Newark on the programme of work.

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Chairman of Health and Wellbeing

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Background papers:

NHS Nottinghamshire County, Trust Board Papers – 26 November 2009 &
18 June 2010

Newark's Healthcare Review – Consultation document, November 2009

CfPS Substantial Variations and Developments of health services, a guide 2005

Findings of the Scrutiny Review

The Review welcomes the proposals to plan and commission further NHS services for the communities of Newark.

Addressing the specific aims of consulting the Committee:

whether, as a statutory body, the Review Group has been properly consulted within the consultation process;

NHS Nottinghamshire County have supported the work of the Review Group in considering and responding to the consultation on Newark's Healthcare Review.

Members have met with representatives from Sherwood Forest Hospitals, Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust, the East Midlands Ambulance Service and primary care practitioners. Members also had the opportunity to visit the Newark Hospital. The Review thanks all of the people involved for their co-operation.

Further information has been forthcoming particularly with regard to consultation events and all the information requested by the Review Group. The Review Group thanks NHS Nottinghamshire County for its support, attendance and for the answers provided by its representatives.

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;

NHS Nottinghamshire County has provided the Select Committee with evidence that they have attempted to consult with the public. The Review notes that the consultation has provided healthy public debate engaging some elected Members as local representatives.

The Trust and its partners have also shown a willingness to respond to views being communicated throughout the consultation. A specific example of this has been the availability of emergency ambulances to the communities of Newark. This has been of great public concern and in response the Trusts have commissioned an independent review to look into this in detail. Given the public debate on this issue the Review would expect to see the public fully informed of the outcomes of the independent review as part of this consultation process.

The Review is however disappointed that the major issues for the future of healthcare in Newark were not up for consultation – retaining and accident and emergency department at Newark and the closure of Friary Ward. The Review recognises that national standards dictate the changes to urgent care but would have hoped for greater public and patient involvement before the situation arose where patients at Friary Ward were transferred to other hospitals.

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

The Review Group notes that new national standards have a significant impact on the choice of services that can be made available at Newark. NHS Nottinghamshire County have approached this work with a view to commissioning good quality services to meet the needs of the people of Newark within the constraints placed on them nationally.

Whilst NHS Nottinghamshire County have informed Members that it is not possible to guarantee a continued spend on services to the same value as is currently spent, the Review would expect to see continued investment in new services in Newark as a result of this consultation. Newark Hospital is a facility held in great regard by the people of Newark and the Review expects to see the promised additional services provided there for the foreseeable future. The Review would also expect to see those services expand and improve to meet the proposed future growth for the Town.

The levels of demand for urgent care service at Newark Hospital provides a difficult question for the Trust. Based on the evidence provided, the Review believes that the Trust would be justified in operating a minor injuries unit from 7am until midnight. However Members are concerned that this would be insufficient at weekends and ask the Trust to consider a further option of providing additional urgent care services on Friday and Saturday nights. The Review recognises that there are a number of different ways that these additional services could be provided.

The Review is concerned about public access to services that are being moved away from Newark especially those services that would be provided at the Ashfield Health Village. The travelling that would be required for carers supporting patients - particularly those with dementia or other acute needs – and visitors is also of concern to the Review. The availability of transport between the Sherwood Forest hospital campuses has been identified as an issue of concern during previous scrutiny reviews of services in Mansfield and Ashfield.

The Review now believes that the matter requires detailed investigation. The Review is therefore asking the local NHS and the County Council to undertake an analysis of the need to improve transport between these sites. Members would also welcome the local NHS exploring options for supporting carers staying over night to reduce the need to travel.