

**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**03 SEPTEMBER 2009**  
**7.30 - 10.00 PM**



**Present:**

Councillors Leake (Chairman), Virgo (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Angell, Baily, Brossard, Harrison, Mrs Shillcock and Thompson

**Co-opted Members:**

Councillor Scott Burrows

Mrs Isabel Mattick, Bracknell Forest Local Involvement Network

**Executive Members:**

Councillors

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Councillors

**Also Present:**

Glyn Jones, Chief Officer: Adult Social Care

Richard Beaumont, Head of Overview and Scrutiny

Garry Nixon, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Barbara Briggs, Bracknell Forest LINK

Madeline Diver, Bracknell Forest LINK

Terry Pearce, Bracknell Forest LINK

John Piasecki, Bracknell Forest LINK

David Maxwell, Bracknell Forest LINK

Sheila Beaveridge, Bracknell Forest LINK

Jacqueline Clark, CEO, Thames Hospicecare

Julie Burgess, Heatherwood & Wexham Park NHS Trust

Andrew Grimshaw, Heatherwood & Wexham Park NHS Trust

Helen Blanchard, Heatherwood and Wexham Park NHS Trust

Liz Sanneh, Democratic Services Officer

**20. Minutes and Matters Arising**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 18 June 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**Matters Arising**

The Chairman paid tribute to the late Councillor Alan Browne, who had recently passed away. He spoke of Cllr Browne's passionate and outspoken approach, and told the meeting that his knowledge and commitment would be greatly missed. The meeting observed a minute's silence in memory of Cllr Browne.

The Head of Overview and Scrutiny reported that the draft response to the Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals' consultation (item 7) had been circulated, agreed and dispatched on 23 June.

West London Mental Health Trust had been informed that the Scrutiny Panel would not be responding to their consultation on the redevelopment of Broadmoor Hospital (item 10).

Under item 13, the possibility of holding the Panel meetings in an external venue had been explored, but none had been found, so all meetings for the 2009/10 Municipal year would be held at Easthampstead House.

The workshop was being arranged for the Health and Well-being Strategy, item 16.

**21. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

Mrs Isabel Mattick declared an interest in Bracknell Forest Local Involvement Network (Item 5).

**22. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

**23. Bracknell Forest Local Involvement Network (LINK)**

The Chairman welcomed visitors from the Bracknell Forest Local Involvement Network (LINK) Steering Group, and underlined that some of the objectives and issues with which LINK is concerned had been of concern and involvement of the Panel for some time. A presentation was given by Barbara Briggs, Madeline Diver and Terry Pearce. Following consultation with residents at public meetings, and a questionnaire survey distributed at Neighbourhood forums, the group had produced a work programme. The steering group of 13 people had been divided into sub-groups to look at different priorities which had been raised by the consultation. There had been one public meeting, which focused on Health issues, and a second would be held in November focusing on Social Care issues. A newsletter had been produced and distributed, and it was stressed that this was seen as vital in involving local communities in health and social care issues. The newsletter had been distributed to LINK members, GP surgeries, libraries, and Citizens Advice Bureaux in the area, and would be circulated to Members.

Following the presentation, the LINK representatives responded to Members' questions concerning the distribution of newsletters, the work concerning carers, and the presentations to Neighbourhood Action Groups. The Chairman invited Glyn Jones, Chief Officer, Adult Social Care, to comment. Glyn Jones told the Panel that the Council is involved in supporting LINK and there are plans to add a link to the Council website. He would take up the problem of funding and cashflow with Help and Care, the LINK host organisation. In relation to the work programme, Glyn Jones expressed the hope that the group would take evidence on the personalisation agenda for social care. The Chairman reiterated that if there is a problem with funding, the Panel needs to know about it in order to monitor and act swiftly. He also endorsed what Glyn Jones had said about the transforming adult social care, which was being reviewed by the Council's Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel, and wished the group well.

[The members of the LINK steering group left the meeting at this point]

**24. Thames Hospicecare**

The Chairman welcomed Jacqueline Clark, Chief Executive of Thames Hospicecare to the Panel, and she gave a presentation about their work. Thames Hospicecare is an independent charity providing palliative care for the local community free of charge

for those with life-limiting conditions. They took a holistic approach for both patients and families, seeking to maximise independence, hope and quality of life in East Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire. The Charity had hospices at Windsor and Ascot, and also provided qualified palliative care nurses to give care in people's homes. They received about 25% of their £3.5 million annual funding from the NHS, and the rest was raised by volunteers through retail shops and events. Thames Hospicecare wished to taking forward working with local unitary authorities.

The Chairman thanked Ms Clark for her simple and impressive presentation, and asked for any questions. In response to an enquiry she reported that the charity had been hit by the recession because of the decrease in value of legacies. In response to a further question, Ms Clark indicated that Thames Hospicecare was currently serving just a small percentage of the community, and there was a need to raise awareness of their existence.

[Ms Clark left the meeting]

**25. Consultation by Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on 'Saving More Lives - Improving Services For Emergency Medical Patients'**

The Chairman welcomed Julie Burgess, Chief Executive of Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals, Andrew Grimshaw, Director of Finance, and Helen Blanchard, Director of Strategy and Marketing. Ms Burgess told the Panel that they were keen to work closely and proactively with Bracknell Forest. Helen Blanchard gave the "Saving More Lives" presentation, indicating that the consultation exercise had been completed and there would be a public meeting at the end of October. The consultation had produced a disappointingly poor response rate, but one of the key proposals, a rehabilitation ward, had been fast tracked and opened in August this year. During the presentation she also addressed concerns which the Panel had expressed previously: She confirmed that there was adequate 24-hour cover for Bracknell Forest residents who experienced stroke, and thrombolysis is available. Each of the three hospitals had a coronary care unit and an angiography lab for patients suffering heart attacks, and all open heart surgery cases had to be dealt with at regional centres rather than district general hospitals.

The Chairman thanked Ms Blanchard and invited questions. During the presentation Ms Blanchard had mentioned some lack of clear GP support, and she clarified this by saying that for emergency clinics there was some difference of opinion amongst GPs about the most appropriate place for them, depending on the GPs skills, aptitude and equipment.

Cllr Thompson asked whether there were staffing problems, and was told that there were no specific problems apart from cardiac technicians of whom there was a national shortage. Cllr Baily observed that consultations appeared to be a waste of time and money in view of the poor response received, and wondered how change could be formulated with such a poor showing. Ms Blanchard responded that a lot of effort had been made to obtain responses to the consultation, that they had been disappointed with the response rate, but that there was a statutory requirement to consult on changes to health care.

**26. Heatherwood Hospital Financial Situation**

Andrew Grimshaw, Director of Finance, gave a presentation on the Turnaround Plan Update for Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals, covering the deficit for the current year, cost improvements identified, and the steps needed to break even. A

fully integrated financial model had been used. The Trust was working closely with their regulator to ensure there was a clear understanding of the position and the actions needed, which would not affect patient care. There had been loss of income from the Department of Health tariff structure changes, and inflation alone had caused costs to rise by 4.7%. Actions taken so far were listed in the presentation, and the Board had scrutinised the work plans and projects, and standard actions had been used for addressing the deficit. Over 100 cost improvement plans had been adopted, giving net savings of £10.3 million in 2009/10.

Julie Burgess, Chief Executive, spoke about the medium term strategy development. Regulators had asked for a range of actions which were under the control of the Trust, and the Trust was currently looking at the options. Proposals would be put before the Trust Board by the end of September, and before the Regulator by 8 October, followed by implementation.

The Chairman thanked the Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals representatives for their honest and forthright presentations, and reiterated that the Panel wanted to work together, in order to secure the best for residents, and was aware of the challenges. He asked Andrew Grimshaw to clarify the consequences of the change in tariff rates. Andrew Grimshaw told the Panel that essentially hospital trusts were paid by results, with a national tariff giving a standard rate for each procedure. A market forces factor provides adjustment for geographical setting, and the Department of Health had revised both elements of the tariff, using tariffs to incentivise hospital trusts.

The Chairman also asked what was the confidence factor in achieving the plan they had set out, and Andrew Grimshaw replied that they were confident that they could deliver, and the plan had been subjected to considerable outside scrutiny.

Cllr Bailly asked about pension provision as there appeared to be no mention of pension payments in the plan as presented, and Mr Grimshaw indicated that pensions were managed centrally and no changes in pension payments had been made this year, and pensions provided no new pressures on the Trust.

In response to questions from Cllr Virgo concerning the rapid achievement of some £10 million savings, Mr Grimshaw told the Panel that there were clear processes of control in place now. Nursing staff quotas were driven by clinical need, and senior nursing staff had instigated a protocol to judge perceived nursing needs on a case-by-case basis. There had been some loss of income from patients in blue light situations being diverted to Reading rather than more local hospitals, but this had now been resolved and protocols put in place with the Ambulance service. Every NHS organisation had to make savings annually – this was challenging, and costs had been assessed against good practice models.

Cllr Mrs Shillcock asked whether in aiming to reduce the use of agency staff, there was a risk to safety issues and possibility of inferior care for patients. Julie Burgess responded that clearly the cheapest way to fill gaps in staffing was to recruit and employ, and the Trust was seeking to maximise this to avoid agency or temporary staff. All need was assessed based on safe clinical practice.

The Chairman was aware that there were more questions to be addressed, and was minded to ask the Trust team to attend the next meeting of the Panel on 3 December in order to give an overview of the situation and to answer other questions. He suggested that some of the issues could be submitted in writing. Julie Burgess agreed to this, and to providing information to the meeting in late October about medium term options.

[The visitors from Heatherwood and Wexham Park hospitals left the meeting]

**27. Nomination for Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Group**

Members of the Panel had been asked to nominate a member of the Panel to join the Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Group being established to co-ordinate Overview and Scrutiny of the Bracknell Forest Partnership (BFP) and its Theme Partnerships. The Chairman asked for nominations. Councillor Mrs Shillcock nominated the Chairman, Cllr Leake, and this was seconded by Councillor Mrs Angell.

**28. Work Programme for the 2009/10 Municipal Year**

The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme had been circulated with papers for the meeting, and Members were invited to note the report. This was noted.

**29. Core Standards Declarations, 2009**

The Core Standards Declarations had been circulated within the papers for the meeting. Richard Beaumont, Head of Overview and Scrutiny, told the meeting that the suggested action was for the Panel to form a Working Group to formulate comments on the performance of the NHS Trusts serving Bracknell Forest residents for approval by the Panel. A Working Group formed last year worked well, and produced draft letters which were circulated to Panel members for comment, and it was suggested that a similar approach be taken this year. The Chairman asked for three volunteers to form the Working Group. Councillors Thompson, Virgo and Mrs Angell volunteered to form the group, and the Chairman accepted and thanked them.

**30. Update on Working Groups**

The Update report had been circulated with the Agenda papers. Cllr Burrows reported that the Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies Working Group would produce a draft report for the Panel four weeks after the two meetings which were currently being arranged.

For the Bracknell Healthspace Working Group, Cllr Virgo reported that they had met five times and were planning an interim report to be presented before Christmas. A further report would be presented once the Bracknell Healthspace was functional.

**31. Overview and Scrutiny Quarterly Progress Report**

This report had been circulated with the Agenda papers. Richard Beaumont told the Panel that this was a routine report. He drew the attention of the Panel to page 37 which outlined Developments in Overview and Scrutiny, and reported that there was more legislation to come. John Denham was currently consulting on strengthening local democracy, which envisaged extending Overview and Scrutiny powers. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission would be considering responding to these proposals. There were no questions.

**32. Joint East Berkshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee Minutes**

The Panel noted the draft minutes of the Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 29 June. Following the untimely death of Councillor Alan Browne, the Chairman raised the question of replacing him on various committees and groups. Richard Beaumont informed the Panel that the Democratic Services

Office was producing a paper on this for Council, and the Overview and Scrutiny Commission would need to make appointments to Panel vacancies.

Councillor Harrison raised the issue of Car Parking Charges (item 7 in the draft minutes) and queried how the Hospital Trusts had made a loss of £16,000 by charging for parking. Richard Beaumont replied that a letter had been sent by the Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Trust's CEO, and he agreed to send a copy to members of the Panel. The Chairman suggested that copies of the accompanying papers should also be included, and Richard Beaumont agreed to do this.

Councillor Baily asked whether there was anything from RB Windsor & Maidenhead Council about attendance at the meetings, and the Chairman informed the Panel that he and Cllr Virgo had an informal meeting with them and impressed upon them the strategic and potential importance of this Committee.

**33. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 3 December at 7.30 pm.

**CHAIRMAN**