



Buckinghamshire County Council

Minutes

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PARTNERSHIP

AGENDA ITEM: 3

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PARTNERSHIP HELD ON FRIDAY, 26 JANUARY 2001 IN MEZZANINE ROOM 3, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 12.34 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr T J Fowler (in the Chair)

Mrs P M Bacon, Mr J W Cartwright, Mr C Jones, Mrs E M Lay, Mr D J Rowlands, Mrs C S Willetts

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were received from Mr P Cochrane, Mr D C T Graves and Mr R Lingham-Wood.

IN ATTENDANCE

Roger Edwards – Policy Support Officer
Clare Gray – Committee Administrator

DECLARTIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 January 2001, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed.

2 MATTERS ARISING

Meeting with Buckinghamshire Association of Care Homes (BACH)

- Members had agreed at the last meeting that it would be helpful for the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Policy Support Officer, Roger Edwards to meet with BACH due to the short timescale before the review had to be completed. BACH were a trade organisation that represents care homes in

Buckinghamshire. Georgie Rixon, the Chairman of BACH attended with another home owner Peter Hall. Notes from the Meeting are attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

EPIC

- At the previous meeting, members had suggested that a representative from the Elderly Person's Intermediate Care should attend the meeting. However, it was noted that Mary Burton, County Intermediate Care Co-ordinator would be attending a future Select Committee Meeting and she would deal with the same issues as EPIC. Therefore it was agreed not to invite EPIC at the present time.

Site Visit

- Members agreed that the date for the site visit to South Buckinghamshire NHS Trust should be 19 February 2001, between 12-2pm. Members were asked to let the Policy Support Officer/Committee Administrator know whether they would be attending the site visit.

3 JENNY HUNT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AYLESBURY VALE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL (CHC)

Jenny Hunt, Chief Executive of Aylesbury Vale Community Health Council presented her report on winter pressures. The following points were raised:-

- There has been no adverse impact of winter pressures. This could be due to a number of reasons, for example there has not been the same flu crisis as last year. Also, the Millennium Planning exercise would have ensured better planning. For the first time in some years Stoke Mandeville Hospital was at green alert over Christmas – however, it had been at red alert during summer and early autumn.
- The CHC were not involved in planning action to deal with winter pressures. Their role was more one of a “watchdog” and acting as the patients' representative.
- During the Christmas period there were only 3 delayed discharges in Mid-Bucks. However, impact of the winter period (up to mid-February) had not been reached. In the post Christmas period there had been pressure on mental health services but the system has coped. Pressures on services were no longer seasonal.
- The lack of availability of home care in some places could present problems. Also, some people were reluctant to use the service because of the cost.
- Feedback from users of the Intermediate Care Services has been positive, however, there was no contingency back up for Teams.
- An area of concern to the CHC had been the limited opening hours of pharmacists over the Christmas period. In Aylesbury town there was one

pharmacist on Christmas Day open for one hour. The CHC had written to the Health Authority regarding this issue.

- The largest threat to the provision of health services was the inability to recruit and retain nursing and therapy staff. Members referred to the cost of accommodation in Buckinghamshire. However, talks had been undertaken with the District Councils with regard to the possibility of assisting in the provision of housing for health workers. Members noted that the NHS Plan referred to the need to recruit 20,000 extra nurses.
- On 25 January a number of CHC Members facilitated focus groups of over 65 year olds about their experiences of local health and Social Services (Bucks Age Concern). Jenny Hunt agreed to circulate a copy of the report to Members.
- Health and Social Services worked well in partnership but had very different cultures. One of the major difficulties was responsibility for funding which could be quite complex.
- Some delayed discharges could be due to the family requiring a specific home which was full. Intermediate care projects provided an interim care place whilst the home of their choice was full.

4 DAVID BECKETT, STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (PARTNERSHIPS AND PLANNING) BUCKS HEALTH AUTHORITY

David Beckett, Strategy Development Manager (Partnerships and Planning) Bucks Health Authority presented his report on winter pressures. The following points were noted:-

- Mid and South Buckinghamshire NHS Trust were visited in December by the DoH Winter and Emergency Services capacity planning Team (WEST), who explored issues relating to winter planning across the health system in Bucks and Milton Keynes. The report focused on hospital operational issues. It acknowledged that good joint working between the Health Authority and Social Services existed.
- It was noted that South Buckinghamshire Trust provided 3 months free rent for new nurse recruits. Mr Beckett reported that there were a number of overseas recruitment drives and that nurses were offered a reward payment for staying in post for a number of years. £128k had been set aside across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes to support recruitment and retention initiatives which were not likely to take effect until Spring.
- When a large number of emergencies occur, this would have an impact on regular elective work, waiting lists and patients being discharged, which could create a backlog in the system.
- The post of 'Homefinder' involved matching up patients with appropriate vacancies, finding available places and assisting with the home care package. It was expected that a database would be generated on the availability of beds in the County.

- A Member referred to the rise in the elderly population and the decrease in the number of home beds available. The Department of Health were encouraging the development of services to ensure patients could leave hospital earlier with initiatives such as 'Hospital at Home Care' and Rapid Response Teams. £900 million had been allocated over the next 3 years to spend on Intermediate Care. This could have an impact on the pressure to find long term residential placements for Social Services.
- In answer to the comment on the effect of winter pressures on long term funding by Social Services, it was noted that the Health Authority understood the pressure on Social Services. Discussions would be held in early February if there was a projected underspend, to see whether funds could be used to continue supporting patients who may be in interim care placements after 1 April 2001 or set aside funding for similar winter initiatives.
- Work needed to be ongoing to ensure there was clarity and transparency across health and social care systems. Resource and planning decisions in health have a large impact on social care provision. As there were a number of organisations involved in the funding of the winter pressure process (Hospital Trusts, Primary Care Trusts, Social Services), these complex implications need to be shared and resolved in partnership.

5 ACTION PLANNING

Review of Winter Pressures

It was agreed that the following issues should be raised at the next meeting with the Cabinet Member for Care Services for Adults:-

- Satisfaction with the way the organisations were working in partnership to ease winter pressures;
- Relationship with Care Homes
- How much the clients wishes were taken into account when making arrangements from discharge from hospital and the quality of care in homes
- Future financial issues

It was agreed that the following information should be circulated to Committee Members:-

- DoH Winter and Emergency Services capacity planning Team (WEST) report
- Information on the Health and Social Care Bill
- LGA document to "promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of local communities".

Future Action Planning

The Committee discussed which review they would like to undertake from March to May and agreed that it would be useful to look at Corporate Grants to support Voluntary Organisations.

6 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

9 February 2001
23 February 2001
1 March 2001

**MR T J FOWLER
CHAIRMAN**

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