

Our Ref S/HWB/NR/
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Date 11 November 2011



The Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Chairman of Social Care and Health
Councillor Ged Clarke

County Hall, West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 7QP

Dear Mr Lansley

Newark Review – NHS Nottinghamshire County and Sherwood Forest Hospitals Foundation Trust

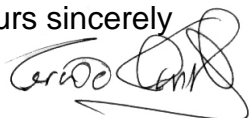
On 20 September 2011 I wrote to request that you reconsider the decision not to ask the Independent Reconfiguration Panel to conduct a full review of proposals known as the Newark Review. This request was based on the views of the community and local elected leaders and was supported by the information that they sought to be considered.

The minutes of the meeting of the Social Care and Health Standing Committee making this referral have now been ratified. For the sake of completeness please find a copy enclosed. The decision set out in the minutes constitutes a referral¹ for the reasons that:

- inadequate consultation has taken place with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Standing Committee is not confident that it has been provided with all the relevant information by NHS Nottinghamshire County and Sherwood Forest Hospitals Foundation Trust. It therefore concludes that it has not been properly consulted. The Committee does not believe that it has been consulted or notified of proposals to change admission times at Newark Hospital.
- the proposals are not in the interests of the health service. This is by virtue of insufficient involvement and consultation of the public. Resolutions passed by parish and town councils and Newark and Sherwood District Council leaves the Committee with insufficient assurance that the public have been adequately consulted.

I hope that the Independent Reconfiguration Panel will be invited to undertake a full review following consideration of the information provided by the community and local elected leaders. Please be advised that the Committee will be meeting on 28 November and 9 January and I hope that one of these occasions may provide an opportunity to receive an update the progress of this referral.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Ged Clarke
Chairman of the Social Care and Health Standing Committee

¹ In accordance with The Health and Social Care Act 2001 and Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/3048) (HSR 2002). As amended

Membership

Councillors

- Ged Clarke (Chairman)
- Fiona Asbury (Vice Chair)
- Victor Bobo
- John Clarke
- Barrie Cooper
- Mike Cox
- Jim Creamer
- Bob Cross
- Vincent Dobson
- Rod Kempster
- Geoff Merry
- Carol Pepper
- Tom Pettengell
- Alan Rhodes
- Mel Shepherd
- Chris Winterton
- Brian Wombwell

● absent

Other Councillor in Attendance

Andy Stewart

Officers

Jon Wilson - Service Director, Personal Care and Support (Younger Adults)
Mark Hudson - Group Manager, Transport and Travel Services
Paul Davies - Governance Officer
Martin Gately - Scrutiny Coordinator
Matthew Garrard - Policy Manager

Also in attendance

Karlie Thompson - NHS Nottinghamshire County
Dr Doug Black - NHS Nottinghamshire County
Dr Amanda Sullivan - Newark and Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group
Kirsty Ball - Mansfield and Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Group
Dr Mark Jefford - Newark and Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group
Richard Henderson - East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Jane Warder - Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Janet Hufton - Service User

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Asbury, Bobo (unwell), Cross (on holiday) and Pettengell.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dobson declared a prejudicial interest by virtue of his wife's involvement with the Save Newark Hospital Campaign Group.

3. Newark Review - Response to Referral

The standing committee on 4 April 2011 had decided to refer the Newark review to the Secretary of State for Health. The Secretary of State had invited the Independent Reconfiguration Panel to carry out an initial assessment. The Panel had concluded that a full review would not be appropriate, and made a number of comments, which the Secretary of State had accepted. The Secretary of State had asked the local NHS to work with the standing committee "to address and resolve its residual concerns regarding admission times at Newark Hospital and other aspects of the implementation of the Newark proposals (transport, new services for patients in Newark and potential population growth in the area)".

The Chairman read a statement in which he referred to a number of requests from local elected leaders and the public for the committee to resubmit the referral to the Secretary of State. He proposed that before considering the information available, the committee resubmit the referral. Members received a copy of a draft letter to the Secretary of State, which would be submitted if the motion was agreed.

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Pepper and unanimously agreed that the requests of local community representatives for a full independent review and the information provided to the standing committee be conveyed to the Secretary of State for Health; and to enable this to be considered, the referral to the Secretary of State for Health be resubmitted as set out in the letter circulated at the meeting.

NHS representatives and Mrs Hufton expressed their disappointment about the committee's decision. The Committee was informed that developments at Newark Hospital had the support of clinicians in both primary and secondary care. The representatives re-iterated their willingness to work with Members to address public concerns and to ensure the best possible outcomes for patients in Newark.

4. NHS Walk-in Centres Review - Further Information

The standing committee on 5 September had considered a report on the Secretary of State's response to the referral of the NHS Walk-in Centres Review. The standing committee had asked for further quantifiable evidence

in support of the proposed actions. Further information was included in the report to the present meeting, to be presented by representatives of NHS Nottinghamshire County.

Councillor Wombwell, local member for Stapleford, was of the view that he could not dispute the figures being presented, although they did not indicate how quick or easy it would be for patients to access the extra appointments. He appreciated the difficulty in keeping the walk-in centres open with the current staffing levels. He asked for a report in six months on the impact of the closure. He stated that given that the committee would not be voting about keeping the centres open, but on whether to accept the information, he would not be opposing the recommendations.

Dr Black gave a presentation to support the information which had been circulated. He was confident that local services and the primary care streams at King's Mill Hospital and QMC could accommodate extra patients arising from the closures. The extra appointments would be managed by practices in the same way as existing ones, and would be a mixture of same day and book ahead appointments. Dr Black pointed out that in the tables submitted to the committee, every entry marked "yes" showed a service which had been equalled or improved. He offered to report back to the committee after six months, to show that patients' demand had been met.

It was agreed to accept the further information presented by the PCT, and also to

- request a further report in six months on the findings of the "effective evaluation of the changes and a process of review and amendment as required";
- request that the findings of the evaluation should include details of any impacts on emergency departments, out of hours GP services and GP practices;
- recommend that the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee consider including behaviour in emergency departments its programme of work.

The meeting closed at 2.35 pm.

CHAIR

Ref: m_20sept11