

Great Western Hospital Patient and Public Involvement Forum

Minutes of the Private Meeting held on Wednesday 17th May 2006 at New College, New College Drive, Swindon SN2 8DA

34.1 Attendance

Forum members present: Adrian Hawksley, Molly Heath, Sue Pye, Trevor Davies, Donna Reader

Apologies: Geoffrey Heath, Brian Niblett, Patrick Titman

HAP staff present: Sally Wood

34.2 Representing local patients and the public

34.21 Patient involvement has not been as great as members hoped it would be when they joined this forum. The need to link in with local voluntary organisations was discussed. Forum membership is not representative of the population of Swindon. However, forum members have wide community contacts and are able to pick up on issues of public concern and raise them with the trust. (eg raising communication issues which may arise when people for whom English is not their native language are in contact with the NHS)

It is the responsibility of the forum to ensure that the trust consults with appropriate organisations for impact assessments, not necessarily to take part in them as the only patient view.

The forum will continue to look at ways of involving patients and the public in local health care and ensuring that PALS consults appropriately.

34.22 Carillion – the forum does not have the same right to information from this PFI organisation as they do from the trust. Members wish to know whether they have the right to access to agreements made between the trust and Carillion (such as cleaning schedules).

Action: Sally to discuss the relationship between trusts, PFI organisations and PPI forums with Nick at HAP.

34.3 Board Report

34.31 Staff cuts

At the last forum meeting, Sue was tasked to ask the trust whether there were any proposals to sack staff for financial reasons. The answer in the Board meeting was 'Yes'. In part one of the board meeting, Sue was given access to a paper detailing a 'head count reduction' of 99 reductions in staff and 99 frozen posts. On the front of the paper it was noted that this could lead to a reduction in staff available for patient care. No press or members of the public other

than Sue were present at this meeting. Sue issued a press release on the day the announcement was due to be made to trust staff; it was included verbatim in a front page article in the Swindon Evening Advertiser.

34.32 Members looked at the figures in the latest Operational Report from the Board papers.

Action: Molly Heath was asked to raise the following questions at the May Board Meeting: 1) Now that it is a new financial year, has the trust addressed the issue of the day case rate targets not being met? 2) How is the trust addressing high out patients waiting times?

34.4 Future of the Local Health Service

Two members not present contributed their views on possible changes resulting from the Pathways for Change consultations by email. In the consultation currently taking place, it has been made clear that 'no change is not an option'. Members had a discussion and felt that it was too early to reach a consensus of opinion. More information is needed about the impact of changes in health care provision in other parts of Wiltshire on the Great Western Hospital and its patients.

Action: Sally to draft a letter to the trust on behalf of forum members, including questions about the potential impact of neighbourhood teams, new primary day care centres and the future changes at Savernake hospital on the Swindon & Marlborough NHS Trust and its patients.

34.5 Training Needs Analysis

Forum members made a decision not to complete the training needs analysis from CPPIH, although some members have already returned individual forms to HAP. The forum anticipates that training will be offered to members if and when changes are made to patient and public involvement nationally.

This forum does not wish the training needs analysis to be completed on their behalf by HAP. Should a submission by HAP to the Commission on behalf of this forum be compulsory, HAP are asked to refer back to the Chair (or equivalent) prior to the submission being made.

34.6 Montgomery Suite Impact assessment

Swindon PCT has requested the involvement of members of this forum (in addition to Swindon PPIF members) in an impact assessment about changes in service. This proposed reconfiguration of rehabilitation services involves the proposed closure of the 12-bed unit for the frail elderly at Badbury Court, called the Montgomery Suite. The current contract for 'hotel services' ends on 30-09-06. Blanchworth Care were

informed of this before trust staff and patients. There were concerns expressed about the possible pressure on beds in other health facilities. If the impact assessment results in a negative overall score, further consultation will result.

Action: Trevor and Molly offered to participate on the afternoon of May 26th. Sally to ask whether Age Concern have been approached to take part. Sally to ask Patrick if he wishes to participate and to liaise with Julie Pett to organise the impact assessment.

34.7 Transport enquiry

Letter received from Wokingham PPIF re transport to and from hospital.

Action: Trevor to fill in readily available information and arrange a brief meeting with Carl Beech to obtain further information. Questionnaire to be returned to Wokingham by deadline.

34.8 FSO Feedback

The forum adviser left the room. Members completed the FSO feedback form for CPPIH.

34.9 The next private forum meeting will take place in Room AG06 at New College, Swindon on Monday 19th June at 5pm, followed by a public meeting from 6pm – 8.30pm.

Papers for the private forum meeting on July 19th are due for submission by July 4th.