

Policy Development Scrutiny Committee



Date	30 September 2010
Venue	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members	Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson (Chairman) Councillor Kiran Mulholland (Vice-Chairman) Brenda Ackers, Christine Akeroyd, Frank Andrews, David Chedd, John Davies, Leonard Davies, Tony Ford, Elizabeth Oades, Elaine Silverwood
Other Councillors	Cheryl Little
Officers	Allan Oldfield, Paul Walker, Mark Evans, Mike Walker, Chris Hambly, Joceline Greenaway, Annie Womack
Others	-

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Policy Development Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 25 August 2010 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Substitute members

The following substitutions were reported under council procedure rule 22.3:

Councillor Tony Ford for Councillor Karen Henshaw

Councillor Christine Akeroyd for Councillor Ben Aitken

4. Vision – A Presentation by Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Mr Philip Graham, Head of Information Communications Technology, from Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust gave a

presentation to members on their Electronic Patient Record system which is called "Vision".

Mr Graham advised the committee that they were still consulting widely to hear what comments queries and suggestions might be brought to bear on the implementation of the system, which would be done in a phased approach, and which would be completed by the summer of 2012.

He then outlined for the committee members exactly how it would work, and the advantages and benefits it would bring both to patients and to healthcare professionals.

Privacy issues were covered in some detail as well, and assurances were given that safeguards were in place, enabling the public to have trust and confidence in the system.

The committee had several queries for Mr Graham. They asked whether patients could ask to see their own records. Mr Graham confirmed that they could and that they could ask to have them corrected.

Concerns were raised about the fact that this model was not one that was being adopted by the whole region, or even nationally, and Mr Graham was asked how the Blackpool Fylde and Wyre (BFW) system would interface with others. The committee were advised that there was an electronic gateway which would allow electronic exchange of information with others.

In response to a query about back-up systems he advised members that back-up was secure, in accordance with their business continuity plan and that there were dual data centres which replicated each other. He acknowledged that things could go wrong but that in the event of serious problems, the system could print out a position statement of those currently in care, and records could still be created and exchanged by hard copy.

When asked what problems he could foresee he included change issues for staff, training of 4,500 staff, plus locum staff, bank staff and new joiners.

The committee RESOLVED to thank Mr Graham and to note the report.

There was no recorded vote as the Chairman decided that the matter was not controversial, and the resolution was carried by show of hands.

5. Hospital Acquired Infections – Update to Original Review

Jo Lickiss, Consultant Nurse for Infection Prevention, from Blackpool Victoria Hospital gave a presentation on Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAI) which was a follow up to the original review undertaken by the Task and Finish Group in 2008.

That overview of infection control procedures had been based around key questions identified by the task and finish group, and was presented to

committee in July 2008. Subsequent to that committee's recommendation, Cllrs Craig-Wilson and Mulholland had met with Jo Lickiss at Blackpool Victoria Hospital (BVH), and had asked for an update report to a future committee meeting.

Ms Lickiss started her presentation with an overview of the incidence of HCAI globally, in England and Wales, and specifically in Blackpool Victoria Hospital. She advised members of the actions which were being taken to reduce incidents of C-Difficile and MRSA in the hospital, the scrutiny of their performance and what else might be done to reduce these infections.

She outlined BVH's results to date which showed great improvements and she assured the committee that their targets had not just been met but had been bettered.

Members were told about successful prevention initiatives such as hand hygiene audits, screening of all emergency and elective admissions (bar some day case patients). There had been a change in culture at the hospital and a commitment to infection prevention by all staff.

Ms Lickiss told the committee that whilst it was impossible to totally eradicate infections, simple controls like visitors not visiting hospital when they were ill, visitors practising hand hygiene, and healthcare professionals not overusing antibiotics would all contribute to an overall improvement. The latter was particularly important to prevent infections becoming more resistant.

Members queried what would happen if BVH failed to meet its targets and were advised that this could be a fine, or a full investigation, and could even lead to a loss of Trust status.

It was apparent that a reduction in claims against the hospital which followed a reduction in cases meant that more money could be invested in prevention, and this was clearly showing results.

In response to other questions Ms Lickiss advised that there was a stringent cleaning regime in force, the performance of which was closely monitored.

The committee RESOLVED:

1. To thank Johanne Lickiss, Consultant Nurse for Infection Prevention, for attending the committee and for her presentation.
2. To ask that a yearly update should be provided to the committee.

There was no recorded vote as the Chairman decided that the matter was not controversial, and the resolution was carried by show of hands.

6. Revision of Statement of Licensing Policy

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) explained that S5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires the Licensing Authority to determine and publish a statement of Licensing Policy for a 3 year period to enable the proper discharge of the

Council's responsibilities for the regulation of alcohol sales, public entertainment and late night refreshment in the Borough.

The current Statement of Licensing Policy must be re-considered by the 7th January 2011 and as such, the purpose of the Report is to inform Members of the consultation process being undertaken and the amendments to the current policy.

Mr Hambly advised that new licensing regulations were expected next year which meant that this revised policy could quickly become out of date; nevertheless the Council was required by the Act to have it in place by the deadline.

The committee RESOLVED: To note the report.

There was no recorded vote as the Chairman decided that the matter was not controversial, and the resolution was carried by show of hands.

7. Planning Enforcement

Mark Evans (Assistant Director, Planning Services) presented a report which reviewed the progress made on planning enforcement following the recruitment of officers to two posts in November 2009. It looked at the capacity to deliver this element of the service, the performance and workload issues that are currently being faced and the future management of the enforcement process.

He told members that the new appointments had allowed inroads to be made into the backlog of complaints and had allowed officers not only to be more responsive to complaints but also to become more proactive in their methods.

As the numbers came down, they were looking at prioritising proactive enforcement, for example in the key gateway locations, town centres and conservation areas.

Overall he said that there was now a much more efficient, effective and responsive enforcement service, and there were opportunities to move into closer working relationships with other partners and with the community.

Members expressed approval of the improved enforcement performance and looked forward to officers having the capacity to tackle other issues such as illegal signage. It was also felt that, as had been expressed in previous scrutiny of this topic, it would be desirable at some future point to have an officer able to deal with conservation issues.

After a debate the committee RESOLVED: To note the report.

There was no recorded vote as the Chairman decided that the matter was not controversial, and the resolution was carried by show of hands.

8. The Tourist Information Service – T & F Review

The Policy Development Scrutiny Committee meeting of 15 July 2010 received a report from the Director of Customer and Operational Services outlining the current position with regard to the Tourist Information Centre (TIC).

The committee appointed a Task and Finish Group to conduct a review. The Group had looked at the inability of the Council to provide a face-to-face or telephone service on Bank Holidays and weekends and had felt that for a seaside resort that was far from an ideal service. However, the Council was unable to open the Town Hall, where the TIC is situated, at those times.

Under the circumstances the Group had decided to recommend that the issue be referred back to Cabinet and for Cabinet to consider whether it was appropriate to seek other groups or organisations to provide the service on its behalf.

After some debate of the issues surrounding the delivery of the TIC service and the involvement of other groups with an interest in the outcome, as well as making a commitment to any extension of the service not having a cost to the Council, the committee RESOLVED:

To refer the matter to Cabinet, with a recommendation that Fylde Borough Council should look further into alternative ways of providing an extended service.

There was no recorded vote as the Chairman decided that the matter was not controversial, and the resolution was carried by show of hands.
