

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4.00PM 28 MARCH 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Peltzer Dunn (Chairman); Allen (Deputy Chairman), Barnett, Deane, Harmer-Strange, Marsh and Rufus

Co-opted Members: Mr Robert Brown

PART ONE

62. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

62A Declarations of Substitutes

62.1 There were none.

62B Declarations of Interest

62.2 There were none.

62C Declarations of Party Whip

62.3 There were none.

62D Exclusion of Press and Public

62.4 In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in section 100I (1) of the said Act.

62.5 RESOLVED – That the Press and Public be not excluded from the meeting.

63. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 63.1 RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 09 February 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman.**

64. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 64.1 The Chairman told members that he had recently met with Amanda Fadero, along with the Chairs of other Sussex HOSCs, to discuss proposals for a Sussex Primary Care Trust cluster (to which Ms Fadero has been appointed as Chief Executive). Notes from this meeting would be circulated to HOSC members. Another meeting has been scheduled for early summer and members are welcome to submit questions to scrutiny support officers who will pass them on to Ms Fadero.
- 64.2 The Chairman also drew members' attention to a letter from Dr Richard Ford, Executive Director of Strategic Development, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, setting out planned developments at the trust.
- 64.3 In response to a question from Cllr Allen on the implications for staff on commissioner plans to re-design mental health 'access' services, Dr Ford told members that there were no direct implications, as all current access staff would be transferred (under 'TUPE' regulations) to the new providers.
- 64.4 In answer to a question from Cllr Rufus regarding patients being referred out of area, Dr Ford told the committee that 96% of referrals were being dealt with locally, but some referral out of area was necessary whilst the redevelopment of Mill View was taking place. These referrals were to other Partnership Trust facilities in Sussex so there was no additional cost incurred.
- 64.5 Cllr Marsh proposed, and members agreed that, that the best wishes of committee members be passed on to Lisa Rodrigues, Chief Executive of the Partnership Trust, who was currently in hospital for a planned operation.
- 64.6 Members also agreed to express their thanks to Dr Ford for his willingness to engage frankly with the committee on numerous occasions over the past four years.
- 64.7 The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Allen for all his work as Deputy Chair, to all HOSC members for their diligence and to support officers.
- 64.8 Mr Brown thanked HOSC members for their positive working relationship with the Brighton & Hove LINK and expressed the hope that organisational memory would not be lost.
- 64.9 Cllr Deane and other committee members thanked the Chairman for all his work over the past years.

65. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

65.1 There were none.

66. NOTICES OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

66.1 There were none.

67. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

67.1 There were none.

68. DENTAL SERVICES IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

68.1 This item was presented by Ms Geraldine Hoban, Deputy Director of Commissioning, NHS Brighton & Hove. (Anne Foster, Strategic Commissioner for Primary care at NHS Brighton & Hove had been due to present but was unable to attend due to illness).

68.2 In answer to questions from Mr Brown regarding additional investment in dental services, the number of additional patients treated, the cost per patient of treatment, provision for care homes and hospitals and the number of dental contracts suspended across the city, Ms Hoban told members that she would refer these issues to Ms Foster for a detailed written response.

68.3 In response to a question from Cllr Allen regarding what 'levers' the PCT had to encourage dental practices to operate in under-provided areas, Ms Hoban told members that PCTs had no powers to compel practices, but could try to attract dentists to specific areas, principally through sourcing suitable premises for dental practices.

68.4 In answer to a question from Cllr Marsh regarding the potential of negotiating with private dentists in under-provided areas to use part of their premises to deliver NHS care, Ms Hoban told the committee that the PCT had explored this notion, but that it was seldom very financially attractive to private practices unless the demographics of a local area provided the right mix of NHS and private patients.

68.5 In response to a question from Cllr Deane on dental outreach into schools, Ms Hoban told members that there was dental contact with schools, although this was focused on health promotion rather than on actual dental treatment.

68.6 In answer to a query from Cllr Rufus on whether there was unmet demand for NHS dental services in the city, Ms Hoban told members that this was difficult to quantify, but it was clear that there was dental capacity in Brighton & Hove that was going unused. The PCT was focusing its efforts on promoting use of dental services, with a particular concentration on those areas with fewest dental practices.

68.7 In response to a question from Cllr Harmer-Strange on special care dental services, Ms Hoban told members that the criteria for eligibility had been tightened in some respects for people who do not themselves have special care needs: for instance, the siblings of children who do require special care services. It was felt that generalist services would be more appropriate for these patients. However, the PCT was not anticipating any reduction in care for those who do require specialist care services.

68.8 In response to a question from the Chairman on the percentage of people who used private rather than NHS dental services, Ms Hoban told the committee that this data was not collected. However, the PCT was focusing resources on the most deprived areas of the city – i.e. areas in which it was very unlikely that a low rate of NHS use was due to a high level of private use.

68.9 The Chairman thanked Ms Hoban for her contribution.

69. MENTAL HEALTH: UPDATE ON RE-COMMISSIONING OF CITY ACCESS SERVICES

69.1 This item was introduced by Ms Geraldine Hoban, Deputy Director of Commissioning, NHS Brighton & Hove.

69.2 Ms Hoban told members that the proposed re-design of mental health access services had been approved by the city Joint commissioning Board and would proceed to tender in the near future, although community elements of the contract would be tendered later at the request of the local voluntary sector.

69.3 In response to a question from a member of the public on the capability of voluntary organisations to deliver the appropriate levels of service and to protect patient confidentiality, Ms Hoban told members that the new contract would be more explicit than the current contract around detailing the competencies required from bidders.

69.4 The Chairman thanked Ms Hoban for her contribution.

70. "SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE: A NEW VISION FOR CHILDREN'S CONGENITAL HEART SERVICES IN ENGLAND"

70.1 RESOLVED – That members decline to take part formally in the consultation process, but continue to monitor the progress of this initiative via the South East Coast HOSC Network, and reserve the right to reconsider their involvement should later stages of the planned reconfiguration impact significantly upon Brighton & Hove residents.

71. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO CABINET OR THE RELEVANT CABINET MEMBER MEETING

71.1 There were none.

72. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

72.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 5.45pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of