

Notes of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee
Health Provision Working Group
25th January 2016

Present: Councillors: David Skipp (Chairman), Liz Kitchen, Tim Lloyd

Apologies: Councillor Tricia Youtan

Also present: Councillors: Leonard Crosbie

1. TO APPROVE AS CORRECT THE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH OCTOBER 2015

The notes of the meeting held 28th October 2015 were approved as a correct record.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There were no announcements.

4. FOLLOW UP ON THE OUTCOME OF THE LOCAL PRIMARY CARE PROVISION SEMINAR

The Chairman of the Working Group gave a brief overview on the discussions which took place at the Local Primary Care Provision Seminar in December 2015.

There had been representation from Park, Riverside, Orchard, Courtyard and Holbrook surgeries in Horsham.

The future of the healthcare provision in Horsham was uncertain. Orchard and Riverside surgeries had explained how they wanted to merge together and expand on the premises of Orchard surgery; however the plans for expansion were partly reliant on approval from West Sussex County Council as the building was shared by Horsham Library and the Citizens Advice Bureau and owned by the County Council.

Members suggested relocating the Citizens Advice Bureau to the current Council Parkside building; therefore providing space for the GP's to expand in the current Orchard surgery building.

Agenda Item 10a

Health Provision Working Group
25th January 2016

Courtyard surgery spoke about the potential idea of moving to a large surgery with community facilities on the north side of Horsham, but this would require funding.

Park surgery had explained that they did not have the capacity to take on many extra patients.

There were no firm proposals from NHS England and the CCG at this stage to accommodate the growing population in Horsham in terms of the healthcare provision. Members reiterated their concern that there was a vast amount of development underway across the District, particularly in Broadbridge Heath and Southwater, yet no proposals for additional medical services to accommodate the extra homes.

The Group recognised that the rural parts of the District such as Steyning, Pulborough and Billingshurst were fairly well catered for in terms of GP services.

Members noted that there were financial implications linked to GPs being part of a partnership at a surgery, this often deterred GPs as they did not want the financial responsibility and therefore were not always keen to invest in a new surgery.

The Working Group had previously explored developing in Hurst Road with some of the local GPs.

Members wished to explore this further by arranging a meeting with West Sussex County Councillors representing the Horsham area to gain views and support the option of developing the site. The Chairman would draft a letter, to present to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee on 14th March 2016, for approval, to send to the West Sussex County Councillors.

5. SOUTH EAST AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIMES

This had been raised by a Member of the Working Group, there was concern about long ambulance response times in rural parts of the District such as Steyning. Data had been collected from South East Coast Ambulance Service and NHS England which indicated that the majority of emergency calls in the District were responded to within eight minutes. However, Members were concerned that these statistics were not was not realistic for some of the more rural areas.

The Working Group agreed that it would like to invite a representative from the South East Coast Ambulance Service to discuss the response times and provide Members with a realistic picture for the District.

Agenda Item 10a

Health Provision Working Group
25th January 2016

Members also wanted information on the plans for the ambulance station in Horsham and the allocation of ambulances across the District.

Councillor Tim Lloyd updated the Working Group on how a group in Steyning had received funding for a nursing facility in the village to provide post operative care for those leaving hospital. The proposed site was the community centre in which the Police Station was planning to vacate.

The community group were in the process of drawing up a business plan. The community was looking for support from NHS England and the CCG were currently being consulted. There were a number of GPs in the area already on board. Councillor Lloyd would keep the Working Group informed as plans progressed.

Members also expressed their concern in relation to the congestion arising from the lack of parking spaces at Horsham Hospital, which was leading to long tailbacks on the roads caused by people queuing for the car park. The Chairman would raise this again with the CCG.

The meeting finished at 4.11 p.m. having commenced at 3.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

