

MINUTES

ESSEX AND SOUTHEND LINK: WEST ESSEX LOCALITY MEETING

Date and Time Wednesday 17th February 2010 2.10pm – 4pm
Location Cornmill Suite, Town Hall, Highbridge Street, Waltham Abbey, EN9 1DE
Organiser Julie Harkus (minute taker)

Attendees: John Carr, Michael Walker, Margaret Fitch, Gillian Ramshaw, Andrew Smith, Sheila Bass, Barbara Blossom, A Brown, F Brown, David Bamber, Sheila Jackman, Linna Howard (PAH), Jenny Minihane (NHS West Essex), Kate Rudland (NHS West Essex) Dr P Kandasamy, Julie Harkus.
Guest speaker: Michelle Bassett – Senior Contracts Manager, NHS West Essex

	Topic	Discussion	Action by who/ when
1	Welcome, Introductions & house-keeping	John Carr, Chairman, introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. John then introduced Michelle Bassett, Senior Contracts Manager, NHS West Essex. Julie Harkus, Project Coordinator explained the housekeeping arrangements for the venue.	
2	Declarations of Interest	None.	
3	GP service provision in Waltham Abbey – Michelle Bassett	<p>Michelle was pleased to see that two Waltham Abbey residents were attending the meeting as she specifically wanted to talk about service provision at Greenyard Surgery. On 1st September 2009, the PCT took over the surgery from Take Care Now (a PCT PMS practice) as a result of the provider calling notice on the contract. The PCT stepped in to ensure that there was continuity of service for patients. The PCT will go out to tender later in the year.</p> <p>In order to take on the lease, a survey was carried out of the building and unmanaged asbestos and dampness was highlighted. This doesn't pose a risk to health at the moment but improvements are required to bring the building up to health and safety standards – at an estimated cost of between £100k - £150k. As the PCT does not own the building; this would not be a good use of public money.</p> <p>The first floor of the Waltham Abbey Health Centre can accommodate</p>	

the practice comfortably – it is a better environment for patients and staff, has car parking and provides a blood testing service. The Health Centre affords more opportunities to develop services – staying at the Greenyard Surgery is not an option.

NHS West Essex has organised two public meetings at the Town Hall on 22nd February at 12.30pm and on 4th March at 7.30pm. All patients are being contacted in writing, the Town Council is publicising the meetings on all public notice boards and the press has been contacted.

One of the Waltham Abbey residents (a patient of Greenyard Surgery), commented that a surgery was needed at that end of the town as getting to the Health Centre for pedestrians was difficult with traffic lights to negotiate. John replied that he had been involved in discussions with the district council and others prior to the planning of Sainsbury's when it was promised that a suitable long term medical centre would be built by the supermarket.

David Bamber questioned whether the population of Waltham Abbey (20,000) should have to rely on one GP surgery and Michelle responded that there is another practice at Maynard Court.

Sheila Bass asked if there were any plans to build more residential properties in Waltham Abbey. Michelle replied that she was not aware of any new housing developments but the PCT would look at health provision as part of the planning process. Michelle remarked that drop in sessions to the Health Centre will be offered at the public meetings.

Discussion then followed about concerns regarding the provision of phlebotomy services at the Health Centre.

Barbara Blossom asked about developments following the closure of Roding House, Buckhurst Hill (mental health facility). John referred Barbara to a letter from Kirsty Boettcher, NHS West Essex, dated 25th September 2009 which had been copied to her. This matter was taken up by Sheila Jackman at the Epping Forest Users Consultative Forum and John reported that he would be speaking to the Director of Commissioning at the board meeting the next day. Andrew Smith gave some background information to attendees about Roding House and the new Community Bridge Builder scheme. Barbara agreed that Julie could pass her telephone number on to Lois Sparkes from West Essex MIND so that Lois could explain how the new service is going.

JH

Discussion followed around mental health and stretching budgets and that more funding is going into providing new mental health services.

John offered to take these concerns to the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

JC

Sheila suggested inviting a director from west Essex mental health services to a meeting to give an overview of the services provided or the commissioner from the PCT to talk about funding. On 8th March the Epping Forest Users Consultative Forum is having a presentation on this subject. John suggested a road show around the area would better

		<p>inform people about mental health services.</p> <p>Thanks were extended to Michelle for attending the meeting.</p>	
4	Approval of minutes of previous meeting – 7 th December 2009	<p>The minutes were approved by Michael Walker and seconded by Margaret Fitch subject to the following change:</p> <p>Page 6 – item 8 AOB - line 17 add “; it is said that” after “services” and delete “so”.</p>	
5	Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheila Bass commented that she had still not been contacted by the Older People’s Planning Group (Julie to follow up) • Page 5 item 5 (Matters Arising) – John reported that a follow up letter had been sent to Chris Pocklington, chief executive, on 19th January regarding neonatal intensive care services at PAH and a response was awaited. At a meeting on 15th February, our concerns were voiced to the chairman of Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH), Gerald Coteman, who promised to follow this up. Subsequent to this meeting, a reply has been received from Chris Pocklington. • Page 6 item 8 AOB (bullet point 4) – Margaret Fitch raised the issue of interpreting services not being publicised in GP surgeries with the PCT and was informed that it is up to surgeries what information they display as they have a lot of it. Julie and John have also pursued this with Gita Mehta, Assistant Director of Nursing NHS West Essex, as part of their discussions regarding a draft Patient and Carer’s Strategy the PCT is developing. 	JH
6	Renal Dialysis Services in west Essex – future developments	<p>John reported that a proposed renal dialysis service is being considered at PAH. This will mean that patients in west Essex will not need to travel to Southend or London for treatment. Gillian Ramshaw commented that she had attended a meeting on 22nd January organised by PAH to consult on renal services and that Dr Roger Greenwood (consultant nephrologist) led the discussions.</p> <p>Gillian reported that her husband is a renal patient and can be away from home for up to 12 hours for dialysis appointments in London. Demand exceeds supply and this is not helped by the fact that a lot of patients are forced to undergo dialysis 3 times a week for 4 hours at a time. There seems to be an approach that one size fits all and there should be more variation.</p> <p>Julie reported that she was meeting with Gillian and her husband the following week to complete the East of England Dialysis Service Consultation on behalf of the LINK (deadline 8th March).</p>	JH & GR

7	Transport to Princess Alexandra Hospital from Waltham Abbey, Roydon & Nazeing	<p>John commented that he is involved in local public transport provision and has been in discussions with Essex County Council (ECC) regarding transport to PAH. The area generally, is poorly served and he has been trying to address this with the help of the town councils and parish councils in the area. It was noted that Epping Forest has a good community transport scheme but this cannot be relied upon by all patients. Pressure needs to be put upon town and parish councils to provide better transport services.</p> <p>Discussion then followed on the ambulance service and giving way to blue light vehicles at traffic lights. John assured attendees that he would note their concerns and take them to the right department at ECC.</p>	JC
8	Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering high quality hospital health services for the people of north east London Julie tabled the consultation document and encouraged everyone to respond – subsequent to the meeting, the deadline date of 8th March has been extended to 22nd March as there has been a lot of public interest in the plans. Sheila Bass stressed the importance of patients having a say about the closure of A&E and maternity at King George’s and all vascular surgery going to the Royal London. The changes will mean that the Royal London and Queens will be the main acute service providers and that there will be 5 hospitals instead of the current 6. • Public meeting 25th February 2010 Julie publicised the LINK countywide public meeting the following week at the Essex Records Office, Chelmsford. As this was being held on National Dignity Day, 2 films were to be shown on the subject and speakers from ECC and NHS Mid Essex would be giving an introduction to commissioning. • Outreach at PAH – 8th March Julie asked if anyone was available to join her at PAH on 8th March to talk to patients and visitors (from noon – 4pm). • Carers Charter – PAH Julie and John had met with Gerald Coteman, Chairman PAH, and were informed that the hospital is developing a Carer’s Charter and would like input from the locality group. Anyone who would like to be involved should contact Julie. • Mental Health update Andrew Smith, public governor, North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (NEPFT), reported that planning application would shortly be made for a residential unit for young people on the old Severalls site at Colchester and it was hoped the facility would be ready by April 2011. <p>A radical reconstruction is planned of the Derwent Centre at PAH and the first stakeholder meeting has taken place. NEPFT cannot afford to move the facility to a greenfield site so building work will need to take</p>	

		<p>place whilst patients are in situ.</p> <p>A small budget has been provided by NHS West Essex to support IAPT – Improving Access to Psychological Therapies – July is the target date for this new service.</p> <p>Andrew also reported that the public governors are up for re-election and ballot papers will be distributed by 26th February.</p>	
9	Dates of future meetings	<p>Tuesday 16th March 2010 2pm – 4pm Chinese Community Centre, Harlow – “Your choices for quality end of life care in west Essex”</p> <p>Tuesday 13th April 2010 2pm – 4pm Friends Meeting House, Saffron Walden</p> <p>Wednesday 12th May 2010 7pm – 9pm Budworth Hall, Ongar</p> <p>Tuesday 8th June 2010 – AGM in Harlow</p> <p>Tuesday 13th July – Uttlesford area</p> <p>Wednesday 15th September – Epping Forest area</p> <p>Tuesday 12th October – Harlow</p> <p>Tuesday 9th November – Uttlesford area</p> <p>Tuesday 7th December – Epping Forest area</p>	

