



Leicester
City Council

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
LEICESTERSHIRE, LEICESTER AND RUTLAND JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: MONDAY, 17 MARCH 2008 at 10.00am

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Allen (Chair)
Mr D Houseman CC (Vice-Chair)

Leicester City Council

Councillor Bhavsar	Councillor Blower (for Cllr Joshi)
Councillor Cooke (for Cllr Dawood)	Councillor Gill
Councillor Hall	Councillor Naylor

Leicestershire County Council

Mr AD Bailey CC	Mr JG Coxon CC
Mr J Legrys CC (for Mr Hyde CC)	Mr W Liquorish JP CC
Mr JS Moore CC	

In Attendance

Councillor Manjula Sood
(Cabinet Lead for Health and Wellbeing, Leicester City Council)

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46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Dawood and Councillor Joshi from Leicester City Council, Mr Hyde CC and Ms Newton CC from Leicestershire County Council and Councillor Golden from Rutland County Council.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda and/or declare that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Councillor Hall declared a personal interest as he was an employee of

University Hospitals Leicester (UHL) and was a member of UHL and Leicestershire Partnership Trusts.

Mr Bailey CC, Mr Legrys CC, and Mr Moore CC declared personal interests as they had relatives who were employed by Leicestershire Partnership Trust.

48. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF THE GRANGE RESPITE CARE HOME

Professor Sheehan, Chief Executive, Leicester Partnership NHS Trust gave a report that updated the Committee following the postponement of a decision on the closure of The Grange Respite Care Home. The home was a short break service for people with learning disabilities. He stated that it had been agreed that The Grange would stay open for at least 6 months to allow for further investigation into the availability of facilities for service users and their families, financial impact, and governance arrangements with partners and partnership working on future developments. It was also anticipated that ongoing engagement with carers would take place through existing care groups linked to the Partnership Board and Short Break Strategy Review. In addition he noted that the original decision to close the facilities had arisen due to financial pressures, which were still present.

The Committee welcomed Professor Sheehan's comments and the postponed closure. A Member of the Committee stated that there had been errors made with the consultation and that it was appropriate that more time was allocated. In response it was acknowledged that the initial consultation with families had not been up to standard, and that the aim was to rectify this.

The Committee asked for confirmation that at the end of the 6 months it would be 'if' and not 'when' The Grange would close depending on the outcome of the review. In response this was confirmed and Professor Sheehan stated that to postpone the decision for 6 months had not been an easy decision with the financial pressures on the service.

A Member of the Committee queried what the impact would be on other areas of the service. Professor Sheehan stated that he did not have the details of the risk to other services, however the pressure was around £250,000 which was not insignificant and they would try to balance this in the safest way possible.

A Member of the Committee expressed concern that two key reports (including the Darcy Report) were not taken into consideration and queried if these would be taken into account. In response it was noted that although these were not mentioned in the report the committee were made aware of the health component of the wider work and took into account every aspect of policy.

Members discussed that the responsibility for care did not just lay with the Primary Care Trust and problems arose from lack of consultation between groups.

The Chair acknowledged the amount of work that was carried out by staff and carers, and stated that the Committee did not want to undermine any of this

work.

A Member of the Committee expressed concern that if the centre were to close that implementation needed to be handled with care. Professor Sheehan acknowledged that the change would be difficult and that carers day to day concerns would need to be explored. In response it was noted that work would be carried out to ease any change.

It was requested that if the sole reason for the closure was financial that the Primary Care Trust (PCT) should look at additional funding. In response Professor Sheehan stated that he would welcome joint working with the PCT.

The Chair summarised the discussion and emphasised how this issue affected carers and families. He noted that if the service users were in permanent care the costs would be higher.

RESOLVED:

1. The Committee welcomes the Leicestershire Partnership Trust Board's decision to reconsider the closure of No 1 the Grange until at least the end of September 2008;
2. The Committee acknowledges the significant efforts made by staff at all levels in order to address the concerns of carers and users at No 1 the Grange;
3. The Committee welcomes the acknowledgment that the principles of the Mansell report are informing the review, and will continue to do so;
4. The Committee notes the Trust's willingness to accept the cost pressure that retaining the Grange will bring to the Trust for 2008/09;
5. The Committee welcomes the intention to review the position regarding No 1 the Grange in the wider context of the Local Authority Short Breaks Strategy Review; and
6. The Committee awaits with interest the outcome of the wider discussions and consultation on this matter, and requests that the Committee receives a further timely report on the conclusions prior to implementation.

49. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 11am.

