

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL  
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON  
ON 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2014**

*PRESENT –*

*Councillor A. Kerrigan – Panel Leader (In the Chair)*

**Panel Members - Councillors**

A. Aziz  
M. Horsfield  
A. Mahmood  
R. Smith

**Also in attendance:**

Councillor D. Lord  
Catriona Logan  
Rebecca Demaine  
Dr. P. Huxley  
Helen Hedges  
Mary Thomas  
K. Haydock  
L. Rowland

Pendle Borough Council  
East Lancashire Hospitals Trust (ELHT)  
East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (ELCCG)  
East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group  
Critical Friends East Lancashire  
Pendle Steering Group -Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)  
Scrutiny Manager (Pendle Borough Council)  
Committee Administrator

*(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. Hartley, J. Purcell and N. McEvoy and Audrey Westwell (Pendle Seniors Group).)*



**1. MINUTES**

**AGREED**

That the minutes of a meeting of the Panel held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014 be approved as a correct record.

**2. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF DISTRICT NURSE PROVISION**

**(a) Draft Review Plan**

Further to the Panel agreeing that a review of district nursing provision be given priority in the Panel's work programme, the Scrutiny Manager submitted a draft review plan for consideration.

**AGREED**

That the draft review plan for a scrutiny review of district nursing provision in Pendle be approved.

**(b) Briefing Note**

Rebecca Demaine of East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (ELCCG) and Catriona Logan of the East Lancashire Hospitals Trust (ELHT) presented a briefing note on the Virtual Ward (VW) in Pendle, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report included a summary of the District Nursing Service in the Pendle Locality. It was explained that this had now been centralised, with locality teams comprising a varied skills mix, linking into GP practices. The District Nursing Service consisted of 10 teams across five localities and was a 24 hour service, 365 days a year.

The VW was currently based in St Peter's Health Centre, Burnley and was operational from 8.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. Monday to Sunday, with Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) available between these hours on Monday to Friday only. In response to a suggestion that Pendle Community Hospital could be used for this purpose, it was explained that the decision to locate the VW hub in Burnley had been logistical. Urgent referrals had to be responded to in a two hour timeframe and due to limited staffing levels, the service had to be centralised. However, the development of community hospitals was a key issue for the ELHT.

The nurse-led VW service had been designed to provide reactive care following a hospital admission and proactive 'upstream' care aimed specifically at hospital avoidance. The team comprised of Registered Nurses, Assistant Practitioners and Patient Aides. Clinical Leadership was provided by a VW Clinical Lead ANP and Consultant back up was available. Discussions had also taken place with the North West Ambulance Service (NWS) with regard to the placement of an Advanced Community Paramedic in the VW. Details on the current model were provided together with the key points of service delivery.

Details were also given on a Readmission Prevention Scheme. This was a pilot scheme which provided home based support to a specific group of patients that were at particular risk of readmission to hospital within 28 days of being discharged from the acute hospital environment.

Information on the current staff in post to deliver the VW was provided in the report. It was acknowledged that there was an inadequate number of nursing staff to deliver the service to its full potential, with the organisation struggling to recruit new staff. However, the ELCCG had agreed to fund additional staff to work across ELHT and the CCG to deliver the transformation required in East Lancashire which included investment in a Primary Care Nurse Development Post and a Dedicated Workforce Development Post. Work was also ongoing with universities to deliver a programme tailored to this model of care. It was anticipated that it would take at least a further two years before the service was fully staffed.

The Panel Leader reported on issues raised by a number of District Nursing Staff during a survey carried out by the trade union Unison. She was advised that these issues should be raised by Unison directly through the internal channels available to all trade unions.

It was reported that the majority of patient feedback with regard to the care provided on the VW had been positive, with most patients preferring the personal aspect and the degree of continuity.

### **3. CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP UPDATE**

Dr P. Huxley reported that the Pendle Locality Steering Group was currently in the process of appointing two new GP members to bring the Group back up to strength. He also advised that he

was to stand down from the position of CCG Clinical Lead for Pendle and therefore the Steering Group was due to agree his replacement.

Historically, this position had been held by a GP, however on this occasion a nurse had expressed an interest. He explained that, in order to allow a nurse to hold the position, a change to the Constitution would be required and would therefore have to be considered at a meeting of the membership organisation, which consisted of 65 practices across East Lancashire, to be held in May, 2015.

He advised that, if the Steering Group was to appoint a nurse prior to that date it would be an interim position.

#### **4. COLNE HEALTH CENTRE PHARMACY**

At the last meeting of the Panel it had been understood that the pharmacy in Colne had not yet relocated to the new Health Centre due to an unresolved issue with regard to the rent being charged.

The Scrutiny Manager reported that the issue had now been resolved, the contracts were ready to be signed and it was anticipated that, following a re-fit, the pharmacy would commence operating from the new Health Centre prior to Christmas 2014.

#### **5. CHANGING PLACES**

At the January 2014 meeting of this Panel the Scrutiny Manager reported on a consultation being carried out by Lancashire County Council (LCC), which sought views on the first phase of a project to identify and install Changing Places toilets in the county council area. It was reported that Victoria Park Pavilion had been put forward as an option and following submission of all requested information, had recently received confirmation that funding had been approved. However, it was subsequently discovered that the premises did not fit all of the required criteria and therefore there was concern that the offer of funding could be withdrawn. Discussions were ongoing with LCC and a further update would be provided, when available.

#### **6. SOCIAL CARE COMPLAINTS**

The Scrutiny Manager reported on a short film that had been made during the course of the joint Care Complaints Scrutiny Review. She advised that the film was to be used by LCC as a tool for training staff and it was hoped that it would be available to view at the next meeting of this Panel.

#### **7. WORK PLAN**

The Panel's Work Plan 2014/15 was submitted for information.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_