

MEETING IN PUBLIC:

HELD ON: Wednesday 1st March 2006 at 1400hrs

AT: Assembly Rooms, Christchurch Street West, Frome, BA11 1EB

NOTES OF MEETING

1. Welcome of those present and receiving apologies for absence

Nan Stephens (Vice Chair) chaired this meeting and she welcomed: Alan Bailey, Susan Crighton, Claire Crowley, Pauline Gillian, and Tony Shepherd
Also present: Rosemary Hasler (Health Advocacy Partnership)

Also present: Mendip PCT representatives: Alison Barkshire, Director of Service Development, Sara Hincks PPI Lead, Robin Smith, Chief Executive, David Ward, Assistant Primary Care Manager,

11 members of the public present

Apologies were received from: Heather Bearman, Carole Hounsell, Joan Woodman.

Also from: Mendip PCT representatives, Caroline Gamlin, Director of Public Health, and Stephen Harrison, Chair of PCT Board.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

3. Presentations from Primary Care Trust

(i) Review of Maternity Services – Alison Barkshire, Director of Service Development

St Peter's Maternity Unit at Shepton Mallet will be offering antenatal care, with postnatal care provided in mothers' own homes. The unit will not be open 24hrs for deliveries, but there will be 'Domino' delivery service in place from April 1st. West Wiltshire PCT have indicated that do not wish to provide maternity services in the Mendip area in the future. Mendip PCT is therefore looking for other providers to take over this service(possibly Taunton or Yeovil).

There will be a widespread consultation before any final decisions are made, and initially the PCT will be going to existing postnatal groups, and other groups with an interest in this topic (e.g. NCT) to ask for their opinions.

(ii) Changes to Out of Hours services – Robin Smith, Chief Executive

Changes to the Out of Hours service are part of the Urgent Care Review of Services. The new GP contract means that GPs no longer have to provide out of hours service. Therefore, Primary Care Trusts have had to set in place services to provide urgent care.

Last year, the decision was made to bring together Dorset and Somerset Urgent Care services. There are known to be some areas where achieving cover is particularly difficult, and these include Frome, Chard, Swanage, Lyme Regis and Burnham on Sea.

With the new service patients will have to make only one phone call, they will speak to a GP who will assess their problem and either

- send an ambulance,
- give the patient instructions for self care and an ongoing appointment,
- send a GP to make a home visit, or
- ask them to go either to a Minor Injuries Unit or a Treatment Centre

The service has been arranged so that virtually all patients will not have to drive for more than 30minutes to see a doctor.

Shepton Mallet will serve most of the Mendip area, and cross-border arrangements have been set in place for patients that live right on the borders of the PCT area (for example, at Norton St Philip)

There will be support from specially trained nurses in the Minor Injuries Units at Frome, Glastonbury, and Shepton Mallet.

The aim is to have an integrated model of service delivery.

(iii) Update on New Frome Victoria Hospital – Robin Smith, Chief Executive

A detailed re-design has been developed. A builder has been appointed.

Planning permission should be obtained in late April/early May.

Full business case will go to the Strategic Health Authority in June or July.

£12.5m has already been allocated for this project.

In late March/early April there will be an exhibition for the general public at the Merlin Theatre.

(iv) The current situation in dental services - David Ward, Assistant Primary Care Manager

Whereas previously money for dental services was kept centrally, it is now allocated to Mendip PCT, which should improve the local situation. The PCT does have enough dentists to allow it to spend the money, and there have been 11000 new NHS dental patients registered.

Children will continue to get free treatment.

The drop in centre will provide treatment for those who are not registered with a dentist, and no appointment is required

A new NHS dental practice has been set up at Vine Street in Glastonbury.

There appears to be a shortage of dentists in Frome, but this may be due to people who are not Frome residents registering with Frome dental practices.

4. Public Forum

Questions were raised by members of the public in response to the presentations:

Q. What are Domino deliveries?

A. (AB) This means that women contact their midwife when their labour starts, the midwife also goes to the unit and stays with the woman until the baby is delivered, and the woman is fit enough to go home.

Women who wish to have an inpatient stay will be able to go either to Paulton or to Frome

Q. In view of the fact that St John Ambulance have been asked to provide some Ambulance cover, might there be problems about transporting women in labour to other hospitals?

A. (RS) There should not be any problems. The use of St John Ambulances should not be viewed negatively – it is good for them to be involved with mainstream services, as it helps them to maintain their expertise.

Q. Will the money allocated be enough?

A. (RS) The contract will be on a guaranteed maximum price basis. If the costs go up, the developer will still have to meet this price. If there are savings, they will be split between the PCT and the developer.

Q. Will the closure of Westbury Hospital make any difference?

A. (RS) There are already some Wiltshire residents admitted to Frome, via the RUH. The closure may lead to some increase in the numbers of such admissions

Q. When will the changes in Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities happen?

A. (RS) The final decisions about reconfiguration should be made by the end of April, and the new arrangements should be in place by later this year.

Q. Will there be a list of NHS dentists published?

A. (DW) Yes

5. Minutes of last meeting

Accepted as a true record of the last meeting

6. Matters arising

All matters arising covered under other agenda items

7. Correspondence

(i) From the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre re: research into Expert Patient Programmes vs condition specific training

8. Matters for Information

(i) From Primary Care Trust

(a) Health event for Polish Community Sara Hincks reported that there is a growing community from Eastern Europe mainly from Poland in the Mendip area, and a recent meeting to inform this community about healthcare was attended by about 100 people.

(b) Practice – based Commissioning

(ii) From Health Advocacy Partnership

Rosemary Hasler reminded members about the various training and information opportunities available. It was agreed that Tony would represent

the forum at the 'PPI -the Bigger Picture' event at Salisbury Racecourse on 19th April.

(iii) Reports from meetings attended

Members Conference, held on 13th February in Warminster, Susan Crichton and Alan Bailey reported from the conference. The event was a useful one, but would have been improved by having shorter presentations and more time allowed for the workshops. Also during the workshop sessions, the overall noise level (due to the closeness of the tables) made it difficult to hear what was being said.

Tony Sheppard commented that he had not been able to attend the conference, but had found the summary notes sent out with the Members Newsletter comprehensive and informative.

9. Matters to be decided

(i) Response to Healthcare Commission's survey on Engagement

Members agreed comments to the Healthcare Commission – the main message was that if the Healthcare Commission wanted to be better known it needs to send representatives out into the Community to engage with groups of people directly, as expecting the general public to understand the workings and responsibilities of all the various health related departments and quangos, by reading a leaflet, is completely unrealistic.

Also better use could be made of local radio/phone-in programmes.

(ii) Update to comments on core standards for Healthcare Commission

Members discussed what additions and alterations should be made to the draft document that was developed in October 2005.

The main alteration was the addition of a comment about dental services in the 'additional comments' section. Otherwise, members were happy to let the positive comments that were made in October to be repeated for the 2006 statement.

It was agreed that Rosemary would circulate a copy of the revised document to all members, and that if no objections to the wording were received, that it be submitted to the PCT in good time for the end of the end of April deadline.

10, Members concerns/any other business

Alan Bailey asked if the PCT had a list of the services and visiting Consultants available at the West Mendip Hospital.

Tony Sheppard informed members about the Mendip Voluntary Sector forum to be held on the 17th March.

11. Next meeting Wednesday 3rd May 2006 at 1400 hrs

At: Theatre Foyer , Memorial Theatre, Christchurch Street West, Frome, Somerset, BA11 1EB