

minutes



Meeting **ACCESS TO GPs: WALK-IN CENTRES SELECT COMMITTEE**

Date **TUESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008** (commencing at 2.00 pm)

**membership**

Persons absent are marked with `A`

**COUNCILLORS**

Chris Winterton (Chair)

A Andy Freeman  
Helen Holt  
A Pat Lally  
Sue Saddington

A Parry Tsimbiridis  
Brian Wombwell  
2 Conservative Members

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Vince Dobson

Debra Fores )  
Julie Smith ) Bassetlaw PCT

Jon Holliday )  
Charlie. Keeney ) Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT

**CHAIR**

The appointment of Councillor Chris Winterton as Chair of the Committee was noted.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of the Select Committee as set out above was noted.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Parry Tsimbiridis, who was on other County Council business.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None.

## **ACCESS TO GPs: WALK-IN CENTRES**

Matthew Garrard, Scrutiny Officer, explained that the purpose of the meeting was for Members to consider the proposals to develop GP led Walk-In Centres in Bassetlaw and Nottinghamshire.

Members then heard from the two PCTs as follows:-

Debra Fores from the Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust gave a slide presentation to Members. During which she explained the National Health Service's operating framework which involves the procurement for new GP led health centres and new GP practices. PCTs will also need to develop the new services in ways that provide the most convenient access to primary care services. The core criteria in relation to the procurement of the new GP led health centre are as follows:-

- it will be new services not expansion or replacement of existing surgeries or health centres
- investment is for additional capacity (including extra GPs, nurses and support staff)
- new and innovative services not necessarily new buildings or facilities
- every health centre will have GP services at its core
- all services commissioned following an open and transparent tendering process
- PCTs to maximise scope for integration with other community based services e.g. pharmacy, diagnostic, social care and the core criteria are to be as follows:-
  1. core of GP services including bookable appointments, walk-in services
  2. easily accessible location
  3. open 8 am to 8 pm, 7 days a week
  4. registered and non-registered patients
  5. maximising opportunities for integration with other community based services.

Debra informed Members that it was hoped to establish and start a new GP led health centre by April 2009 with the view to it being situated in the Manton area of Worksop. Although there are two GP surgeries that cover the Manton area these are not located in the Manton locality. They are approximately two miles outside that area.

Members asked questions and made comments as follows:-

- Have you consulted across Bassetlaw?
  - yes, the consultation has been across Worksop and Bassetlaw.
- Would there be additional GPs if a local surgery was awarded the contract?
  - yes, there would have to be additional GPs and nurses over and above the GPs already employed. It is being stipulated that additional resources would have to be available if local GP surgeries apply.
- How does Manton compare to other areas of deprivation, for example Mansfield?
  - Manton is the most deprived area in Bassetlaw. It is an old mining area with a lot of unemployment and other social problems.
- How do you get people to understand what you wish to provide?
  - there has been a lot of consultation with patient groups. We have had a lot of feedback but we do accept that it is not easy to explain what it is we are striving to achieve to the user. There is a public meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May, where we will explain what happens if patients start using this facility 'en masse' as their surgery. There needs to be clarity about what is being offered. This is why Bassetlaw PCT is currently reviewing opening hours for GPs and until a contract is awarded we need to ensure people know what is available to them.

Members thanked Debra and Julie for their presentation.

### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY TEACHING PRIMARY CARE TRUST**

Jon Holliday gave a slide presentation to Members. He explained Bassetlaw had already outlined the procuring arrangements for the GP led health centre. He also informed Members that the Nottinghamshire County tPCT had identified three areas where they believe the new GP led health centre could be situated and these are:-

1. Ashfield/Mansfield area: this option would enhance services in the area of our greatest health inequalities.
2. Hucknall area: this option would serve a potentially large transient population. It is a commuter area with a large tram park, and has a large population with good access to the M1 and major A road. It is also an area designated to grow in population.
3. Newark area: this option would help serve the area of the county which have the highest growth in population in Nottinghamshire over the next decade.

Members asked questions and made comments as follows:-

- There are three areas being looked at why Mansfield being considered as it has the Kings Mill Hospital against Newark which has no access to hospital.
  - it is felt that it would be an inappropriate use of hospital funds and therefore Mansfield it is still open for consideration. With regards to Newark, discussions are ongoing about opening hours of surgeries to help reduce the pressure on GPs.
- Is the 31<sup>st</sup> July a realistic date for achieving the decision for location?
  - there is analysis work being undertaken whilst continuing with the consultation, so the most up-to-date information available when consulting. Currently 2,760 patients have been consulted, although only 37 have returned the document, there are four public meetings scheduled to take place over the coming weeks.
- It still surprises Members that Mansfield and Ashfield are linked together as they are quite separate places. Mansfield has rural areas that do not have GP surgeries and border issues with Derbyshire.
  - each of the areas are being considered on their merits ,it is not the case that the area with the most votes win. Other considerations have to be taken into account before the final decision is made.
- With regard to the funding issues, does each PCT receive the same resources from central government for this scheme as it does seem unfair when Bassetlaw services 100,000 and Nottinghamshire services 650,000 people.
  - each PCT receives money from central government to set up this scheme. Numbers of people in the area is not taken into account when setting up this system. Wherever the new health centre is located consideration has to be given as to what is already provided in the areas before final decision is taken.

Members thanked Jon and Charlie for their presentation and answering questions.

It was agreed that both PCTs be asked to provide feedback from consultations they are currently engaged in so a draft response can be made by Members on the GP led walk-in centres.

The meeting concluded at 3.10 pm.

**CHAIR**

M\_23June08