

Health and Care Scrutiny Committee

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

January 2019

1. Petition - Save North Cotswold X-Ray Services

The committee was asked to note a petition presented at the Gloucestershire County Council meeting on 28 November 2018. The petition was in response to concerns about X-Ray services at the North Cotswolds Hospital in Moreton-in-Marsh. Prior to the council meeting, on Monday 12 November 2018, Cotswold District Councillor for Moreton West, Cllr Alison Coggins, and members of Moreton-in-Marsh Town Council met with NHS officials to discuss X-Ray Services at the hospital.

The petition relayed 'grave concerns that the NHS acute trust would be reducing radiology services from around 30 hours to 8 hours per week. This could have significant repercussions for minor injuries involving breaks and fractures, which would require making travel arrangements to Cheltenham or Gloucester should the service be reduced. The petition sought to 'maintain the current level of local X-Ray services and ensure that the North Cotswold Hospital continued to serve the residents of Moreton-in-Marsh and surrounding villages'.

The committee debated the petition. During the discussion, Cllr Joe Harris requested the *'Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee seek a written commitment from the Clinical Commissioning Group and Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust to restore the radiology service at North Cotswold Hospital in Moreton-in-Marsh and put together a plan to ensure a long term future for radiology at the site'.*

Seeking the views of the committee, the Chairman confirmed that, with a majority agreement, the committee write to the Clinical Commissioning Group and Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust, requesting restoration of the radiology service at North Cotswold Hospital in Moreton-in-Marsh.

2. Adult Mental Health - What happens in a Crisis Situation?

The committee received a presentation from the 2gether NHS Foundation Trust on emergency mental health care services in Gloucestershire. Representatives from partner organisations 'Kingfisher Treasure Seekers' and 'Swindon and Gloucestershire Mind' were in attendance at the meeting. Noting some of the initiatives emerging from the Gloucestershire Mental Health Crisis Care Continuous Action Plan, members commended the presentation. Acknowledging the commitment and dedication from organisations participating in the multi-agency partnership, the committee noted progress and the hard work being undertaken. Anticipated improvements from the extensive recruitment programme currently underway, the committee welcomed the opportunity for change.

Members drew attention to publication of the NHS Long Term Plan on 7 January 2019 and the priorities set out by NHS England for healthcare provision over the next ten years, including proposals on how the NHS funding settlement will be used. (In

2018, the government announced £20.5bn of additional funding for the NHS in England by 2023/24).

3. Hospital Walk In Services

It was announced that an additional committee meeting would be held at Shire Hall on 20 February 2019. Arranged at the request of the committee, the meeting will give members an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the proposal to 'pilot the reconfiguration of General Surgery Services across Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and Cheltenham General Hospital'. Members were requested to submit their views and any concerns on the proposals before the end of the week. The responses will be incorporated into a draft letter for discussion at the meeting on 20 February 2019. Subject to the agreement of the committee, a letter to be sent to the Gloucestershire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and GCCG Boards for consideration.

The meeting on 20 February 2019 to include a second item - Motion 825 'Protecting Gloucestershire Hospitals' Walk in Services'. Motion 825 was debated at the Gloucestershire County Council meeting on 28 November 2018, where it was agreed to refer the outcomes of the discussion, (including the resolution below), to the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further discussion.

Clarity on the context of the motion was raised by the Chief Executive of the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. It was explained that the motion would need to be considered as that referred to full council on 28 November 2018 but that clarification on the detail of the motion could be made during the scrutiny committee discussion on 20 February 2019.

Council noted:

- i. The value communities place upon the Accident and Emergency units, in both Gloucester and Cheltenham*
- ii. The enormous and varied contributions made by the seven minor injury units spread across Gloucestershire*
- iii. The great value communities across Gloucestershire place upon having hospital facilities close by.*

The Council further noted that all Walk in Centres, Urgent Care Centres, and Minor Injury Units will be rebranded as Urgent Treatment Centres by the end of 2019, and

RESOLVED to write to the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group to appeal in the strongest possible terms, that none of the services currently on offer to walk-in patients at any of the nine hospitals be removed, and that Cheltenham General Hospital to not be further downgraded to an Urgent Treatment Centre from an Accident and Emergency department.

4. Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2017/18

Director of Public Health for Gloucestershire County Council, Sarah Scott, presented the 3rd Public Health Annual Report 2017/18. The focus of the report was mental wellbeing. Following on from last years report and the emphasis on the health and wellbeing of children and young people, the Director gave a detailed presentation on the provision of timely and good quality treatment and support for people of all ages living with mental illness. The report and the decision to focus on a particular topic was commended.

Member's attention was drawn to the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Panel Roadshows on 23 January and 13 February 2019. The committee noted that the screening of a 'resilience' documentary would be made at each of the roadshows, following by discussion. Directed by James Redford, the film looks at the biological effects of ACEs and how professionals and communities can work together to overcome established harm. All members are encouraged to attend one of the roadshows. Please refer to Members Matter for details of the screenings or visit the ACEs Gloucestershire website at www.actionaces.org for more information.

Cllr Carole Allaway Martin
Chair of Gloucestershire Health and Care Scrutiny Committee

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Environment and Community Scrutiny

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

16th January 2019

1. Local flood risk management strategy Annual Improvement Plan

This is a yearly agenda item where the Committee are updated on the progress of the Local Strategy, where the team are to date and priorities for the forthcoming year. It was noted the main Flood Alleviation Scheme for 2018 had been completed at Priors/Oakley in Cheltenham.

The following topics were discussed:

- GCC's engagement with district councils regarding planning applications;
- how future projects are prioritised;
- how small maintenance that can help alleviate flood risk was monitored; and
- individual property level protection.

Members noted the updated plan and commended the flood risk team for their hard work and support since 2007.

2. HMICFRS Inspection

As requested by the Committee, members received a presentation from Andy Hermiston on the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services. Members were informed on the criteria for inspection, how the service was preparing for the inspection and emerging trends from services that had already been inspected.

A discussion followed around how other services had found the inspection so far, and importantly whether GFRS had the capacity to deal with this inspection effectively. Members were reassured by comments made referring to Gloucestershire as being in a good position, in comparison to other services, going into inspection.

Members thanked Andy for the presentation; the Committee was very impressed with the level of details provided on the preparations.

3. Commissioning Directors Report

Colin Chick, Strategic Advisor (Communities & Infrastructure), presented his report to update the Committee of recent decisions and policies. Members particularly noted that the following:

- in December Atkins were awarded the professional services contact, to commence 1 April 2019;
- highways are currently looking at how best to deliver the lengthsman scheme under the next financial year as it was funded by a one off provision;
- the LED street lighting programme and Metzway works are due to be complete by the end of this month;
- a new parking management scheme has been implemented at Arle Court to tackle misuse by local long-term parkers; and
- there has been a three/fourfold increase on the price of bus contracts.

Following discussion on the report, the Committee asked for the following actions to be made:

- Simon Excel to write to GWR to lobby that the date of commencement for enhancements to GWR and Cross Country services doesn't slip any further.
- Several members expressed concern, in relation to district planning applications, that GCC were not effectively supporting technical highways comments as officers were sometimes not present. Members requested feedback to the Committee on the criteria for sending a highways officer to district planning committees that GCC have commented on and to highlight if there are any issues with capacity in this area; and
- Officers to feedback to the Committee the criteria for 'bundling' Traffic Regulation Orders. A member highlighted in discussion that they currently had 13 outstanding double yellow line orders in their area.

4. Chief Fire Officer Report

Andy Hermiston, Acting Chief Fire Officer presented his report to update the Committee of recent decisions and policies. Members particularly noted that the following:

- 56% increase in the number of on-call Firefighters, of which 22% are female Firefighters, far in excess of the national ratio of female staff;
- the implementation of a nationally recognised fitness test for staff;
- the success of the 'Exercise Star' call-out exercise in December. In the case of an emergency over the Christmas, GFRS would have been fully able to respond; and

- tribute was paid to the hard work of the trading standard on prosecutions in the County.

During discussions following the report, members were assured of the following:

- There are criteria in place to make sure no call out lacks an experienced senior manager onsite;
- the service are implementing the new national fitness tests with a 'soft landing' approach to make sure staff feel fully supported throughout; and
- the service will look into the national 'Friends Against Scams' initiative.

The committee reports can be viewed at:

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=673&MId=9087&Ver=4>

Cllr Rob Bird
Chairman

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Children and Families Scrutiny Committee

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January 2019

1. Improvement Board update

The Committee welcomed Andrew Ireland, Independent Chair of the Improvement Board to the meeting. Mr Ireland reported on the progress work of the Board, his role as Chair and the cross partnership aspects involved in the work. In addition he reflected upon developments made within the service, the performance improvements and he proceeded to highlight the critical areas where progress was still required in order to secure the sustainable improvements.

2. Quality Assurance Framework: Progress Update Report

The report provided an overview of the audit activity undertaken in December, including the completion of audits against expectation, the growth in the number of auditors through the rolling training programme and other quality assurance activity. The Committee welcomed the report and appreciated having sight of the latest figures. The Committee accepted that in order for the organisation to be lifted from an overall rating of inadequate, it was necessary to move the monthly audit ratings to no more than 8% inadequate. As such there were significant improvements in the audit completion rates as a result of considerable pressure and the need to have any exemptions approved by Directors. The Committee agreed that the pressure needed to be maintained until audit process was seen as business as usual.

3. Performance Monitoring

It was reported that there were a number of areas across Children's Social Care where performance had improved or continued to improve since November 2018. The Committee felt that this performance would need to be maintained despite the challenging factors of a system under pressure and a continued workforce turnover, which resulted in recruitment issues.

Members appreciated that further work improvements were required in those areas where performance was not progressing or where issues were still evident for a reducing number of children, in order for all children to be seen, assessed or worked within a timely way and have plans in place to support progress, protection and transition to adulthood. The Committee were pleased to note that no children had been left in unsafe circumstances.

The Director of Children's Services shared his initial thoughts following Ofsted's visit with committee members and was eagerly awaiting the latest outcome letter from Ofsted.

4. Revenue Monitoring

The report highlighted the position as at November 2018. The current position for non-DSG funded services was an overspend position of £7.23 million (6.81% of budget). The underlying over-spend was £9.83 million, £5.98 million being external placement costs, which reduces to £7.23 million when offset by £2.6 million of Business Rates Retention pilot income. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded services are forecast to be over-spent by

£4.42 million in-year and this exceeds uncommitted balances resulting in an over-spend of £1.92 million.

The Committee noted the position statement.

5. Children and the Justice System

The Committee noted the progress made in relation to further developing the local arrangements for Youth Justice with a particular emphasis on the work being undertaken to prevent the detention of children in police stations following charge. A vigorous discussion took place which assisted officers in the development of the plan. Officers explained that the local authority was not provided with a specific grant or funding stream to meet this duty, as such the costs for children transferred to the care of the local authority were met from existing budgets for children in care.

The committee reports can be viewed at:

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=670&MId=9041&Ver=4>

Cllr Brian Robinson
Chairman