

SPECIAL HEALTH (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) PANEL

13th January 2011

(6.00 pm)

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Constable (Chairman), Mrs Humphreys, Lewin and Love. Staffordshire County Councillor Mrs England.

(In accordance with Council Procedure No.17 Councillor Pritchard also attended the Meeting)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Mrs Boyle and Mrs Richards

Also present: Mr Jim Barlow (Head of Primary Care Commissioning, South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust), Marie duQuesnay (District Director of Social Care and Health, Lichfield), Nigel Ford (Head of Estates, South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust) and Wendy Kerr (Director of Finance, South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust)

Dr James Ward (Burntwood Health Centre), Staffordshire County Councillor Matthew Ellis (Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing), Mark Hewitt (Staffordshire County Council Business Development) and Jamie MacDonald (Head of Property, Staffordshire County Council)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Constable declared a personal interest as a member of the PCT Implementation group.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS:

RESOLVED: "That as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, which would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972"

IN PRIVATE

BURNTWOOD HEALTH CENTRE UPDATE

Councillor Ellis updated the panel on the options being considered following the decision of South Staffordshire PCT Board not to proceed with a health centre development at Greenwood House. The options he reported had been considered in three stages:

Stage One was to consider whether there was a need for a second health centre or whether this was a 'nice to do' rather than an essential project. Councillor Ellis met with elected Members from Burntwood Councillors to discuss this and was satisfied that there was a need and significant community desire for an additional health centre. Stage two was to consider whether it would be financially feasible for the

County Council to fund this project and whether it could be delivered by the County Council with co-operation from the PCT; Councillor Ellis noted that there are different funding opportunities available to the County Council which may make the project more economically viable. Stage three is underway to undertake some more detailed work on the project proposal.

Jamie MacDonald reported on the very good spirit of co-operation with the PCT and the positive input which health colleagues had provided. A number of options were being considered including whether a development could include supported housing and whether there is scope to include other users, notably children and families staff. The potential to co-locate staff was regarded as particularly beneficial.

In considering the advantages available to the County Council, Mr MacDonald pointed to the following:

1. The site is owned by the County Council
2. No stamp duty would be payable
3. The County Council can borrow at preferential rates
4. The County Council would not need to include a 'profit' element within the scheme

Wendy Kerr explained the benefits of additional services being based within the new Health Centre and that more partners were required in order to make the rental costs affordable for partners. Nigel Ford reported that a fiscal feasibility on the running and rental costs were in the process of being calculated, as the rent seemed the main reason for partners withdrawing from the PCT project.

Dr James Ward, a general practitioner at Burntwood Health Centre expressed a concern for the need for more consulting rooms as there were plans for other doctors to join the practice, which Councillor Ellis assured him would be catered for as the project would be planned to meet future needs up to 10 to 15 years ahead.

Councillor Ellis emphasized the potential of this project to facilitate much closer working relationships between the County Council and PCT which would reinforce current strategic policy objectives to integrate the PCT provider arm with Social Care and Health and to develop a 'one stop shop' approach for customers. The co-location of adults and children's services could also have significant benefits and make joining up between different practitioners and services much easier. Councillor Ellis stated that he would like to be able to re-engage with some of the original partners to maximise the benefit to the community; this is a regeneration opportunity as well as a capital project.

Based on current estimates, the timescale for completing the project would be roughly in line with the health centre development at Burntwood Leisure Centre (ie. spring / summer 2013).

It was suggested that Councillor Ellis and colleagues from the County Council meet again with the Panel to provide an update in a couple of months time.

The Chairman thanked the PCT and County Council representatives for their comprehensive project update. Following discussion it was agreed that a further meeting should be arranged after further progress had been made.

(Meeting finished at 6.40 p.m)

CHAIRMAN