

MEETING IN PUBLIC:

Wednesday, 7th December 2005 at 1400 hrs

AT: ADULT LEARNING AND LEISURE CENTRE, PORTWAY AV. WELLS BA5 2QF

NOTES OF MEETING

1. Welcome to those present and receiving of apologies for absence

Alan Bailey, Heather Bearman (Weston PPI Forum representative), Carole Bullen, Susan Crighton, Pauline Gillian, Mike Hanley Carole Hounsell (Chair), Tony Shepherd Nan Stephens, Joan Woodman

Also:, Rosemary Hasler (HAP) Robin Smith, (Chief Executive Mendip PCT), Sara Hincks (PPI Lead Mendip PCT) Shirley Hinde, Mental Health Lead, Mendip PCT, Diane, Director of Social Care, Somerset Partnership NHS Trust.

2.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from: Carol Bullen, Claire Crowley,.
Also from: Stephen Harrison, Chair Mendip PCT,

2. Members' Declarations of Interests

No interests declared

3. Public Forum

No members of the public wished to speak

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

Accepted as a true record

5. Matters Arising

3. Maternity Unit - Review has been rolled into a maternity services review (information from PCT Board meeting). Carol has expressed our disquiet about the length of time that this inquiry is taking

6. Matters for Information

(i) Closure and relocation of mental health facilities in Mendip area –

Shirley Hinde, Mental Health Lead, Mendip PCT, Diana Rowe, Somerset Partnership NHS Trust gave members an update on changes to services

For further information, to request papers in a different format, or notify apologies – please address all correspondence to:

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Over a number of months the Somerset Trust has been working with a number of stakeholders to look at future development of services. Two changes have been accelerated due to financial considerations.

Green Lane – a residential care home in Frome – it provides residential care (not necessarily for Mendip residents). About 6 months ago assessment showed that the age range of the 11 residents is 35- 72. Some older residents were finding stairs difficult. It is possible to relocate these residents to more suitable accommodation, and to close Green Lane. There is already a temporary closure, and there will be a 12 week consultation about permanent closure, starting on December 12th.

Q. Who has been consulted?

A. Residents, carers, OSC, Somerset Partnership PPI Forum

Q. what about staff?

A. Move to nearby work or retire

Q. Are they all accommodated?

A. 2 are still not placed, but plans are in hand

Q. 11 units of accommodation are lost – are they being replaced?

A. There is a range of services, such as housing association, visiting support services, specialist accommodation services.

Q. If there is a funding shortfall for the not for profit organisations, will the Somerset partnership meet the shortfall?

A. At present there is adequate funding for these patients

Q. What is cost benefit to the Trust

A. More staff to be deployed to other areas, less need to employ agency staff (who are expensive)

Q. What are normal staffing levels?

A. 1 in charge and 3 others, on average.

Q. Did all the service users want to move? Are any of the service users unhappy?

A. They have all been assessed. Some are anxious 2 or 3 are really looking forward to having their own flat. – CSCI report has complimented the Trust on the way that this situation has been managed.

Q. How much turnover is there?

A. Some have been there a long time, others are quite recent arrivals.

Shepton Mallet -26 Charlton Road – Windsor Day Hospital (8 beds) and a small number of adult patients – relocate to The Bridge at Priory Health Park, and also St Andrew's. This is part of Review of older people services. There will be a better concentration of staff.

Q. Are the number of places the same?

A. Yes, there will still be eight places as part of a 20 bedded unit. It is a relocation, not a reduction – the Friends of Windsor Day Hospital are supportive of the move, after initial misgivings.

Q. Do these proposals fit in with NSF for older people?

A. Yes, it fits with these and other national best practice documents.

Q. What is the future of Windsor Day Hospital

A. It is hoped to make a permanent closure, and possibly to sell the house.

(ii) PALS Quarterly report

Sara Hincks answered questions related to the PALS report

Q. Redirection of orthopaedic referrals – to where do they get directed?

A. The majority offered appointments in Salisbury. – offers depend on social competency of surgical team for the operation needed by the patient. Also has to be in places with spare capacity.

The redirection of patients did cause difficulties for many patients, but there was no capacity whatsoever at RUH, and so some had to be redirected.

Q. How close is RUH to getting back on target with their surgical waiting lists?

A. Not sure, but all they are getting closer.

Sara asked members for their opinion as to what would be the best categories for the presentation of the information on the PALS database.

Other matters of interest to members:

Physiotherapy waits - Patient in BANES with a Somerset Coast GP experiencing long wait for physiotherapy.

- The PCT is currently trying to recruit Physiotherapists, and also reviewing skill-mix of staff in order to reduce waiting time.

Q. How are patients prioritised?

A. GP categorises in referral letter. – non urgent patients may wait for up to 18 weeks.

A. There are no national targets for physiotherapy, so the PCT is not financially penalised for long waits.

A. Not yet, but it may happen in the future.

Q. Is choose and book available for physiotherapy

(iii) Any other matter from Mendip Primary Care Trust

Pharmacy visits. Would forum members be interested in monitoring and inspecting Pharmacies, and reporting back to the PCT, or in joining in with the PCTs own monitoring and inspecting?

Nan suggested that it is better that the forum maintain its independence.

Q. Is there postcode lottery in prescribing?

A. No, as all PCTs have to conform with NICE guidelines.

(iv) Correspondence

(a) PCT – letter about misinformation from Conservative Party about hospital closures – there are no closures planned by Mendip PCT.

(b) PCT – will ask bus company to wait a bit longer

(c) First Bus – have difficulties due to other road users blocking the bus bay, but the bus company will do all it can to help passengers

(d) Sir Ian Carruthers - thanks for our comments on the day with the SHA.

(e) Primary Care Contracts Agency – further letter about Pharmacy at Glastonbury surgery

(f) Carole Bullen will not be renewing her membership. Therefore the Forum needs someone else to be Vice-Chair, and also on the BMW Group.

It was proposed by Carole Hounsell and seconded by Tony Sheppard and agreed unanimously that Nan be Vice- Chair.

Susan agreed to work with Nan on BMW issues.

Agreed that a letter be sent to Carole thanking her for work with the forum

(v) Information from Health Advocacy Partnership

Meeting with SHA 6th January 2006. to discuss the consultation on the White Paper.

Members asked to think about what format PPI should take in the future, so that they can comment at this meeting.

(vi) Report back from visits/meetings attended

(a) PCT Board meeting

-Frome Hospital

Preliminary works towards the letting of the contract are in hand. There is an open day planned for January 10th.
-Winter Plan has been issued

(b) Bath, Mendip & West Wilts meeting

It was agreed that this group would not become a formal group until the reconfiguration of the PCTs is finally decided.

Pathways for Change report (Wiltshire OSC) it seems from the interim report that there may be further hospital closures. Although none have been actually announced yet.

Publicity Conference 21st March Dentistry, Ambulances, Accessibility and Out of Hours

(c) Inspection visits to GP practices -

Evercreech (Joan)

Interesting visits – patients were being seen quickly

Park in Shepton Mallet (Susan)

Wells health Centre, Priory Health Park

Found both visits interesting and enjoyable – assessed practices using the key indicators document

(d) Primary Care Respiratory Group

Joan was shocked at number of people who are apparently suffering from asthma

(e) Regional CPPIH meeting

- Erica and Sandra both leaving - new manager South East Manager

- CPPIH reducing from 180 down to 100. There will be an infection control workshop 16th January at the Fry's centre in Keynsham. There will now be only 4 regions

7. Matters for Discussion

Due to lack of time this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting

8. Matters for Decision

Pattern of meetings in 2006. Members expressed a preference for meetings to be alternated between Frome and Wells, and to continue with a pattern of monthly afternoon meetings, on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

9. Members Concerns/Any Other Business

Diabetes – Taunton member is co-ordinating a county-wide group. Alan volunteered to be this forum's representative on this group.

Hearing aids – how long do people wait?

Wait is approximately 1 year.

This is a county wide problem and could be an issue to be worked on jointly by a number of forums.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday FEBRUARY 1st – venue to be announced