

**Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee
6 February 2008**

Scrutiny Chairs' Quarterly Reports

Scrutiny Board 4

Review of the experiences of individuals in hospital and after discharge

Further to the review of experiences of older people, two further reviews relating to the experiences of individuals with physical and sensory impairments, and individuals from Black and Minority Ethnic communities, are underway, albeit at an early stage.

Action plans from Coventry Teaching PCT and University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust relating to the recommendations in the original report will be coming to the scrutiny board in 2008.

Annual Report 2006/07

SB4 agreed its annual report for 2006/07 in October. It concluded:

"Scrutiny Board 4 performance in 2006/07 was mixed. There was evidence that the health scrutiny function continued to perform satisfactorily, but the addition of 'internal' scrutiny to the board's portfolio was less successful. The fundamental tension created by the notion of self-scrutiny may be responsible for this, at least in part. The challenge in 2007/08 is to look for means to overcome the difficulties inherent in internal scrutiny. There will be review groups based on partnership methodologies and, where these are possible, they represent the best approach to scrutiny. However, the political dynamic in scrutiny may require alternative approaches for some issues and policy areas.

Scrutiny also needs to find ways to support councillors satisfactorily without meetings becoming little more than tutorials that leave councillors informed, but not involved. The challenge is to find effective mechanisms for informing councillors that are both intuitive and convenient. This knowledge should then become the launch pad for critical analysis and, most importantly, agreement on recommendations that can be monitored.

Scrutiny has started to find its place in the policy development and service improvement mechanisms. The more officers that support this process, the more effective it will be. Scrutiny offers the potential for officers across the authority to develop user involvement and public participation. This in itself should be enough to encourage and develop scrutiny's place in the political management arrangements.

2007-08 will be a period of transition for scrutiny. The Police and Justice Act and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill will see scrutiny's role widened, and increase expectations of the role scrutiny should rightfully play. The challenge is to use the resources available to meet this

challenge, and deliver a scrutiny function that plays a positive role in policy development and service improvement."

Ambulance services

West Midlands Ambulance Service rejected the scrutiny board's proposal for three roughly equal emergency operations control centres. Instead, WMAS will proceed with two large control centres in Staffordshire and Brierley Hill, and retain the small centre in Dale Street, Leamington Spa.

The scrutiny board continues to monitor developments.

Eligibility criteria

On 14 November, the committee hosted a question and answer session with the Cabinet Member (Community Services) and senior officers on the subject of eligibility criteria for social care. The committee also requested and received a considerable amount of background material.

Local Involvement Networks

The Scrutiny Board agreed a response to a national consultation on draft regulations for Local Involvement Networks. Writing the response required collaboration across the Council and partner organisations. Cabinet and Council subsequently approved the response.

Commission for Social Care Inspection Annual Performance Letter

The committee considered the CSCI annual performance letter, and agreed to both monitor developments and use the findings of the letter as the basis for future work planning.

Phlebotomy services

Following pressure from the Scrutiny Board and others relating to the provision of community based phlebotomy services, Coventry Teaching PCT embarked on a competitive tendering process to commission a new provider. This process failed, but again following pressure from members, CTPCT agreed to move forward with the managed commissioning of community phlebotomy services from at least twelve locations across the city, starting in February 2008.

Draft Climate Change Strategy for Coventry

The committee considered the draft strategy at an additional meeting on 11 January 2008. The committee agreed to delegate to the Chair responsibility for drafting recommendations to contribute to the consultation. The committee also asked for a further additional meeting to consider this issue.

Local Health Economy

Following the meeting on 30 August, the committee made both requests for further information and recommendations related to the development of the local health economy and the financial position of University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust. In response, the Board received presentations from CTPCT on the Local Delivery Plan and local progress towards the 18-week "referral

to treatment" target. The Chair has been in correspondence with Cynthia Bowers (Chief Executive of NHS West Midlands), local MPs and David Nicholson (NHS Chief Executive) on related matters.

Mental Health Services

The Board has received a presentation on the Coventry Mental Health Services Commissioning Strategy, and received notification from Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust of a statutory consultation on the proposed closure of the Lea Castle facility in Worcestershire.

Referral from Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee relating to WATCH and support for voluntary sector organisations

The Board considered a request from Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee to undertake a holistic review of WATCH and similar voluntary sector organisations within the city to ensure long-term sustainability. With the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee present, the committee decided to refer the matter back to Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee for further consideration.

Q&A with NHS Senior Managers

On 23 January 2008, SB4 hosted a question and answer session with NHS Chief Executives and Senior Managers.

Topics included:

- The local health economy
- Performance of local health services
- Car parking at UHCW
- Phlebotomy
- Ambulance Services
- Mental Health Services
- Coventry Teaching PCT provider arm

Neighbourhood working

The committee agreed a work plan based on three elements:

- Review of Neighbourhood Wardens
- Review of Area Forums
- Preparing for the implementation of the Police and Justice Act 2006, and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Though officers have progressed the first two, consideration of findings and recommendations has not yet come before the neighbourhood working sub-group.

Development of the third will take place as part of a short internal review of Coventry's scrutiny function, to take place in February-April 2008.

Community centres

The Chief Executive's Best Value report on Community Centres – originally scheduled for consideration by SB4 – was considered by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee.

Forthcoming items

- Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check commentary
- Cabinet Member Plans – half year reviews
- Coventry's Local Involvement Network
- Review of Joint Director of Public Health post
- Local Health Economy and its impact on Local Authority services and budgets
- "Contact and Connect" independent evaluation
- Physical Activity Strategy
- City centre health services
- Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy
- Coventry Community Safety Strategy
- Patient and Public Involvement Forum reports