

**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL  
17 JUNE 2010  
7.30 - 9.30 PM**



**Present:**

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

**Also Present:**

Nancy Barber, Director of Berkshire East Community Health Services  
Richard Beaumont, Head of Overview & Scrutiny  
Glyn Jones, Director of Adult Social Care & Health  
Phillipa Slinger, Chief Executive, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Mary Purnell and David Williams

**1. Election of Chairman**

On the proposition of Councillor Virgo, seconded by Councillor Thompson it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Ian Leake be elected as Chairman of the Panel for the municipal year 2010/2011.

**2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

On the proposition of Councillor Leake, seconded by Councillor Baily it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Virgo be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the municipal year 2010/11.

**3. Minutes and Matters Arising**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2010 be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising**

Under item 49 of the minutes, the Chief Executive, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, reported that the Trust Board had considered options for the Trust, and a final decision on public consultation for the transformation of services was awaited. A draft document would be available for viewing by the end of June, and the Trust welcomed informal views by the end of June. It was proposed to consult for four months.

The Head of Overview and Scrutiny suggested that Panel members might want to meet to look at draft proposals from Ms Slinger before the end of July, and it was agreed to meet on Wednesday 21 July at 10.30 am to discuss the consultation.

The Head of Overview and Scrutiny reported that the transport survey had been circulated to members of this Panel, and indicated that all actions outlined in the minutes had been completed.

A report from the Chief Executive of Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals regarding site moves had been circulated to members of the Panel.

The Transforming Community Health Services update was on this meeting's agenda, as was an item on Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies.

On the Bracknell Healthspace Working Group, the Chairman and Vice Chairman had attended an introductory meeting with the new Chief Executive of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

The private member's bill mentioned in item 53 of the minutes had not progressed through Parliament, so there was no extension at present to the powers of Overview and Scrutiny.

The Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel had met on 16 June, and Bracknell Forest Council had assumed the support of this Panel for the rest of the municipal year.

**4. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

**6. Co-option onto the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

The Chairman advised the meeting that the proposed co-optee to the Panel was not present, so this item was deferred to the next meeting.

**7. Transfer of Community Health Services**

Nancy Barber, Berkshire East Primary Care Trust, and Philippa Slinger, Berkshire Healthcare Trust jointly presented the report in the absence of David Williams, Director of Locality Commissioning, Berkshire East PCT.

The Chairman indicated that Ms Barber, representing the PCT, was receptor of commissioned services as well as a provider of the service. Ms Slinger was similarly involved in commissioning the Berkshire Healthcare Trust to take on the community health service function.

The Panel heard that Berkshire East Community Health Services was in the process of being externalised. PCT commissioners could no longer be providers of care, and within very short timescales were required to transfer the provision work to another provider. This had required a Board decision by 22 March 2010, followed by sign off to the new provider (Berkshire Healthcare Trust) by mid-July, followed by a monitoring process from 1 December 2010 to 28 February 2011, with staff transfer by 1 April 2011. This would provide a clear distinction between commissioner and provider. All services would be transferred, and currently this meant District Nurses, Health Visitors, School Nurses and therapists. About 1,000 employees from Berkshire East PCT were involved, and about 1,100 from Berkshire West PCT.

The Chairman thanked Ms Barber and Ms Slinger, and asked the Director, Adult Social Care and Health to comment. Glyn Jones told the Panel that in the light of a new operating plan from the Coalition Government due to be published that day, there was currently no information about whether this would now change, nor was there any mention of stakeholders in the PCT's presentation. He asked what would be the role of the Local Authority in this process, and was informed that for local authority staff working in joint teams, so far there was no information about how it would work. Ms Barber pointed out that they had not yet seen the new operating plan, but expected that the PCT would continue with the transfer. Engagement was needed with local authorities and GPs. The timescale of the changes had been very restrictive.

Ms Slinger advised that there were no current plans to change working arrangements, and this was a key opportunity to ensure local authority involvement. A three-year service strategy would be produced, and this would require hugely detailed planning. The Chairman asked Mr Jones to provide a written account of his views, and also asked the PCT and Berkshire Healthcare representatives to provide a comprehensive list for clarity on which services would be transferred, together with an indication of how much this would cost, and whether all funds would be transferred *in toto* to the new providers, both for services from NHS Berkshire East and NHS Berkshire West. Ms Slinger said this would be addressed in the planned due diligence work.

Other members of the Panel expressed concerns about how separate the commissioning arm and provider arm would be in the future, and whether or not people currently employed would retain their roles. They were told that there were currently no plans to change the way in which care was delivered, but were looking to improve the care. Management costs would be reduced, and the Care Quality Commission were involved in the transfer process. The Chairman expressed a hope that the goodwill of staff would be carried into the new arrangements, and Ms Barber assured the Panel that informally staff had been very clear that they wanted to stay within the National Health Service, and were happy to transfer to the Berkshire Healthcare Trust.

As the report and presentation were given in David Williams' absence, the Chairman told the Panel he would write to him about all the issues raised, and would need a considered, full and prompt response.

The Head of Overview and Scrutiny suggested that Panel members might want to meet to look at draft proposals from Ms Slinger before the end of July, and it was agreed to meet on Wednesday 21 July at 11 am to discuss the consultation.

#### **8. Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies Working Group**

Councillor Thompson presented the report. He told the meeting that the Panel had met on 7 June, and three to one of the members had agreed that recommendations 5.6 should be deleted and 5.7 should be amended by removing the words "such as staff and specialist decontamination vehicles". It was agreed that these be removed from the report, and the Lead Member be advised of this. The report would go to Overview and Scrutiny Commission, and the Lead Member would be able to discuss these issues at that meeting. One member of the Panel questioned whether paramedics and technicians were under strength, and were told that the South Central Ambulance Service had made this recommendation.

It was agreed that, with the deletions identified at paragraphs 5.6 and 5.7 of the report, the report be allowed to go forward with the remaining recommendations. The Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel would be notified of what had been agreed.

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

The Head of Overview and Scrutiny introduced the minutes of the 30 March meeting telling the Panel that there were many recurring items brought to the meeting. There had been concern expressed about the Next Generation Care programme. An update on the PCT budget would be brought to the October meeting of that Committee.

He also gave a verbal update on the meeting held the previous evening, 16 June. There had been a presentation on health inequalities. The Chief Executive of Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals Trust had given an update on the Turnaround Plan, including planned redundancies. The Trust were running under a conditional operating licence from the CQC.

10. **Report containing exempt information: Bracknell Healthspace**

The Head of Overview and Scrutiny introduced the exempt report concerning Bracknell Healthspace. He reminded the Panel that previously a Working Group had been formed to review this project. They had produced a report which was finalised and agreed by the Panel between meetings and by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission in January 2010. Members decided to delay publication of the report, and this was now being reviewed.

Planning permission had not yet been sought for the Bracknell Healthspace, so Cllr Leake had sent a letter to the PCT asking for the Chief Executive's views on the latest position on publication, but no response had been received to date. The Panel agreed that the Chairman should continue to ascertain the current position. Glyn Jones reminded the meeting that Dr Llewellyn would be attending the Commission meeting in July.

**RESOLVED** that the Chairman seek a meeting as necessary with the Chief Executive of Berkshire East PCT, the Executive member and the Chief Planning Officer to establish the current position of the Bracknell Healthspace project.

11. **Date of Next Meeting**

There will be an extra meeting of the Panel on Wednesday 21 July at 10.30 am to discuss the mental health in-patient facilities consultation draft.

The next meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel will take place on Thursday 7 October 2010.

**CHAIRMAN**