

# ***Information/Discussion Paper***

## **Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 7th June 2007**

### **Update on the work of Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

#### **Report of Councillor P Hall**

This note contains the information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee, but where no decisions from Members are needed

#### **1. Why has this come to scrutiny?**

- 1.1 At the Social and Community committee meeting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2006 I provided a verbal briefing on the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006 and gave details of the committee's forthcoming statutory consultations
- 1.2 This is an update on the work of the committee since that date and as CBC's representative on that Committee I would welcome Councillors' comments to feed back.
- 1.3 During the last year the Committee has met 14 times, in addition Members have served on the following task groups:-
  - The Drugs Project which met 6 times
  - The Wingmoor Farm Task Group which met 5 times
  - The NHS Finances Group which met twice
- 1.4 A great deal of the HOSC's work during 2006/2007 was taken up on the NHS community Change Programme a series of proposals aimed at correcting the financial overspend by the local NHS .The Programme included 2 statutory consultations, undertaken under sections 7 and 11 of the Health and Social Care Act on substantial changes to NHS services.
- 1.5 The 2 consultations were;

## **The Future of Healthcare in Gloucestershire**

Including changes to the following services:-

- Planned care
- Urgent and Emergency Care
- Maternity services
- Patient transport
- Community Hospitals/Service North Cotswolds, Berkeley Vale, Forrest of Dean
- Tewkesbury and Winchcombe Hospitals.
- Rehabilitation and Delancey Hospitals

## **Changes to Mental Health Services by the Gloucestershire Partnership NHSTrust**

Including:-

- Centralisation of inpatient services for adults of working age to Wooton Lawn Gloucester
- Centralisation of inpatient services for older people at Charlton Lane, Cheltenham
- Stopping NHS funded day hospital provision for both adults of working age and older people

**1.6** On the Future of Healthcare in Gloucestershire the HOSC successfully opposed a number of issues and the NHS has agreed to rethink its proposals in respect of the following:-

- Midwife led Maternity Services at Cheltenham General Hospital and Stroud
- Patient Transport
- Winchcombe Hospital
- Forest of Dean Community Hospitals

**1.7** On the Mental Health Consultation the centralisation of older peoples services was referred by the HOSC to the Secretary of State. At the HOSC's last meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> the Chairman announced that the Secretary of State had asked the Independent

Reconfiguration Panel [IRP] to undertake a review of the issues raised in the referral.

The Health Select Committee report on Patient and Public Involvement in Health published in April 2007 reports only 4 out of 23 HOSC's referrals were passed to the IRP.

By the end of July the IRP should report its recommendations to the Secretary of State for the final decision.

### 1.8 Other Work undertaken by the committee in 2006/2007

- Aftercare Services for People with Drug Misuse Problems
- The HOSC task group report has now been published and is available on the Health Scrutiny section of the County Council Website and on the providers of the funding for the investigation the Centre for Public Scrutiny's website.
- Wingmoor Farm Task group investigations are still ongoing within its remit to understand existing monitoring arrangements in 3 categories; Operations, Environment and Health. Findings would be used as evidence for future monitoring and if appropriate the further development of the Neighbourhood Health Profile
- Annual Health Check.
- A task group of which I was a member provided the HOSC's Commentaries to be included in the PCT/Trusts self declaration

### HOSC Member Training

The Centre for Public Scrutiny provided up to 5 days of free advisor support which enabled a joint training day with the members of the Patient and Public Involvement on the Annual Health Check and an afternoon session for both groups on NHS finances.

### Future plans

- Standing Items
- Chairman's report on issues arisen since the last HOSC meeting
- PCT Chief Executives report
- Patient and Public Involvement forums report from the chairmen of Gloucestershire hospitals PPI forum, Gloucestershire Partnership PPI Forum, Gloucestershire PCT PPI Forum

- Performance report and update on key NHS performance targets; where there are concerns the HOSC can request an exceptions report for the next meeting or a detailed HOSC investigation if required
- An exceptions report will be provided at the July Meeting by GWAS on Ambulance response times in Gloucestershire against key national response times; this report will include plans to improve performance
- On 3rd April several HOSC members attended a joint seminar for HOSC's across Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire on the future direction of Great Western Ambulance Service. It was agreed that there should be approximately 2 joint meetings of all 7 HOSCs yearly to cover strategic issues, more localised issues would be dealt with by the individual committees. When GWAS have given us details of their strategy and a timeline for changes key issues will be programmed into the HOSC's work plan

### 1.9 Other Work Plan items

- LAA with specific focus on health related items
- Hospital Food
- The Future of Health Care 1 year on
- Patient transport services

## 2. Next Steps

- 2.1 At the November meeting the Director of Public Health will give the Annual Report which will enable the committee to consider any issues that the report raises for inclusion in the 2008 work plan. I would welcome the opportunity to share this report with the S&C O&S on 29<sup>th</sup> November and ask for comments and the committee's proposals for the HOSC work plan 2008/2009.

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### Background Papers

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#### Scrutiny Function

Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny committee