

VERBAL REPORT ON HCCOSC by Cllr Penny Hall

The Gloucestershire Health, Community Care Overview and Scrutiny [HCCOSC] is responsible for overview and scrutiny of health related issues in the county

HCCOSC focuses on health issues from a public perspective and works in partnership with other agencies to improve local health services

HCCOSC also scrutinises Gloucestershire county council services relating to adult social care, libraries and information, equalities, customer services and lifelong learning

HCCOSC members are 8GCC councillors and 6 District councillors, uniquely its meetings are rotated around the county and district offices so that local members, residents and interested organisations are able to attend and very often do so

Since I last reported to you in November 2010 there has been a great deal of change in the way health and social care has been delivered with yet more to come in the rest of 2011-12

Health and social care reform and scrutiny

When I last spoke to you it was uncertain that HCCOSC would continue but thanks our response to the consultation on the Health white paper “Equality and Excellence” and lobbying with health scrutiny cttes across the SW we were successful in protecting Health scrutiny in its current form

Gloucestershire hospitals NHS foundation trust “GHNHSFT”

Following the proposals in early 2010 to reduce up to 200 beds across the trust which were withdrawn by the trust a task group was formed by HCCOSC with the trust to examine the impact of a proposal to reconfigure beds at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

The reconfiguration and a reduction of 43 beds together with a skill mix of staff was approved in the units concerned

During this time I represented HCCOSC on working group with staff from the GHNHSFT, the PCT, and the Chair of the Local Involvement Network [LINK] in developing “Our engagement strategy” the GHNHSFT Board of Governors formally approved the

strategy in recognition that engagement with staff and stakeholders needed to change.

During the recent consultation on “your NHS, right care right time right place the engagement strategy was followed

The proposals came 1st to HCCOSC to approve the consultation period and process

During the consultation period I was delighted that a discussion on the changes was held at Cheltenham Borough Council lead by the clinicians concerned

It was gratifying that I was able to go to the July meeting confident that I had the views expressed by Cheltenham members and officers

At that meeting on July 11th we voted to support

1“the changes to Emergency Paediatric Assessment “

2Centralisation of 1st Outpatients appointment for symptomatic breast care patients at Thirlestone Court in Cheltenham

At the same meeting Ingrid Barker Chair designate of the future social enterprise Gloucestershire Care Services gave a report to the HCCOSC

As their “go live” date is 1st October” we will receive its 1st OF regular update from them at our November meeting

Dr Shona Arora Director of Public Health introduced the draft Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Vulnerable people

Her annual report of 2010-2011

This is published this month

Another important work undertaken by a task group over the last year is;

Provision of services for people with a dual diagnosis in

Gloucestershire with a particular focus on housing

Dual diagnosis describes a mental health disorder combined with drug or alcohol misuse.

An individual disorder can affect not only their physical health and wellbeing, but their housing, employment and whole way of life

Conclusion of the Enquiries into the Wingmore Farm waste disposal site at Bishops Cleeve

For 5 years a task group from HCCOSC has been investigating the health effects of toxic ash from the Grundon site following ongoing concerns raised by local residents

The Health Protection Agency report on the analysis of samples collected over a 10 week period was that the dust did not contain harmful levels of any substance which could be damaging to the health of local residents

Factors to consider in Work planning

We recently held a successful performance workshop focusing on Adult Social care,

This is a high risk area and it is important that HCCOSC effectively monitors performance so that any concerns/issues can be highlighted more detailed investigation can be undertaken if necessary.

There has been a lot of change in the performance framework for Adult social care and the workshop was a good opportunity to get a better understanding of what these changes are,

It was also an opportunity for members to discuss directly with the officers what they require in the performance reports

The change in performance framework is about a move away from top down regulation from government to a more bottom up accountability to local citizens

There is also the impact of the Health and Social care bill on the structure of the NHS, the integration of health and social care staff and the role of the social enterprise trust Gloucestershire Care Services

And LINK will be evolving into Healthwatch

With all this activity it is important that the HCCOSC ensures that it is focusing its Work Plan appropriately to ensure that it is doing its job to ensure that the people of Gloucestershire are properly supported in terms of their health and social care needs

It was agreed at the Performance workshop that members need to get together again to draw up a fresh Work Plan to reflect the current Health and Adult social care agenda,

Members know that we cannot look at everything so planning is essential to ensure that the focus is where it should be

Some members including myself meet regularly with the PCT's reference group which is helpful in informing us of issues and forthcoming service change proposals and can also help to shape our planning

Our new Chairman is in the process of meeting with Chairs and CEO's of the PCT's and Health Trust's

I hope you find this helpful

I will continue to email you via Democratic services the papers for each HCCOSC meeting as soon as I receive them in time for you to contact me with issues and always hope that you will do so

**Cllr Penny Hall
HCCOSC representative for CBC**