

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ROTHBURY REFERRAL REVIEW GROUP (INFORMAL PLANNING MEETING)**

**Notes of the Health and Wellbeing OSC (Rothbury Referral) Review Group
meeting held in the
Chief Executive's Meeting Room, Morpeth
at 1.00pm on Tuesday, 4 December 2018**

PRESENT

Councillor J Watson (Chair, in the Chair)

COUNCILLOR

Cessford, T
Moore, R.

Rickerby, L

OTHER GROUP MEMBER

Nugent, D (Healthwatch)

OFFICERS

Bird, M - Senior Democratic Services Officer
Bradley, N - Service Director
Roll, J - Democratic Services Manager
Ward, A - Communications Lead - External

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-chair

AGREED that Councillor Watson be appointed Chair for the Review Group meetings, and Councillor Rickerby be appointed Vice-chair.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dungworth.

3. Membership and Draft Terms of Reference

AGREED that the membership and draft terms of reference of the Review Group, as circulated, be confirmed.

4. Work Programme

Members received a copy of the draft work programme, correspondence regarding the referral, and NHS England guidance regarding planning, assuring and delivering service changes for patients. Reference was made to the correspondence received on 14 November from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care regarding the referral and a number of actions required for the Health and Wellbeing OSC to follow up and report back on to the Secretary of State by the end of January 2019. All members of the Health and Wellbeing OSC had been invited to participate in this Review Group, and the confirmed membership included everybody who had volunteered.

Review Group meetings would be organised as necessary. This was a planning only, private meeting to establish the terms of reference and set the work programme. The next meeting would take place on Monday 10 December at 9.30am; members of the public would be able to attend to observe.

Members noted the reference in the Secretary of State's letter to there being no requirement to rerun the consultation process, but to instead focus on what facilities the health and wellbeing centre could be provided at the site in the future. It was important that the first meeting on 10 December included a clear introduction about what powers this Review Group did/did not have; it did not have the power to require the reopening of the ward/beds, and was advisory only.

The next steps were to consider what information/evidence the Review Group members wished Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust and Clinical Commissioning Group to respond to and articulate this at the meeting on 10 December.

The draft work plan detailed six areas that needed to be reviewed, which were the:

- future use of the site, content of wellbeing centre and review of inpatient beds
- impact of the temporary closure on patients, families and carers
- challenge against the fifth test within the NHS England "Planning, assuring and delivering service change for patients" Guidance
- query as to whether there was any evidence of an equality impact assessment having been undertaken prior to the public consultation
- issue in relation to OSC not being consulted on the temporary closure of beds in advance of the decision
- financial justification of closure of inpatients' beds.

During discussion, some of the key points to inform questions to Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust and Clinical Commissioning Group included:

- where had local residents received their care instead since the ward's closure and how much travel, cost and inconvenience this had brought

- the numbers and availability of staff required to provide services at Rothbury and value for money considerations
- details of the changes in any profile in the local population, to take into account for the provision of any future services
- any work to link up with NHS England to clarify its intentions with regard to the application of the 'fifth test' the ambiguity in the case of the Rothbury, for example the closure represented 100% of the beds in the area, but only 12 beds in total?
- detail about how much funding had been saved against the original target levels put forward in relation to the temporary closure
- any Equality Impact Assessment undertaken since the decision to temporarily close the facility, or due to be undertaken in future.

Other key considerations concerning the review/points raised were:

- the need for Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Group to convene a separate consultation meeting with residents
- a steer was required from Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Group about what timescales were realistic for providing the information being requested
- residents and the Save Rothbury Hospital group would be able to continue to express their views to Healthwatch, who would then report back any issues to this Review Group
- it was noted that the Clinical Commissioning Group would be represented at the Review Group's meetings by senior officers - Siobhan Brown and Rachel Mitcheson
- a press release was being organised about the remit of the review and the meeting on 10 December.

It was also confirmed that David Thompson would be representing Healthwatch at the next meeting.

It was then **AGREED** that a work programme be agreed, and questions be organised and approved at the meeting on 10 December for Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Group to address.

4. Next Meeting

As discussed, the next meeting would take place on Monday 10 December at 9.30am.

MDB, 2018-12-04