

Minutes of: PARTNER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 3rd November 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Kenyon (Chair)
Councillors Fletcher, Kempson, Knowles, and Shipley

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Walmsley, North West Ambulance Service
Madeline Edgar, North West Ambulance Service
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
Councillor Tony Haworth

3 Members of the public

NB: As Councillor McInnes has now resigned from the Council, the Vice Chair, Councillor Kenyon Chaired the meeting.

The Chair asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Councillor McInnes, wishing her well for the future and thanking her for her commitment towards the scrutiny process in Rossendale.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Alyson Barnes, Leader of the Council.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for discussion.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair agreed to deviate from the Procedure for Public Speaking and allow members of the public to ask questions as the reports were discussed.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair encouraged Members to support the White Ribbon Campaign, which on 6th July the Council announced its support of the campaign in Rossendale. The White Ribbon Campaign is about pledging never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women. Each year, the campaign urges men and boys to wear a white ribbon for one or two weeks. Members were encouraged to buy a white ribbon. The campaign begins week commencing 25th November.

7. NORTH WEST AMBULANCE SERVICE PRESENTATION

The Chair introduced Ian Walmsley and Madeline Edgar from the North West Ambulance Service.

Madeline gave an overview of the ambulance service 5 year business plan – Going from Good to Great, which they have presented to MPs, local authorities and other organisations to talk through their plan.

The business plan started earlier in the year following discussion with staff who were asked how their 'good' organisation could become a 'great' organisation.

They looked at the NHS culture and guidance material and the plan would focus on 6 themes as follows.

- Working together for patients
- Respect and dignity
- Commitment to quality of care
- Compassion
- Improving lives
- Everyone counts

In the past 10 years, calls to the ambulance service nationally have risen from 4.9m to over 9m, with emergency hospital admissions rising by 31%.

Activity was continually rising in accident and emergency and therefore there was a need for a robust urgent care service.

With regard to the 111 service which was originally provided by NHS Direct. Due to this not working, the 111 service was taken over by North West Ambulance Service to deliver a reliable and efficient service for all. Their aim is to reduce the number of patients who attend emergency departments and ensure that patients receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place, with an investment of £500k in urgent care services.

All NHS Trusts need to have Foundation Trust (FT) status by 2015 and whilst the ambulance service did apply to become a foundation trust last year there were a number of areas that needed to improve. They are now making good progress and remain on track to reapply for FT.

The service has to save £48.6m over the next 4 years. Therefore, as they have over 100 properties, many of which are not fit for purpose, they are looking at how best to use estate funding by sharing facilities with the fire and police. This would save on paying the maintenance on buildings which are most of the time empty, as staff sign on and take the vehicles out for most of their shift.

A possibility was to have a large super-station as a 'hub' where vehicles are stocked and cleaned before staff take their vehicle to a 'spoke' area to commence their shift. A spoke area could be a health centre, bus station or fire station.

A number of questions were raised by members, which the representatives from the ambulance service responded.

Ian Walmsley provided information on Rossendale's performance targets, indicating that the target for R1 (response within 8 minutes) was 75% and Rossendale was below target at 60.7%. In relation to CAT A (response within 19 minutes), they were just below the 95% target at 94.9%.

Due to the failure to achieve these targets, a business case was being produced to increase resources to include looking at increasing first responders to the Borough where there were active recruitment campaigns at community events throughout the Borough.

Ian agreed to send information on clinical quality indicator results for each ambulance station within the Borough.

RESOLVED:

That Chair thanked Madeline Edgar and Ian Walmsley for their informative presentation.

8. RESPONSES TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY TASK AND FINISH GROUP FROM ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL AND LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chair of the Public Rights of Way Task and Finish Group asked members to consider the response from Cabinet and Lancashire County Council to the recommendations of the task and finish group.

It was agreed that both responses were very positive.

RESOLVED:

That Partner Scrutiny Committee notes the Cabinet and Lancashire County Council's response to the recommendations, which the Scrutiny Support Officer will review to ensure implementation of the recommendation accepted within the responses.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 7.48pm

Signed (Chair)

Date