

Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee



Date	6 July 2006
Venue	Town Hall, Lytham St Annes
Committee members	Kiran Mulholland (Chairman) John Prestwich (Vice-Chairman) Louis Rigby, Thomas Threlfall, William Thompson, Stephen Wall, Colin Walton
Other Councillors	Councillors Patricia Fieldhouse, Albert Pounder, Hilda Wilson and Ron Wilson
Officers	Dave Joy, Tracy Scholes, Carolyn Whewell, Annie Womack
Others	Rosie Jolly (Age Concern) Kevin Spencer(Fylde Primary Care Trust)

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 Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 11 May 2006 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Substitute members

No Substitute Members were reported.

4. Public Consultation - Mental Health Services

Kevin Spencer (representative of the Lancashire Joint Primary Care Trust) and Councillor Patricia Fieldhouse (Portfolio holder for Community and Social Wellbeing) presented a joint report on a public consultation document produced by the PCT on its proposals for changes to the way it provides mental health services across Lancashire.

A copy of the full consultation document was circulated with the agenda for members views.

In brief, the report described the PCTs reasons for the changes, highlighted those areas where changes needed to be made to existing services and described its proposals for

change. Kevin Spencer explained that the Primary Care Trust had decided on three new hospital sites as the best number to achieve the required flexibility and accessibility of service, and adequate specialist input. It was intended that the number of bed spaces would be reduced and the money saved from this reduction would be invested in supporting people in the community, and that keeping people out of hospital beds and within a supportive community wherever possible was a desirable outcome.

Councillors commented that the location of the proposed new state-of-the-art mental hospital for the Fylde Coast would be critical in terms of finding a location, which was accessible for all. Mr. Spencer outlined that the site of the Fylde Coast hospital site was undecided at this stage but location and access would be a key influence.

Councillor Patricia Fieldhouse, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community and Social Well-Being was in attendance at the meeting and reported she supported the rationalisation of NHS beds for mental health services into three mental hospital sites across Lancashire.

The Committee were supportive of the proposals to convert or close existing mental health units and create three new mental health inpatient sites across Lancashire.

Following discussion it was RESOLVED to respond to the public consultation, through the Cabinet Portfolio Holder, and indicate the support of the Committee to convert or close existing mental health units and create three new mental health inpatient sites.

5. The evolution of Lytham Hospital

Kevin Spencer (representative of the Lancashire Joint Primary Care Trust) and Councillor Patricia Fieldhouse (Portfolio holder for Community and Social Wellbeing) reported on Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre NHS Hospitals Trust's proposal to submit a planning application for the development of the Proposed Primary Care Centre on the Lytham Hospital site.

The Chairman reminded members of the Committee who were also members of the Development Control Committee not to give a view on the perceived merits or otherwise of the planning application.

It was discussed that the development of the hospital site would be a complete demolition and re-build and was an 18-month/two year project in total. All services would be re-located whilst the building work was being undertaken and some services would be provided locally whilst others would be provided at Blackpool Victoria Hospital. Some of the services would be permanently located to other sites.

The Committee commented that local people would be worried that this would represent the demise of a local facility and services. However, a message needed to be made to the public that this was a re-organisation which would see a more modern facility on the site which would allow a higher standard and greater range of care to be provided within the locality. The Committee members undertook to emphasise this point in any discussions that they had with residents within their localities.

The Committee RESOLVED To note the report and the fact that any modernisation of the site would provide facilities of a higher standard allowing a greater range of services to be provided within the locality.

6. Age Concern update

Rosie Jollie (Chief Officer, Age Concern) attended the meeting and provided an update on the operation of the Service Level Agreement between the Council and Age Concern for the period November 2005 - June 2006.

The report of Rosie Jolly gave an overview of activity including information and advice service update, comment on charity shops, overview of mini bus service, rural development issues, ICT training and volunteer contribution. Ms. Jolly reported that future reporting to the Committee would be based on the Service Level Agreement performance measures.

Questions were asked whether the closure of the Lytham St. Annes CAB had had an impact on the Age Concern service. Ms. Jolly replied there had been a significant increase in information and advice sought by individuals who would have usually has gone to CAB. Ms. Jolly was compiling information about the impact of this on her service. The Chairman reported out that in the long term CAB would be presenting proposals to the Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee to expand the Kirkham Cab with outreach services provided throughout the Borough including St. Annes.

Ms. Jolly was also asked if she felt that the right level of resources and officer support were provided to her organisation. Ms. Jolly replied by indicating she had very positive relationships with officers at the Borough Council.

Members RESOLVED to note the report and looked forward to receiving a future report against the performance measures established within the Service Level Agreement.

7. Partnership working annual report 2005/2006

Dave Joy (Deputy Chief Executive) presented the annual review on the level and effectiveness of partnership working during 2005/2006.

The report included a copy of the protocol for reviewing partnership performance and a summary of the partnership performance during 2005/06. In addition, a copy of the Council's partnership development protocol was circulated. Members were advised that this protocol was designed to fully investigate the likely cost-benefit before the Council committed to a partnership. The protocol as it stood applied to all categories of partnerships.

Members discussed the merits of asking individual partnerships to report back to the committee, particularly in cases where there was little or no performance information. All agreed performance information should be addressed within the annual report. Issues that arise from the performance data will be addressed individually by the committee.

Following consideration it was RESOLVED

1. To note the level and effectiveness of partnership working during 2005/06; and

2. To Councillor John Longstaff be invited to attend a future meeting to update the Committee on the Blackpool Airport Consultative Committee in light of the plans to expand the airport operation.

3. That the Deputy Chief Executive obtain information regarding the current status of the Kirkham Museum Trust and report the findings to a future meeting.

3. To agree to the amendment of the Partnership Development Protocol so that in future it only applies to statutory and formal partnerships

8. Member feedback on outside bodies

There were no issues arising from members serving on outside bodies.

The Committee RESOLVED to note the report.

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