

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON
ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30pm on 29 APRIL 2014**

Present: Councillor E Godwin – Chairman
Councillors P Davies, S Howell, D Morson, J Rich and D
Watson.

Also Present: Councillors J Ketteridge (Leader) and H Rolfe (Portfolio Holder – Community Partnerships), John Henry (NHS Property Services), Professor Peter Fentem MBE (Chairman of Uttlesford Health and Wellbeing Group), Alison Manton (Deputy Director of Transformation West Essex CCG), Tracy Manzi (Contracts Manager NHS England Essex Area Team), Ian Stidson (Director of Commissioning NHS England Essex Area Team).

Officers in attendance: J Mitchell (Chief Executive), R Auty (Assistant Director Corporate Services), G Bradley (Community and Partnerships Manager), S Locke (Access and Equalities Officer), R Millership (Assistant Director Housing and Environmental Services), A Rees (Democratic Services Support Officer, V Taylor (Business Improvement and Performance Officer) and A Webb (Director of Corporate Services).

SC61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from councillors G Barker, I Evans and E Oliver.

Councillor Godwin declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items relating to planning as a member of the Planning Committee.

Councillor Watson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9, the NHS England and West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group report, as his son works for the Ambulance Service.

The Committee agreed to move to item 9, item 8 and then item 10.

SC62 NHS ENGLAND AND WEST ESSEX CCG

The Committee received a verbal report about transforming primary care throughout Essex. Mr Stidson informed members there had been a number of engagement events throughout October. Care services throughout Essex faced several challenges, notably an ageing population. The quality of patient experiences varied. This experience had to be made more consistent. Buildings were often underutilised. One option was to look at opening seven days a week. Services were often not flexible enough to accommodate the needs of the vulnerable. A survey last year showed that a quarter of people could not get an appointment within two weeks. There were a number of single handed contract holders throughout Essex. This left the service vulnerable to

GPs leaving and relying on temporary replacements until a new GP could be procured. Having two contract holders in an area would help with this issue. The aim was to integrate services to form primary care hubs. This could involve small practices working together and sharing expertise.

Mrs Manton said the West Essex CCG wanted to expand the provision of primary care. They would focus on integrated models of provision. There was not enough communication between practices and this had to change. Practices in Saffron Walden were keen to work more closely together.

Councillor Rich agreed that single handed contracts left primary care vulnerable. He wanted to know how this situation had arisen and how this issue could be resolved?

Councillor Morson wanted further information about the capacity of primary care hubs, such as their ability to perform specialist functions. He asked what the timescale for the hubs would be. He also questioned if there had been an improvement in communication between the West Essex PCT and partners.

In response, Mr Stidson said GPs often wanted to work as salaried GPs to give themselves greater freedom. A multi-agency workforce development programme was being explored as a way of retaining staff. It was important to ensure there was a plan to gain extra partners. Although specialist hubs were a possibility, he did not believe they were the way forward. The timescale for forming the hubs would be around five years. The way they were created would be down to localities. It was important to find the best way forward for each locality and make the area attractive for GPs to setup. Nurses played a vital role in primary care. The public needed to be made aware of the capabilities of nursing staff.

Mrs Manton believed that communication had improved. However she would take this issue back to investigate further.

Councillor Watson noted the cost of expanding primary care services was less than that of treating people through accident and emergency services. The role of primary care should be expanded to rectify this.

Councillor Davies asked about the role that technology would play in improving patient experiences. Did the draft plan utilise funding from the GP Challenge Fund? What sorts of criteria were likely to be used to judge the success of any transition?

Mr Stidson said that it was that expanding the role of primary care was currently challenging due to contracts that had already been signed. In some areas other services were being provided to expand primary care, such as out of hours services and commuter clinics. Using

technology was important, but it was equally important not to alienate those who were not familiar with the technology in question. No bids from Essex to gain capital through the Fund had been successful. Criteria were not yet in place, as this would make the transition process too rigid.

Mr Henry informed members about funding property for primary care. Section 106 helped to calculate the contribution that developers had to make to the NHS. This cost was looking at the cost of service per patient, against the number of new patients caused by a new development. With smaller developments it was difficult to ask for contributions. The staggering of development made it difficult to calculate the cost to the NHS. Moving to the SILL contribution system would make this less of an issue. Developers were only responsible for their direct impact. The contributions procedure was established and it was risky to ask for greater contributions than expected. Developers could challenge unreasonable contribution requests and if successful pay no contribution. A district valuer was used to determine whether costs were deemed value for money.

Councillor Howell asked whether the formula for calculating contributions could be altered so that it took into account the size of the development relative to the size of the local area. Numerous small developments would eventually have a large impact and this was not being adequately addressed. Other authorities, such as Highways, received contributions for smaller developments.

Mr Henry's response was that due to the number of smaller developments it was difficult to pursue the developers for contributions.

Mrs Manton said that she would look at the Section 106 contributions for other authorities to determine whether greater contributions could be asked for by Health authorities.

Mrs Manzi informed the Committee that NHS England looked at various quality markers to determine performance. Visits were made to surgeries that performed badly. Patients were not able to get appointments for the following reasons; appointments not being available when the patient could attend, not being open when the patient could attend and capacity issues. Performance indicators focussed on routine appointments, time was often set aside for emergency appointments. The patient survey was now 6 monthly rather than quarterly.

Cllr Godwin thanked Mr Stidston, Mrs Manton, Mr Henry and Mrs Manzi for attending and for the informative update they all provided.

Professor Fentem said the Health and Wellbeing Group needed to raise its profile. Numerous strategies had been talked about and it was important to go through them in great detail to understand how Uttlesford would be affected.

Councillor Rolfe said progress had been made. Dialogue with the West Essex CCG had been productive. A key part of discussions should be public and mental health. NEPT could be called into the next Committee meeting. The Locality Board was looking at the issue of public health. Members agreed to invite Mr Stidson and Mrs Manton to the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board to address the concerns raised by Professor Fentem.

Members raised the issue of excess winter deaths throughout the district, noting the sparse density of the district would have likely played a role in excess deaths.

Professor Fentem replied that the number of excess winter deaths throughout the district was small, therefore small changes in actual deaths would lead to a large percentage increase. As the number of deaths was not great, it was not looked at in detail.

Councillor Watson noted there was a lot of confusion about pollution levels. This had led to misinformation being spread. Additionally, as an issue it had lagged behind other health concerns, despite being a significant issue in the past.

Professor Fentem responded by saying he had spoken to the author the Public Health England report on pollution. The number of deaths caused by pollution could not be properly ascertained because no methodology could accurately determine the impact of pollution to public health.

RESOLVED that:

- Mr Stidson and Mrs Manton would be invited to the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- NEPT would be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee.

SC64

DAY CENTRE REVIEW

The Committee was informed about the changes in management throughout the day centres in Uttlesford. The centres in Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted now employed their own managers, but smaller day centres were still run by voluntary management committees. The Assistant Director Housing and Environmental Services said this had caused the smaller centres to fall behind. The centre in Takeley needed approximately £37,000 of

funding, which could still not be sufficient. It had become too small to fulfil the community's needs.

In response to a question by Councillor Rich, the Assistant Director Housing and Environmental Services said the value of the site had been examined. The site was of modest value. The building itself was uninviting and needed renovation. Providing an outdoor area for the centre was being looked at.

The Chief Executive recommended liaising with Claire Morris. There was an opportunity to fully utilise the centres that should not be missed.

Councillor Morson noted that previously there had been talk of the Council co-ordinating the management of the various centres. Could the centres be co-ordinated to help with bids for funding?

Councillor Rolfe replied that they were community facilities and it would be best to examine what to do with the centres on a case by case basis.

Councillor Watson moved to the provision of staff throughout the centres. The provision of residential wardens was an important aspect of the day centre in the past and quality of service deteriorated when there were no wardens. Maintaining a high quality of service was essential for ensuring the health of those using the facilities and preventing further costs in other areas of the health service.

The Assistant Director Housing and Environmental Services said services had changed. A wide variety of services were now provided, including outdoor trips and providing an internet café. Furthermore, wardens now served the wider community.

Members said that they felt a review of day centres was needed and were informed by the Chief Executive that the review could be carried out by officers. It was agreed that the review would be brought before the Committee in autumn.

RESOLVED that a review into day centres would be included in the Committee's Work Programme.

SC65 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2014**

The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SC66 **MATTERS ARISING**

(i) Minute SC49 – Business Arising

Councillor Watson restated that he felt the performance indicators used by the Planning Committee did not focus on the

quality of information provided. A review of the documentation was needed.

RESOLVED that a review of the documentation used to indicate the Planning Committee's performance would be included in the Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme.

(ii) Minute SC55 – Housing Revenue Account 2013/14 Budget and Five Year Budget Strategy.

In response to a question by Councillor Watson, the Assistant Director Corporate Services said that it was unlikely that an explanation for the rise in sheltered support service income had been given since the question had been raised.

SC67 STANDING ITEMS

The Chairman said she was aware of no matters referred to the Committee in relation to call in of a decision, nor any responses of the Executive to reports of the Committee.

SC68 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan was noted

SC69 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor Howell believed development of site surrounding Saffron Walden Museum should be included in the Work Programme for the municipal year 2014/15. The Committee should look more frequently at the expenditure of the Council, as opposed to expenditure by external bodies.

The Work Programme was noted.

RESOLVED that the strategy for the Saffron Walden Castle and Museum site development would be included in the next Committee Work Programme.

SC70 TRADE WASTE CONTRACTS AND PRICING

The Director of Corporate Services informed the Committee that officers had been working with the East of England Local Government Association. The review was ongoing and was looking at ways of improving the commercial viability of trade waste services. This was not an urgent matter and could be looked at again at future meetings.

The report was noted.

SC71 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2013/14 REVIEW AND 2014/15 PLAN

The Assistant Director Corporate Services said that further to standard Committee items related to the budget, the Committee had at previous meetings previously indicated a desire to include the following items on the Work Programme:

- Day centres
- Tenants Scrutiny Panel
- Swimming pool provision
- East of England Ambulance Service
- Rural broadband implementation update

In addition to these items, members had agreed at this meeting to include the following items on the Work Programme:

- NEPT
- Health and Wellbeing Board update
- Saffron Walden Castle and Museum site development
- Review of the Planning (Development Management) Preparatory report on budget process

Councillor Davies said there had been a significant oversubscription to sports facilities throughout Uttlesford in recent years and all sports provision should be looked at in the Work Programme.

Members agreed that swimming pool provision should be expanded to look at all sporting provision.

RESOLVED that the following items are included in Work Programme for 2014/15:

- Day centres
- Tenant Scrutiny Panel
- Sporting provision
- East of England Ambulance Service – June
- Rural broadband implementation update
- NEPT
- Health and Wellbeing Board update
- Museum site development
- Planning (Development Management) Preparatory report on budget process – November
- Budget reports - February

The meeting ended at 10.20pm.