
Meeting: Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 12 April 2012
Subject: Bedford Hospital NHS Trust: Transforming for Excellence
Report of: Cllr Carole Hegley, Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing
Summary: The report invites the Committee to consider whether a formal Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required in relation to the proposed consultation regarding Bedford Hospital NHS Trust's Transforming for Excellence Programme (TfE)

Advising Officer: Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
Contact Officer: Jonathon Partridge, Scrutiny Policy Adviser (0300 300 4634)
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. The Transforming for Excellence Programme by Bedford Hospital NHS Trust will have an impact on the following Council Priorities:

- Supporting and caring for an ageing population
- Promoting healthier lifestyles.

The Committee is invited to consider how best to scrutinise the programme.

Financial:

2. Costs for the establishment and running of a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee can be met from existing budgets.

Legal:

3. The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny of Health Function) Regulations 2001 require that NHS bodies consult the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee where there is a proposed substantial variation or development of health services in the area. Overview and Scrutiny Committees are statutory consultees. An Overview and Scrutiny Committee can decide whether or not it wishes to respond to the consultation.

4. Under Section 7 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001, Social Services authorities are required to appoint an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review health services within the local authority area. In Central Bedfordshire Council, this function is carried out by the Social Care Health & Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
5. Further to this, the Secretary of State issued a Direction in 2003 with regard to NHS consultations that cover several local authorities. Where this is the case, those authorities' Overview and Scrutiny committees that wish to be involved in the consultation must form a Joint Committee. Councils' Overview and Scrutiny Committees cannot choose to be consulted separately. Under current legislation, a joint committee of this nature is required to be politically proportionate unless the Councils involved agree to waive that requirement.

Risk Management:

6. There are no direct risk implications arising from this report.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

7. There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report.

Equalities/Human Rights:

9. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

Community Safety:

10. Not applicable.

Public Health

11. There are no direct public health implications arising from this report.

Sustainability:

12. Not applicable.

Procurement:

13. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider whether this is a substantial variation or development of services and therefore a formal public consultation is required, and;
2. Subject to recommendation 1 above, to agree in principle that a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be established.

Background

14. The Bedford Hospital NHS Trust have provided the **Appended** briefing, which outlines the detail of the work that will be carried out under the Transforming for Excellence (TfE) Programme. Representatives from the TfE Programme will be at the Committee's meeting to present the briefing and to answer the Committee's questions.
15. As the TfE programme will affect services that are delivered to residents across a number of local authorities, it is likely that a joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) will be formed. Bedford Borough Council's Adult Services and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are also receiving a presentation in relation to the TfE programme at their meeting in April where they will consider if they feel this is a substantial variation and whether a JHOSC is required.
16. It is proposed that, once all the Councils have considered the matter and decided individually whether a joint HOSC is required, formal appointment processes will be undertaken including more detail on the composition of the Joint HOSC. It should also be noted that the NHS 'duty to involve' requires consultation with all local authorities where patients of the services under consideration reside, and therefore it may be possible that a Joint HOSC will include additional local authorities from the borders of the area.

Appendix:

Appendix: Briefing Paper from Bedford Hospital NHS Trust relating to the Transforming for Excellence programme

Background papers and their location: (open to public inspection)

None.