

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

JOINT COMMITTEE ON NHS CONSULTATION ON BEST CARE, BEST PLACE

2.00PM – 26 NOVEMBER 2004

HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Barnett (BHCC), Bennett (BHCC), Brown (WSCC), Chaplin (WSCC), Mr R Chapman (ESCC), Pennington (BHCC) and Mrs Seward (WSCC)

PART ONE

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

1.1 **RESOLVED** - That Councillor Brown be elected Chair of the Joint Committee.

2. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

2A. Declarations of Substitutes

2.1 Members noted that the substitutes provisions did not apply to the Joint Committee.

2B. Declarations of Interest

2.2 There were none.

2C. Exclusion of Press and Public

2.3 The Joint Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the agenda.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND CONSTITUTION

3.1 The Joint Committee considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services detailing the Terms of Reference and constitution (see minute book).

3.2 It was noted that the Joint Committee may need to involve the Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPIFs) in the discussions. However, members were informed that the PPIFs had been consulted separately and would be submitting their own comments in due course. It was also noted that there may be some overlap between comments expressed by the Joint Committee and those submitted on behalf of the PPIFs.

3.3 **RESOLVED** – That the constitution and Terms of Reference be noted.

4. NHS CONSULTATION ON BEST CARE, BEST PLACE

4.1 The Joint Committee considered the NHS consultation document on Best Care, Best Place (see minute book).

4.2 The Joint Committee received a presentation from Mr Mike Wood, Chief Executive of the Mid Sussex PCT covering the broad issues in the consultation document. The Joint Committee was informed that a number of public workshops had been arranged in December following which a working paper would be produced that would seek to address the issues and provide the information that were raised in the first phase of public workshops.

4.3 Mr Wood explained that the consultation period had commenced on 2 November 2004 and would finish on the 22 February 2005 after which the NHS would respond to the views expressed in the consultation and would produce some firm proposals. He also explained that the NHS was expecting two responses from the Joint Committee; one on the consultation process and one on the proposals themselves.

4.4 The Joint Committee noted that the consultation period would be 16 weeks and that the statutory period was 12 weeks. The Joint Committee also noted that a number of issues that were likely to need further clarification would be transport, population levels, financial issues and the ability of the NHS to deliver on the proposals.

4.5 The Joint Committee was informed that the NHS did not want delays in the consultation process otherwise this could result in the NHS having to respond to crises rather than responding to planned changes in service provision. Mr Woods explained that the NHS had not predicted the outcome of the exercise.

4.6 Mr Woods explained that in addition to the public workshops, the NHS was providing briefings to statutory and voluntary organisations. The NHS would be following the checklist approved by West Sussex County Council as a basis demonstrating that the proper consultation process had been followed.

4.7 In order to establish if the public consultation had been properly fulfilled the Joint Committee would need to consider the publicity given to the public workshops and what other publicity had been given to the exercise.

4.8 The Joint Committee indicated that it would be helpful to visit a number of NHS establishments so that members could see for themselves the impact of the proposals and to see the type of provision that the proposals were advocating. In the circumstances the Chief Executive agreed to draw up an itinerary for members that would be undertaken in the new year.

4.9 Members felt that it was important to observe the public workshops and therefore made arrangements for each of the public workshops to be observed either by members or officers and to report back to the next meeting.

4.10 The Joint Committee noted that the working paper to be produced following the first round of public workshops was likely to be available at the end of December and therefore would be circulated to members before the next meeting. Consideration of this paper would aid further debate.

4.11 **RESOLVED** – That the position be noted.

5. DATES AND VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

5.1 **RESOLVED** – That future meetings of the Joint Committee be as follows:

11 January 2005 at 2pm

25 January 2005 at 2pm

8 February 2005 at 2pm

22 February 2005 at 2pm

The meeting concluded at 3.30 pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2005