

**THESE MINUTES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE NEXT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON
12 JULY 2006 FOR APPROVAL AS A CORRECT RECORD.**

West Wiltshire District Council

Minutes

- Minutes of the:** Scrutiny Committee
- Held on:** Wednesday 8 June 2006
- Held at:** Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge
- Present:**
- Councillors:** Phillips OBE, (Chairman), Bower, Conley, Cunliffe-Jones, Fortescue, Hames, Lewis (part), Manasseh, March, Mounde, Mudge, Oakman, Oldrieve, Rosier, Payne, Repton and While.
- Also in attendance:** Cllrs Osborn, Cox, Carbin, Hawker, M.Clegg, J.Clegg, Mudge and Viles
- Officers:** Corporate Director (IG), Head of Legal and Democratic Services (NM), Policy & Scrutiny Officer (ML), Member Support Team Leader (YR) and Democratic Support Officer (KF)
- Also in attendance:** Carole Clarke Chief Executive of West Wiltshire PCT & Representatives
- Peter Wilson – Acting Director of Mental Health Services & Representatives

50. Apologies and Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Blakemore and Newbury.
Cllr Repton replaced Cllr Blakemore for this meeting.

51. Declarations of Interest

The following Members declared their interests in the Pathways for Change and Mainstreaming mental Health Consultations:

Cllrs Manasseh - Council's representative on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee(WCC).

Cllr While - Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny (WCC).
Cllr March - representative of the Patient and Public involvement in the Health Forum.

Cllr Viles - Ward helper at The Royal United Hospital, Bath

52. Announcements from the Chairman

There were no announcements.

53. Pathways for Change and Mainstreaming Mental Health Consultations

The Chairman welcomed all those in attendance. He hoped that the meeting would provide a very useful exchange of views that would assist the Council in formulating its formal response to the consultation documents.

He referred to the programme for the meeting which gave details of the speakers who would be addressing the meeting. This meeting was very much about briefing Members of the Council and giving them an opportunity of seeking information and explanations from the presenters which they may not have been able to do at the public consultation meetings.

The Committee received a report from the Policy & Scrutiny Officer who gave details of proposed changes to NHS services outlined in the Pathways for Change and Mainstreaming Mental Health Consultations.

Two consultation documents were launched on 7 April 2006:

- Kennet & North Wiltshire and West Wiltshire Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) had issued a consultation document on proposed changes to health services within Wiltshire. The consultation, entitled 'Taking the next step: modern and affordable healthcare for all', was within the Pathways for Change agenda.
- In conjunction with the Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (AWP), a second consultation by the PCT focused on changes to the way mental health services were structured and delivered. This consultation was entitled 'Mainstreaming Mental Health'.

The PCT had held a number of consultation meetings to which members of the public were invited to comment on the proposed changes.

Consultation on both sets of proposals ran until 7 July 2006.

Members had been given the opportunity to raise questions in advance of the meeting.

These questions together with responses from the PCT were circulated at the meeting.

The Melksham Area Seminar met on 30 April 2006 to consider the impact of these proposals with particular reference to Melksham and its surrounding area . The recommendations of the Seminar were presented for the Committee's consideration.

Carole Clarke, Chief Executive of West Wiltshire PCT gave a presentation on the Pathways for change proposals. She referred to the public consultation meetings to which members of the public had been invited to comment on the proposed changes to the Health service in the West Wilts area. The Chairman encouraged members and the public to make their comments to the PCT.

Carole Clarke introduced a member of her nursing staff who detailed case studies of former patients who would in her opinion have benefited under the Pathways for Change proposals.

Peter Wilson – Acting Director of Mental Health Services gave a presentation of Mainstreaming Mental Health Consultations.

The Chairman introduced the following speakers who expressed their views on the proposals.

John Cottle – Chairman of Bradford on Avon League of Friends.

Cllr Jeff Osborn – Friends of Trowbridge Hospital.

Jenny Clements – Chair of Westbury League of Friends.

Roger Davey - Unison.

Dr Andrew Murrison MP.

Representatives of the League of Friends of all local hospitals, GMB Union and Michael Ancram MP had all been invited to speak at this meeting but unfortunately could not attend.

The Chairman then invited the Members to pose any questions they may have to Carole Clarke and Peter Wilson to which the speakers replied.

To assist the Committee, Ian Gallin ,Corporate Director gave a summary of the main points arising from the debate.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- Council is asked to support the Scrutiny Committee's concern over the suitability of any of the options outlined in the Pathways for Change consultation document and its decision to not support any of the presented options.
- Council is asked to support the provision of a New Generation Community Hospital for West Wiltshire, including a maternity unit. Such a facility should be based in Trowbridge and have good access to transport routes.
- Council to take note of the comments and concerns set out below:

In reaching its recommendations, the Scrutiny Committee expressed the following comments and concerns:

- The impact of travelling times and travelling costs for both patients and relatives within each of the three suggested options has not been adequately considered
- The options put forward lack a clear and credible evidence base
- There is no recognition from the PCT that local bed spaces are under pressure from the Royal United Hospital, Bath
- There has been no consideration of the costs of the proposals to the overall public purse, for example to the County Council's social services department or to the voluntary sector
- All the proposed options present a financial driven solution rather than one based on an assessment of the current and future needs of the community
- Not enough consideration has been given to issues of deprivation or to issues relating to health inequalities
- The quality of service provision within the three main options is unclear
- Community nursing is not a suitable alternative for all patients and in every circumstance
- The timing of future provision is unclear and no assurances have been given about service provision during the transition

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET:

- Officers to be asked to work with the Strategic Health Authority to identify suitable sites for such a facility in Trowbridge
- Officers to be asked to identify the limitations of the Pathways for Change consultation in respect of the requirements of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy, in respect of the increasing demands on the health service resulting from the increases in housing units identified in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy.
- Request closer co-operation between the PCT, the Friends of the five local hospitals, the District Council and the County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to monitor the progress of the PCT's proposals.

The Committee also wished to support the following comments from the Melksham Area Seminar:

1. Melksham Area Seminar ask that firm assurances are given before services are lost, and that every area in West Wiltshire knows what will replace them, and how, with clarity given for time scales for the process.
2. Access issues across West Wiltshire should be addressed taking into account public transport for people who live in rural communities and those that have no access to transport such as elderly people. The access issues and services such as the Hopper should be looked at on a long-term basis.
3. 24 hour Minor Injury Units be provided in all New Generation Hospitals and that Primary Care Centres also have minor injury capability during opening times.
4. Community Initiatives and/or plans for re-use of the site should be in consultation with Town and Parish Councils.
5. That Melksham Area Seminar express concern that care in the community implies meeting health and social care needs as it was not evident how this would be delivered.

The next meeting would be held on 12 July 2006.

(7pm – 10.15pm)

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