

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ROTHBURY HOSPITAL REFERRAL REVIEW GROUP**

**Notes of the Health and Wellbeing OSC (Rothbury Hospital Referral) Review
Group meeting held in the
Council Chamber, County Hall, Morpeth
at 9.30am on Monday, 10 December 2018**

PRESENT

Councillor J Watson (Chair, in the Chair)

COUNCILLOR

Cessford, T
Dungworth, S

Moore, R.
Rickerby, L

OTHER GROUP MEMBER

Thompson, D (Healthwatch)

OFFICERS

Bird, M - Senior Democratic Services Officer
Bradley, N - Service Director: Strategic Commissioning and Finance
Henry, L - Legal Services Manager
Lally, D - Chief Executive
Roll, J - Democratic Services Manager
Ward, A - Communications Lead - External

Bainbridge, V - Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group
Mitcheson, R - Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group
Ray, H - Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Riley, C - Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Councillor S. Bridgett
Public (25), Press (1)

1. Membership and Terms of Reference

The Chair welcomed everybody to the first meeting of the Rothbury Hospital Referral Review Group. Membership of the review group was sought from Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The membership was Councillors Dungworth, Rickerby, Moore, Cessford and Watson. As with any scrutiny review members had met to scope out the work by considering the letter from the Secretary of State and the Independent Reconfiguration

Panel (IRP) report. The role of the review group was to examine the findings set out in the report of the IRP which was received on 14 November together with the letter from the Secretary of State. Members had copies of both.

The group aimed to provide challenge to the CCG/ Trust and others and work with Healthwatch in order to provide a balanced response to the Secretary of State. Members would consider, test and give their view on proposals and the information provided. Meetings would be held in public but not as public meetings. They aimed to provide a balanced response to the Secretary of State by the end of January 2019 as requested but recognised that some aspects of the work would need to continue after that date and would be monitored by the Group.

The group would test and give a view on the proposals and evidence put forward but will not determine the outcome. Members would recall that the basis for the referral was that Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- was not satisfied with the adequacy of content of the consultation with the Committee and the time allowed;
- considered that the proposal would not be in the interests of health service provision in the area.

The IRP accepted the referral and reported to the Secretary of State, who then accepted the IRP's recommendations. The identified actions within the letter and report and a list of evidence required would form a work plan and timeline for the work and the group would submit a list of questions to the CCG and Trust at this meeting.

There was no instruction in the report to re-run the consultation or to re-open the beds but further action was required locally to agree and implement the Health and Wellbeing Centre and inpatient beds to be considered as part of that work and wider development of services at the hospital and in the local community. Healthwatch would be involved throughout the process as an independent voice.

2. Discussion/Questions to Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group and Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

The Chair explained that the review group needed to ask questions regarding the following areas identified by the Secretary of State, to be addressed as part of the review:

- 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.

A list of detailed questions in relation to the six areas of referral were provided at the meeting. In relation to the list, a member then queried what information has been gathered in relation to the impact of closure on patients, families and carers from the perspective of travel, cost and inconvenience? Members were advised that under the original proposal, a time and analysis assessment had been undertaken. Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group were working with Northumbria Healthcare to gather further data and information. The time analysis and needs assessment being undertaken would help shape any further options for the site.

The Chair then added that as the questions submitted were very detailed and the Clinical Commissioning Group and Northumbria Healthcare needed to investigate then provide answers; this group would reconvene for another meeting when the CCG and Trust's responses had been received. He asked if members considered that there were any other issues that the CCG and Northumbria needed to answer which weren't covered by the list of questions compiled? Another member added that it would be appropriate for members to wait and ask any supplementary questions to the answers that the CCG and Northumbria Healthcare would be providing.

RESOLVED that answers be organised for the list of questions, and a further meeting be arranged.

4. Work Programme

Members were advised that the group's work programme would develop based on the answers provided to the questions submitted.

5. Next Meeting

The date and time of the next meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MDB, 2018-12-10