

Information/Discussion Paper

Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny - 5th June 2008

Report of Councillor P Hall

Update on the work of Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

1. Why has this come to scrutiny?

- 1.1 At the Social and Community Committee meeting on 7th June last year I provided a report on the work of Gloucestershire Committee over the previous year. This was followed by a briefing note for the Social and Community committee on 29th November on the development of the work plan for 2008-2009 and Task Group work in progress. This is an update on the work of the committee since the 29th November 2007.

2. Summary of work undertaken by HOSC

- 2.1 The Department of Health Review of the Great Western Ambulance Trust.

Following the Department of Health Review and the concerns raised by the HOSC a joint Committee of the 3 counties Health Overview committees covered by the trust was formed to monitor progress from the action plan needed. Three Members of Gloucestershire HOSC sit on this committee.

- 2.2 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health [see enclosed copy]

The Key issues were discussed to identify possible topics for further scrutiny during 2008/9.

- 2.3 The Carers Strategy, a presentation was given on the development of the Multi – Agency Gloucestershire Carers Strategy and Action plans. HOSC will monitor this vital issue of supporting carers through ongoing scrutiny and invited the Carers Action Group to the July meeting.

- 2.4** Alcohol Misuse Among Young People Task –Group
I was one of three members on this group which reviewed the progress made on recommendations following the original report in 2004. Four recommendations were agreed and the report forwarded to the PCT .
- 2.5** Ongoing Work on the progress of the “After care Services for people with drug misuse problems” this Centre for Public Scrutiny funded work was completed by HOSC last year, the Committee continues to monitor progress on its recommendations.
- 2.6** The final report by the task–group of the Possible health impact of Wingmoor Farm landfill site has been delayed by the PCT carries out a health impact assessment on the site but should be complete by July 2008.
- 2.7** Standard items at each HOSC meeting are;
- The PCT,s Chief Executive report. Any issues from this that require further investigation are identified
 - Key NHS performance targets presented. Areas of concern may require an exceptions report or in depth scrutiny.
- 2.8** Future HOSC topics
- Variations in life Expectancy across Gloucestershire. A Task –Group will be formed later in the year to investigate this vital work
 - Support for Carers through monitoring the Carers Strategy
 - Specialist commissioning, a series of changes to highly specialised services in the SW Region will begin in 2008. Joint HOSC will be required to review the proposed changes.
 - On May 27th the issues of the HOSC inquiry into Transport to NHS services will be revisited together with an update produced by the Health Service. This covers Cheltenham General Hospital and its transport services. I will be able to report to you further on June 5th when I present this report.
- 2.9** Dates of Future HOSC meetings in 2008
- 7th July 08
- 8th September 08
- 3rd November 08

3. Next Steps

As CBC’s representative to HOSC I would welcome the opportunity to form closer links with the Social and Community committee, so that my role is to act as a conduit for information to the committee and through the resulting discussion enable me to

more truly represent CBC. This would also help me to raise issues brought up by the members at the HOSC. To do this I would like to bring a report back to the next committee meeting after each HOSC.

Background Papers

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