

Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Board

9 September 2010

-: Present :-

Councillor Kerslake (Chair)

Councillors Carter (C), Excell, Faulkner (A), Manning, and Scouler

233. Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Morey and J. Thomas.

234. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Board held on 15 July 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

235. Ambulance Handover Delays

The Board considered Report 219/2010 which provided information on ambulance handover delays in Torbay. The Chief Operating Officer, South Devon Healthcare Foundation Trust (SDHFT), the Senior Commissioning Manager (Unscheduled Care), Torbay Care Trust, the Matron, Emergency Department, SDHFT, and the Executive Officer, South Western Ambulance Service Trust attended the meeting. The Chief Operating Officer, SDHFT, summarised the issues and referred to a significant recent improvement in ambulance handovers within Torbay.

In response to members' questions, the Board was advised that patients never queued in ambulances outside the Emergency Department at Torbay Hospital.

Members questioned and received clarification about the measurement and definitions of arrival time, waiting time, and a handover period.

The Board was advised that patients arriving at the Emergency Department were prioritised according to clinical need and those arriving in ambulances did not receive undue priority. Members were informed that there was not any advantage conferred upon patients arriving at the Emergency Department by ambulance compared with those arriving by other transport.

Members questioned the amount set aside to pay financial penalties for handover delays in excess of 15 minutes for 2010/11 and were informed that a figure of £287,000 was an estimated total for penalties within the South Western Ambulance Service area. The Director of Public Health indicated that clarification of the £287,000 penalty figure would be provided to Board members.

The Board was advised that funds from financial penalties for handover delays were allocated into operations at South Western Ambulance Service Trust. Members questioned why the financial penalties for ambulance handover delays at SDHFT were paid by Torbay Care Trust rather than the acute trust responsible. In response

members were advised that some acute trusts did pay financial penalties for handover delays direct to the ambulance trust and the differing arrangements were historical.

With reference to recent improvements in handover delays, Board members suggested the merit of receiving updates.

Resolved: (i) that the recent improvement in ambulance handover delays within Torbay be welcomed; and

(ii) that Health Scrutiny Board members continue to monitor the ambulance handover delays within Torbay and be provided with monthly position updates.

236. Brixham Town Health and Social Care Strategic Framework

The Board considered Report 220/2010 which set out a framework to develop the Brixham Town Health and Social Care Strategic Framework.

Members questioned the investment and development of services at St Kilda residential care home in the medium term. In response the Board was informed that the building and services at St Kilda needed investment within the next five years and Sandwell Community Caring Trust could access substantial development funds. In reply to questions, members were advised that there would not be a reduction in service provision. Members questioned the use of residential care beds as intermediate care beds at St Kilda and whether there had been any difficulties.

Members questioned the provision of domiciliary care. In response the Board was advised that standard domiciliary care provision was not included within the proposed strategic framework.

Board members questioned the likelihood of difficulties if residential care services provided day services for older people. In response, the Director of Public Health indicated that she was not aware of any issues.

Members questioned how many of the 200 Bay-wide target for extra care provision applied to Brixham. In reply, the Board members were advised the information could be provided to Board members and that assistive technology would feature in such provision.

Members asked how the currently limited provision of sheltered accommodation schemes in Brixham would meet future numbers of people who became disabled or required support for mobility needs. The Board was advised that a future needs analysis would be conducted.

In response to requests for the latest information on the steps being taken to tender out an NHS dental facility in Brixham, the Board was informed that the Dental Lead at Torbay Care Trust could provide a detailed update if required by Board members.

Resolved: that the Brixham Town Health and Social Care Strategic Framework be noted.

237. Dementia and Older People's Mental Health Services

The Board considered Report 221/2010 which provided information on local access to diagnosis for those with dementia and also the implications of the Fernworthy Unit at Torbay Hospital reopening in 2011. The Medical Director, Devon Partnership NHS Trust and the Mental Health Commissioning Manager, Torbay Care Trust, attended the meeting.

Members confirmed that currently both older people in Torbay with a functional illness who needed hospital care and those older people with a condition such as dementia were treated at Brunel Lodge in Newton Abbot. The Board was advised that the changes proposed would mean older people in Torbay with a functional illness would be treated at the Fernworthy Unit following its opening in 2011 and older people with dementia requiring specialist inpatient care would be treated at units such as Franklyn Hospital in Exeter.

Members asked how many clients with dementia needed specialist inpatient treatment and were informed that nine people had been admitted to hospital with dementia in the previous six months.

Members questioned the travel and transport arrangements if older people with dementia needing specialist inpatient treatment were treated at Exeter rather than more locally. In response, the Medical Director, Devon Partnership Trust, indicated that the Trust was aware of a responsibility to ensure accessibility, particularly for elderly spouses, and would work with its local implementation group to address such issues.

In response to questions, the Board was advised by the Medical Director, Devon Partnership Trust, that more inpatient beds were not required for older people's mental health services.

In reply to questions about the likely closure of Brunel Lodge, the Board was advised that no decision had been taken and its use as a community resource centre was a possibility.

Members questioned the impact of the changes to the Clennon Valley Healthy Living Centre upon the plans for Devon Partnership Trust's proposed network centre. The Board was advised that alternative sites were under discussion, including negotiations with a local GP practice and possible relocation into purpose built offices.

The Board was advised that user involvement and implementation plans for the proposals for mental health services for older people were included within Torbay's Dementia Strategy.

Resolved: that the service development for older people's mental health services outlined in Report 221/2010 be noted.

238. Torbay LINK update

The Board considered Report 222/2010 which provided information on Torbay LINK. The Community Partnership Manager, Torbay Council, and the Torbay LINK

Development Officer attended the meeting. The Board received a presentation outlining the progress and the future of the LINK.

The Board was advised that funding for the LINK had been ring-fenced nationally for the first year, 2008/09, and had been ring-fenced within Torbay for the two subsequent years. Members asked whether £300,000 funding for three years of the LINK appeared a good use of public money. In response, the Board was informed that funds during the first two years of the LINK did not appear to have well spent but performance was improving and progress had been achieved.

Members were informed that each LINK was scheduled to be replaced by a local Healthwatch in 2012. The Board was advised that if the service provided to the LINK by the host organisation, Help and Care, was judged to be acceptable and considered value for money then the current contract with the host might be extended to include 2011/12. Members were advised that it was likely to be a statutory requirement for the local authority to fund a local Healthwatch in Torbay beginning in April 2012.

Members were advised of the draft key performance indicators against which the service provided by the existing LINK hosted by Help and Care would be reviewed in December 2010.

With reference to the role of a local Healthwatch, including health complaints advocacy and supporting people to make choices about their care services, members questioned the extent to which the range of skills and expertise was different from those needed for a LINK.

Members suggested the possible value of re-naming the Torbay LINK to Torbay Healthwatch at the earliest opportunity following confirmation of the proposed change.

Resolved: that details of the December 2010 review of the service provided by the existing LINK hosted by Help and Care be provided to Health Scrutiny Board members.

Chairman