
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 AUGUST 2019

Present: Councillors Bogle (Chair), White (Vice-Chair), Bell, Houghton,
Professor Margetts, Noon and Payne

6. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED: that the minutes for the Panel meeting on 27 June 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

7. **CONTINUING HEALTHCARE**

The Panel considered the report of the Associate Director of Quality, NHS Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), providing the Panel with an overview of Continuing Healthcare in Southampton.

Stephanie Ramsey - Director of Quality and Integration and Chief Nurse, NHS Southampton City CCG, Carol Alstrom – Associate Director of Quality, NHS Southampton City CCG and Tania Emery - Interim Clinical Lead for Continuing Healthcare, NHS Southampton City CCG were in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel discussed a number of points including:

- the complexity of the rules regarding eligibility for continuing healthcare. It was explained that eligibility criteria was set by the Government and that each application is assessed by a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT). It was stressed that should an applicant be assessed as requiring continuing healthcare by the MDT then this would be funded by the CCG. The Panel were informed about the timescales involved and the appeals process. It was further noted that there is a different scheme for patients who require end of life care and that these patients were fast tracked to ensure that they receive the care they required;
- how the MDT was constituted. The Panel noted that training is an ongoing process, and that the CCG are regularly audited to ensure consistency in decision making, but recognised that there were concerns with regards to the level and suitability of training provided.
- the apparent variation between the numbers of Continuing Healthcare assessments and the numbers determined to be eligible for Continuing Healthcare during the period between Quarter 3 in 2017/18 and Quarter 1 in 2018/19. The Panel were unable to ascertain why there appeared to be an increasing disparity between those applying for support and those deemed eligible. The Panel requested that metrics that detailed the numbers of recipients of support in Southampton be supplied alongside comparisons of other comparable local authorities; and
- the need to lobby Government to simplify the process and criteria.

RESOLVED that the Panel requested that:

- (i) Southampton City CCG undertake and provide analysis for the Panel that would clarify the reasons for the variation between the numbers of Continuing Healthcare assessments and the numbers determined to be eligible for Continuing Healthcare during the period between Quarter 3 in 2017/18 and Quarter 1 in 2018/19;
- (ii) the Panel be provided with a suite of benchmarked performance metrics to enable the Panel to compare performance in Southampton with other areas of the country in regard to Continuing Healthcare provision;
- (iii) NHS Southampton City CCG investigate the use of mobile conference facilities for care homes to enable health and care professionals to attend multi-disciplinary team assessments remotely.
- (iv) The issue of Continuing Healthcare is considered when the proposed Social Care Green paper is discussed by the Panel.

NOTE: Councillor Professor Margetts explained to the Panel that he had some knowledge of the system as he had a personal experience of the service

8. **PRIMARY CARE IN SOUTHAMPTON**

The Panel considered the report of the Director of System Delivery, NHS Southampton City Clinical Care Group (CCG), providing the Panel with an update on developments relating to primary care in Southampton.

James Rimmer - Managing Director, NHS Southampton City CCG, Phil Aubrey-Harris – Associate Director of Primary Care, NHS Southampton City CCG and Dr Mark Kelsey Chair of NHS Southampton City CCG were in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel discussed a number of points including:

- the need for the estates review. It was explained that the review would produce detailed estates plans for primary care for each city locality that will form a core component of the CCG and partner organisations delivery plans for 2020/21 and beyond;
- the numbers of GP practices within the City. The Panel noted that the number of practices across the City had reduced but questioned whether the number of available doctors and nursing staff had declined. The Panel discussed the difficulties in attracting staff to undertake the various roles of a GP and noted that most of the practices within the City were private businesses. It was explained that as private businesses with differing priorities it was difficult to drive a uniformed approach to primary care in the City.
- the potential opportunities for practices to provide information to patients on hold whilst calling the surgery. It was acknowledge that more could be done to signpost patient pathways that could potentially relieve the workload of GPs and enable more effective treatment for patients;

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Panel agreed that at this stage the proposed Estates Review does not constitute a substantial variation or development and therefore does not require separate consultation with the Panel, however, the Panel did request that the review terms of reference were circulated to HOSP members.
- (ii) That, in addition to patient list numbers and practice boundaries, the Panel are provided with the following information from NHS Southampton City CCG:
 - a. The number of GPs, nurses and allied health professionals working within each registered GP practice in Southampton.
 - b. The ratio of GPs per 10,000 population in Southampton over a ten year period.
- (iii) That, to improve access to GP appointments, consideration is given to encouraging GP practices to provide advice on answerphone messages of the alternative options that are available to obtain an appointment with a GP in Southampton.