

GLOS COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH AND CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (HOSC)

SUMMARY

Since being elected by the Borough Council in May to be our representative on this County Committee I have attended two full meetings of the HOSC and numerous ad hoc work planning meetings and Health related Seminars. Neither of these meetings were held in camera, both were open to the public and press.

MEETINGS

My first HOSC meeting was on 12 July and we met again on 13 September. . I will summarise discussions that relate to evidence given by service providers because some Agenda items are Statutory Reports to note and there wasn't much, if any discussion. It is my understanding that service providers submit quarterly updates for review but are scrutinised annually by the Committee, unless the HOSC determines that it requires more frequent reporting.

12 July

The first evidence we took was from representatives of the Non Emergency Patient Transport System (NEPTS). This Service is run by Arriva Transport Solutions Ltd (ATSL) and their contract serves Gloucestershire, North East Somerset and Wiltshire. The Committee had first scrutinised this service in March 2015 when it was noted as under performing against Glos CC Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). From the discussions it was obvious that as a County we had stringent measures by which KPIs were judged but that in other Counties they were less stringent, therefore easier to attain the KPI. Both the HOSC and Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (GCCG) were not happy with the service as currently provided and found it disappointing that performance levels had not increased since March last year and both the HOSC and GCCG would hold ASTL to account. Also, the HOSC would write to the Secretary of State for Health as some of the problems associated with their service provision were systemic (variance in KPIs) rather than specific to this provider.

We received a briefing about an upcoming public consultation regarding the Community Hospital Minor Illness and Injuries NHS Trust. The HOSC was concerned that the proposed reduction in hours of opening were a "substantial variation" but the Trust replied that their Legal advice had been that the proposals were "not a substantial variation". The Trust would report back to the HOSC Meeting in September. I considered that whilst these reductions were not in Cheltenham there may be a knock on effect across the County and I wanted Cheltenham residents to have knowledge of the consultation, and to comment if they wished. The Head of Paid Service and our Community Engagement Manager Richard Gibson very kindly ensured that the link to the consultation pages was posted on the CBC website and the item was covered.

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13 September

The South West Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWASFT) presented performance data for the Trust which provides the Ambulance service for Gloucestershire (and other). This was the second time that the HOSC had seen this Trust this year. A working group of the HOSC, which I was part of, had been commissioned by the County Council to undertake a piece of work in response to County Motion 759, that Gloucestershire should have its own Ambulance Service (which it did have prior to 2006). After taking a half day in evidence from the Trust we then spent another day deliberating on the evidence and wrote our report to Council recommending that given current Legislation and joint working the Motion was not possible.

The Minor Injuries Trust reported back on their consultation, various options were still being analysed.