

CUMBRIA AND LANCASHIRE JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria and Lancashire Joint Health Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 15 March 2022 at 11.00 am at County Offices, Kendal

PRESENT:

Mr M Wilson (Chair)

Mr S Rigby
Mr D Westley

Mr CJ Whiteside
Ms E Lewis

Also in Attendance:-

Mrs L Davis	- Democratic Services Officer
Mr G Halsall	- Senior Democratic Services Officer - Overview and Scrutiny (Lancashire County Council)
Ms B Lees	- Executive Chief Nurse
Ms H McConville	- Senior Manager, Community Services Development and ICCs
Mr R Sachs	- Director of Governance
MS G Speight	- Associate Director for Nursing and Rehabilitation Therapies for the Integrated Community Care Group
Mr D Stephens	- Strategic Policy & Scrutiny Advisor
Mr P Woodford	- Director of Communications, University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay Trust

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ms L Collinge (Ms E Lewis substituting), Mr E Pope and Mr F Cassidy.

22 MEMBERSHIP

There were no changes to membership to note.

23 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made for this meeting.

24 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items on the agenda.

25 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2021 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

26 CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) INSPECTION REPORT AND RECOVERY SUPPORT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Members received update reports and a presentation to examine the progress which had been made in relation to the Trust CQC Improvement Plan following the outcome of the CQC Inspection that took place in April 2021. The presentation given to members focused on the Recovery Support Programme (RSP) Improvement Programme.

The Director of Communication gave an update on the Trust's position with regards to the New Hospital Programme, the latest Covid figures and the effect of the pandemic on the hospitals and staff absence and outlined the latest No Right to Reside figures. Members were informed that the Trust had declared a Critical Incident Level 4 in order to get the help and support needed but were advised that this had been stepped down recently to Level 3.

To conclude the Director of Communication advised additional investment had been made to Cumbria's Adult Social Care capacity, allowing agency involvement, but warned that this would be a challenge when the funding stopped. Partnership working was taking place to mitigate this. It was agreed that this issue be picked up by the re-formed, re-scoped Cumbria Health and Adult Task and Finish Group.

The Director of Governance outlined the context of the papers, explaining the robust reporting processes that were in place and the various governance arrangements to check and challenge, expressing confidence there was due diligence in place. A member expressed concern on delays caused by the audit regime but was assured that this was not the case and the right governance infrastructure was in place. The Trust were currently customising the Good Governance Institute Model, making it bespoke to their organisation.

The Executive Chief Nurse updated members on nursing staff and arrangements in place. A member raised concerns on staff recruitment and retention and whether there was scope to do more to assist with this. The Executive Chief Nurse outlined the Workforce Plan, attracting as many people to the system as possible and highlighted the work that was taking place with other Trusts and partners on this.

The Programme Direct - Recovery Support Programme then took members through the presentation. The presentation included progress made with plans and workbooks with all work streams, the updated RSP Programme Dashboard, management and reporting of the Exit Criteria, developments with the communication strategy, deployment of additional resource and next steps to be taken.

Members, in discussion, asked for confidence that the Trust was on target to meet the deadlines as there was timescale slippage between the reports that had been submitted to the Improvement Board in December 2021 and February 2022. Members also questioned whether a through lesson learned exercise had been undertaken to avoid old practices re-emerging. The Director of Governance acknowledged the slippage over the winter period, reported that some of the target deadlines had not been realistic but these had now been corrected and that the Trust was on target to meet the October deadline. The Director of Governance said the whole exercise was a “journey not a destination” and had confidence in the sustainability of the changes in the long term.

The discussion then centred around embedding the new practices, how to take those forward within the relevant frameworks such as the New Hospital Programme, the forthcoming Government’s White Paper and in relation to Local Government Reform and what members could do to assist with this. The Trust’s representatives confirmed commitment to the changes and outlined work that was taking place with partners and communities to drive the work forward.

Members asked what actions were taking place in relation to the red and amber ratings on the dashboard. The Trust representative’s confirmed that action on these was being progressed. A short discussion on maternity services took place. The use of technology to assist work was discussed and the Executive Chief Nurse reported on recruitment that had recently taken place for maternity services – a new Director of Midwifery and a new Consultant Midwife.

To conclude members were assured of the commitment and trust in staff to implement changes to have a sustainable patient centred service.

The Trust’s representatives were thanked for their informative report.

RESOLVED, that a further meeting be arranged in September 2022 to receive an update report.

27 COMMUNITY HOSPITALS BED BASE REVIEW

Members received a presentation that provided a progress update of Morecambe Bay CCG’s and University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay Trust’s consultation on service change for the Service re-design for South Lakeland which took place across the south Cumbria footprint from 15th November–31st December 2021.

The Senior Manager, Community Services Development and ICCs and the Associate Director for Nursing and Rehabilitation Therapies for the Integrated Community Care Group outlined the case for change, the consultation options and the rationale for option 3 (redistribution of resource into community staffing and a range of complimentary services with no Langdale Unit beds at Westmorland General Hospital) and the approximate cost of this.

In discussion, members spoke in support of option 3. The officers outlined work taking place around falls prevention encouraging delay and prevention and were encouraging a Champion Role to take this work forward. Involvement at community level was discussed with a suggestion of partnership working with other organisations for monitoring purposes. It was further suggested to utilise community networks in existence due to Covid, volunteers and social care students. The Chair advised on a neighbour scheme being considered in Cumbria.

Members thanked the officers for their report.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

28 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Cumbria and Lancashire Joint Health Scrutiny Committee was to be held in September 2022 – exact date to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 12.50 pm