

APPENDIX 4

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

Role of the Committee

1. The Adult Social Care and Health Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviews and scrutinises the Council's performance in relation to social care provision for adults. It also scrutinises the activities of NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland which has responsibility for commissioning local health care services.

Social Care Issues

2. A major issue for the Committee this year has been Supported Accommodation for Older People in Leicestershire. Following the decision made by a consortium comprising WCS Care Group Ltd and Housing Solutions Ltd to withdraw from contract discussions to purchase six of the Council's elderly persons' homes, the Committee considered the implications of this decision. The Committee was also included in the public consultation on the future of all ten of the County Council's elderly persons' homes. Members sought and received reassurance on a number of issues, including the consultation process and the preferred option of transferring the homes to independent providers.
3. The development of Extra Care Housing in Leicestershire is closely linked to decisions regarding the future of the County Council's in-house elderly persons' homes and this is also an area that the Committee has been interested in. The Committee supports the development of Extra Care Housing as it helps support the Council's aim of helping people stay independent for longer. The Committee was also pleased to hear that, in response to concerns raised about the possibility of a short term gap in provision, a number of schemes were currently in the planning process.
4. As a result of public concern, particularly from Save our NHS Hinckley and Bosworth, the Committee received a report on services at Hynca Lodge, Hinckley. The Committee considered both sides of this issue and was satisfied with the information and assurances received from Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust.
5. The Committee was involved in the consultation process for the Adult Social Care Transport Policy. Changes to the policy are intended to promote independence amongst service users and ensure that the different options for travel are taken into account before a decision on assisted transport is taken. The Committee suggested an area where the wording of the Policy should be made more robust and have also asked the Cabinet to consider including a right of appeal for service users into the Policy.
6. The personalisation of Adult Social Care has been a theme of most of the reports that the Committee has received on social care issues. The

Committee supports the principle of personalisation and was pleased to see it has been embedded in policies such as the Adult Social Care Transport Policy and the development of the Customer Service Centre.

7. The Committee scrutinised the budget for the Adults and Communities Department, prior to it being reviewed by Cabinet and recommended to the full Council. The Committee recognised the difficulties that had been created by the current financial climate, but raised concerns regarding the refocus of employment services and the effect that this would have on the Breaking the Barriers team. Concerns were also raised about the review of the voluntary sector and the effect that reductions in service would have on people who were not eligible for social care services but still had moderate needs.

Health Issues

8. The Committee has been involved in early engagement with NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland's plan to change its urgent care service. The Committee welcomed the intention to clarify arrangements for urgent care, as the current service is confusing in most areas. The Committee also noted that NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland would not provide clinical services in the future and was assured that, irrespective of provider, NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland would expect the urgent care service to comply to the specified service model. The Committee is keen to be included in the forthcoming public consultation on the future of urgent care services in Leicestershire.

Performance Monitoring

9. As part of its performance monitoring role, the Committee has considered a number of annual and five year strategic plans from both the Adults and Communities Department and NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland. This has included NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland's Local Operating Plan and the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board, which reminded members that they needed an awareness of safeguarding issues. The Committee was also pleased to note a number of recent developments made by the Safeguarding Adults Board.



Mrs. Ruth Camamile CC

Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Health Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

NOTE:

Although not within the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report, for the sake of completeness the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been included as a footnote. This Committee comprises of councillors from Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland and scrutinises the activities of the following NHS trusts which provide services to the area served by all three Councils:-

- ❖ University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL)*
- ❖ Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LPT) (which provides mental health and learning disability services)*
- ❖ East Midlands Ambulance Trust (EMAS)*
- ❖ East Midland Specialised Commissioning Group (EMSCG)*
- ❖ NHS East Midlands*

Key issues considered this year are as follows:-

- The Committee has supported a number of regional developments in healthcare, including new models for Children and Young People's Cancer Services, Major Trauma, and Stroke and Heart Attack Care. The Committee has also been pleased to note the proposals to improve maternity and newborn services and mother and baby mental health care in the East Midlands.*
- The Committee has commented on the applications for Foundation Trust status from both EMAS and UHL. Whilst the Committee was fully supportive of the application made by UHL, some reservations were expressed regarding how Foundation Trust status can be successfully applied to a regional body such as EMAS and whether it would be able to deliver significant benefits to the diverse localities it will serve.*
- A new development this year has been the requirement for healthcare providers to produce Quality Accounts, which are annual reports to the public on the quality of services which each organisation delivers. The Committee was invited to comment on the Quality Accounts for UHL and LPT and was pleased to note that both accounts provided a fair reflection of the healthcare services provided by each body. In particular, the Committee welcomed the focus on partnership working and engagement with service users and carers that is evident throughout the work undertaken by LPT.*

Members of the Committee have also been on two very interesting site visits this year. The first was to EMAS headquarters, where there was an opportunity to observe staff at the call centre before returning to Leicester to visit Gorse Hill Ambulance Station. The second was to UHL to observe the current arrangements for heart attack, stroke and orthopaedic care and to understand how the proposed reorganisation of services would improve patient care. Both visits were extremely informative and members were made to feel very welcome by the officers involved.