

COMMUNITY, CUSTOMER AND ORGANISATIONAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 7 JULY, 2015

Briefing Note re. Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) - Health: Special Meeting held on 10 June 2015 re. Holywell Medical Group

Background

On 15 May 2015 North Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (ND CCG) announced that, owing to financial difficulties, the Holywell Medical Group had ceased to operate and ND CCG had made "caretaker" arrangements for its 24,000 patients with Royal Primary Care, part of Chesterfield & North Derbyshire Royal Hospital Foundation Trust (CNDRHFT). On the 19 May 2015 I attended, as a local member, the Derbyshire County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Health where a verbal report was received from the ND CCG Chief Executive. It was agreed that a special meeting should be held to consider the situation more fully. The Committee Chair later invited representation from the Chesterfield Borough Council scrutiny function to that meeting. Following discussion between the two scrutiny chairs it was agreed I should attend.

Key points covered at the meeting

- An update was provided by Jackie Pendleton, Chief Executive, and Jayne Stringfellow, Head Nurse and Quality Officer, both from ND CCG. Royal Primary Care (RPC) was represented by Gavin Boyle, Chief Executive, and Steve Hackett, Director of Finance, CNDRHFT.
- The 11 members of the public who attended from the Chesterfield area, including the Vice Chair of the practice's Patient Participation Group, were able to ask questions and comment.
- Holywell Medical Group operated from 5 sites - Barrow Hill; Rectory Road, Staveley; Inkersall ; Holywell House in Chesterfield Town Centre and The Grange on the Grangewood Farm Estate. With 24,000 patients it was an exceptionally large practice (average per GP practice in north Derbyshire is 10,000 patients. Nationally it is 5,000). The practice had been rated as "good" in a recent Care Quality Commission inspection.
- It was noted that thorough steps had been taken to inform all patients and that RPC were now operating from 3 sites Rectory Road, Inkersall and the Grange. 700 patients have registered with other practices.
- The meeting was impressed with the innovative way in which RPC were addressing the challenge.
- ND CCG have granted RPC a temporary contract to the end of March 2016. By which time ND CCG hopes to have completed a tendering exercise for a

new long term contract (most likely 10 years) for general medical services (GMS).

- It is a statutory requirement that public consultation takes place to inform the tender specification.
- I was able to use my local knowledge to explain the geography and demographics of the area. I stressed the importance of engaging the most vulnerable patients, including those with mental ill health and the Barrow Hill community, in the consultation.
- In response to this and concerns about the loss of the facilities in Barrow Hill ND CCG agreed that there was a need for community engagement. ND CCG would also consider adding other services to the GMS tender to address issues raised by the consultation.
- All present agreed the meeting had been positive and DCC OSC - Health will receive regular updates.
- I thanked the Chair for involving the Chesterfield Borough Scrutiny function in the meeting and reminded the health partners that Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) had an excellent track record of involvement in health improvement. The council would like to be kept updated and would assist where possible.
- ND CCG will be providing briefings at CBC's Community Assembly East and DCC's Chesterfield Local Area Committee week commencing 15 June 2015.

Cllr Tricia Gilby,

Chair Enterprise & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee /Joint Chair Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum.

Also elected member for Brimington on Derbyshire County Council

14 June 2015