
Meeting: Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 21 October 2013
Subject: Health Scrutiny of changes to Paediatric Services at Bedford Hospital
Report of: Cllr Rita Drinkwater, Chairman of Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Summary: The report invites the Committee to consider whether a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required in relation to a review of Paediatric Services at Bedford Hospital.

Contact Officer: Jonathon Partridge, Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Manager
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. The review of Paediatric Services at Bedford Hospital will have an impact on promoting health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.

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 the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013, local authorities are required to appoint a joint health overview and scrutiny committee (JHOSC) for the purpose of consultation where the NHS consults more than one local authority. Where JHOSCs are formed, the constituent Authorities are able to reserve to themselves the power to refer the proposals to the Secretary of State for Health in appropriate circumstances after an attempt has been made to resolve any dispute locally.
5. 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. Not applicable.

Equalities/Human Rights:

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

Community Safety:

9. Not applicable.

Sustainability:

10. Not applicable.

Procurement:

11. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION(S):**The Committee is asked to:**

1. **Agree that 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

12. On 29 July 2013 the Committee received an update from the Chief Executive of Bedford Hospital and discussed proposals to vary paediatric services. The Committee requested that the Chief Operations Officer at Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group consult the Committee on the proposed changes to paediatric services at Bedford Hospital. Appendix A provides an update on the proposals for a public consultation.
13. On 10 September 2013, Bedford Borough Council's Adult Services and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved that the Paediatric Services Review was a substantial variation and development of service and as a result considered a JHOSC to be necessary.
14. The majority of patients who access paediatric services are from Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire. Whilst other authorities have been invited to take part in a proposed JHOSC it is considered likely that it will be constituted by Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils only. It is therefore proposed that each authority provide four Members to the JHOSC, which in Central Bedfordshire will be drawn from the Social Care, Health and Housing OSC. In the event that further authorities join the JHOSC it may be necessary to consider the number of Members provided by each authority.

15. The role of the JHOSC would be to consider both the adequacy of the consultation process as well as the proposals themselves. It would therefore be likely that the JHOSC would need to begin work prior to the start of the formal consultation in order to advise NHS colleagues of its views of the proposals for consultation.

Conclusions

16. Members are asked to consider whether they feel that changes to paediatric services at Bedford hospital constitute a substantial variation of service and if so agree that they consider a JHOSC to be necessary.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Briefing Paper from Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

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

Minutes of the meeting of the Social Care, Health and Housing OSC dated 29 July 2013 (available in public at the following web address:-

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=644&MId=4418&Ver=4>)