

SCRUTINY BOARD (HEALTH)

FRIDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor P Grahame in the Chair

Councillors A Blackburn, J Illingworth,
J Monaghan and L Rhodes-Clayton

65 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Chapman, D Congreve, M Iqbal, G Kirkland, A Lamb, G Latty and A Mckenna, and Mr E Mack.

66 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2009, be confirmed as a correct record.

67 GP-Led Health Centre - Scrutiny Inquiry

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report which gave the Board an overview of the Inquiry into the provision of a GP-led Health Centre for Leeds. The report detailed a summary of the Board's Working Group meetings into the Inquiry and discussion held at full meetings of the Board.

The Chair welcomed the following to the meeting:

Dr Damian Riley – Director of Primary Care, NHS Leeds

Kathryn Hilliam - GP Contract Lead, NHS Leeds

Emma Wilson – Head of Strategic Support and Development, Primary Care, NHS Leeds

Sharon Dunsmore – Care UK Clinical Services

Councillor Ralph Pryke – Ward Member for Burmantofts and Richmond Hill

It was reported by the chair that the Board was still in some confusion as to what was to be provided at the GP-led Health Centre and concern was expressed by the chair that it was felt that differing information had been received from different representatives of NHS Leeds who had addressed the Board throughout the Inquiry. This was categorically denied by Dr Riley, who stated that consistent information had been provided.

Representatives of NHS Leeds addressed the meeting. It was reported that the GP-Led Health Centre would have both a Walk-In Centre and a practice where patients could register for GP services. The centre would be based at

the Burmantofts Health Centre and would be known as the Shakespeare Medical Practice. Other new features of the GP-led Health Centre would be opening hours of 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m., 7 days a week, 365 days a year. It was acknowledged that some confusion may have arisen following the description in the media of the new centre as a 'Polyclinic', but it was felt that during the course of the Inquiry it had always been made clear that the new centre would be a 'GP-led Health Centre'. It was reported that there would be more GP provision than previously available at the site and the public would have better access to primary care. There would not be any patients registered at the practice when it first opened and GP provision at the centre would increase in line with contractual obligations should there be demand.

In response to Members comments and questions, the following issues were discussed:

- Registered patients who could not get a GP appointment would be able to use the walk in facility.
- Introduction of other walk in facilities had not caused mass migration of patients from one practice to another and it was felt that demand could be coped with.
- IT systems would be linked to other practices and eventually to all. This would help prevent false registering of patients although it was recognised that this was an ongoing concern nationwide.
- In response to concerns that services previously provided at the centre would not be available, such as sexual health services, it was reported that different GP services did not always provide the same services. Family planning services would be available along with other services and a wider range of services would be provided from the Shakespeare Medical Practice than from the previous Dr Potts surgery.
- It was planned that there would only be one locum GP used at the centre, and that this would only be during the first 12 weeks of its operation. All other GPs at the centre would be salaried. Locum GPs would only be used in case of unforeseen absences and this would be monitored by performance information.
- There would always be a GP on site. In case of GPs carrying out home visits or other off site work, a replacement would be present.
- Patients were not guaranteed to see a GP if they could be treated by another medical practitioner.
- It was expected that the opening of the centre would alleviate demand for Accident and Emergency services, but it was acknowledged that it was difficult to predict to what extent.
- There would not be treatment for minor injuries at the walk-in centre, but minor surgery would be available through the GP-practice.
- Continual assessment would be needed to review the level of services at the centre in relation to demand.
- All staffing requirements would be arranged by Care UK Clinical Services as part of the contract. It was felt that funding within the contract would be sufficient to meet needs.

- Concern was expressed by a member of the public present at the meeting regarding the closure of the previous GP practice based at the centre. The member of the public questioned why this practice had not yet been replaced and informed those present of his subsequent difficulties in getting appointments elsewhere. It was reported that the providers of the previous practice had decided to leave the centre, and this was out of the control of NHS Leeds. GP Services were independent businesses and the previous practice had served full notice to leave the centre. Review of local provision had shown there was enough capacity elsewhere to cope with demand. The procurement process to replace GP provision at the centre was bound by European legislation and this caused delay in the provision of new services. Other personal issues in relation to the member of the public would be dealt with outside of the public meeting.
- Considerable investment had been made to bring the centre premises up to standard.
- Concern regarding the adequacy of the building and disabled access.
- Councillor Pryke, as ward member for Burmantofts and Richmond Hill, was invited to address the meeting. The following points were raised:
 - Concern had been raised when the providers of the previous GP service based at the Burmantofts Health Centre had given notice of their intention to leave. NHS Leeds had attended local forum meetings and had given satisfactory assurances on patient placement and availability of GP practices.
 - Concern over public transport links.
 - Visit to Manchester to see a similar centre provided by Care UK Clinical Services – it was reported by local councillors in Manchester that this was running well and meeting the needs of local people.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report and discussion be noted.
- (2) That the Board receive an update at its April meeting following the opening of the Shakespeare Medical Practice.

68 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 17 February 2009 at 10.00 a.m. (Pre-meeting for Board Members at 09.30 a.m.)