



Wednesday, 18 June 2014

HEALTH SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of **Health Scrutiny Board** will be held on

Thursday, 26 June 2014

commencing at **4.00 pm**

The meeting will be held in the Meadfoot Room, Town Hall, Castle Circus,
Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Members of the Board

Councillor Bent
Councillor Doggett
Councillor Faulkner (A)
Councillor Hernandez

Councillor Hytche
Councillor McPhail
Councillor Stockman
Councillor Thomas (J)

Working for a healthy, prosperous and happy Bay

For information relating to this meeting or to request a copy in another format or language please contact:

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01803 207014

Email: scrutiny@torbay.gov.uk

HEALTH SCRUTINY BOARD AGENDA

1. Election of Chairman

To elect a Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Board for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year.

2. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence, including notifications of any changes to the committee membership.

3. Appointment of Vice-chairman

To consider appointing a Vice-chairman of the Board for the coming Municipal Year.

4. Minutes

To confirm as correct records the Minutes of the meetings of this Committee held on 20 February 2014.

(Pages 1 - 2)

5. Declarations of interests

- a) To receive declarations of non pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

For reference: Having declared their non pecuniary interest members may remain in the meeting and speak and, vote on the matter in question. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

- b) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

For reference: Where a Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest he/she must leave the meeting during consideration of the item. However, the Member may remain in the meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence if the public have a right to do so, but having done so the Member must then immediately leave the meeting, may not vote and must not improperly seek to influence the outcome of the matter. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

(Please Note: If Members and Officers wish to seek advice on any potential interests they may have, they should contact Democratic Services or Legal Services prior to the meeting.)

6. Urgent items

To consider any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.

7. Mental Health and Learning Disability

To receive a briefing on mental health and learning disability services in Torbay and to agree the scope of the work of the Board for the coming year.

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Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Board

20 February 2014

-: Present :-

Councillor Davies (Chairwoman)

Councillors Addis, Doggett, Ellery, Hernandez and McPhail

(Also in attendance: Councillors Excell and Lewis)

8. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bent and Thomas (J). It was also reported that, in accordance with the wishes of the Conservative and Non-Coalition Groups, the membership of the Board had been amended by including Councillors Addis and Ellery in place of Councillors Hytche and Stockman respectively.

9. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 26 June 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10. Services at the Emergency Department at Torbay Hospital

Representatives from South Devon and Torbay Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (the Acute Trust) and South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (the Ambulance Trust) attended the meeting to discuss services at the Emergency Department at Torbay Hospital. Representatives from Healthwatch Torbay also attended the meeting to share their views.

The CCG presented its report which detailed a change to the internal configuration of staffing within the Emergency Department at Torbay Hospital so that five additional specialist nurses were funded rather than a GP and/or general nurse. Whilst the satisfaction level and experience of those patients that were seen and treated was good, there were concerns about the cost-effectiveness of the previous GP service given the low levels of activity.

The additional specialist nurses which were recruited included two with specialist paediatric skills which reflected the fact that children under 5 were among the most common attendees of the previous service.

The CCG and Acute Trust then went on to explain the increased pressures which were currently being felt within the Emergency Department with the four-hour

waiting target in Accident and Emergency (A&E) being missed over the past seven weeks. The target was seen as an indicator of other pressures within the health and social care system (including community care and social care). It was reported that there had been a significant increase in the number of patients with complex and acute needs with an 8% increase in ambulance activity. The Intensive Care Unit had frequently been full.

The Acute Trust highlighted that its review of every “four hour A&E breach” patient had shown that availability of beds was the primary cause for patients experiencing unacceptable delays. However, through good partnership working, there were very few delays in securing community or intermediate care beds. Beds within the rest of the Hospital were not being freed up as quickly as normally due to the high acuity of patients requiring longer stays and the consequent low level of discharges.

The very good relationship between the Acute Trust and the Ambulance Trust meant that handover delays were being kept to a minimum. The representative of the Ambulance Trust gave details of how its “Hear and Treat” and “See and Treat” initiatives were helping to reduce the numbers of patients being taken to the Emergency Department.

One of the issues highlighted during the debate was that patients are not necessarily choosing the appropriate healthcare setting for their needs. For example, attending the Emergency Department if they are unable to book a GP appointment for a time that is suitable to them or if they are not able to readily access the Out of Hours GP service (through, possibly, not knowing which telephone number to dial). It was felt that the “Choose Well” message needed reinforcing especially in relation to the availability of services through pharmacies.

Healthwatch Torbay suggested that it could provide the patient view on satisfaction with the Emergency Department.

Resolved: (i) that Healthwatch Torbay be requested to provide the patient view on the Emergency Department including the reasons why patients choose to use the Department over other alternatives; and

(ii) that Healthwatch Torbay are also invited to highlight other issues that could be the subject of future review by the Health Scrutiny Board.

Chairman

Mental Health and Learning Disability Services in Torbay

Draft Scoping Document

Background

In developing the overall Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme, discussions were held with members of the Health Scrutiny Board and the Council's Director of Adult Services. It was suggested that the main focus of the Health Scrutiny Board should be around mental health and learning disability services. The Board is mindful that there should be minimal duplication between the work of itself, the Health and Wellbeing Board and Healthwatch Torbay.

Scope of the review [to be confirmed by Health Scrutiny Board]

To gain an understanding of mental health and learning disability services in Torbay and ensure that critical issues are being addressed.

Areas of questioning [to be confirmed by Health Scrutiny Board]

- What are the issues in relation to mental health and learning disability services in Torbay? How are we ensuring that prevention and early intervention services are effective?
- In light of reductions to Supporting People services, how can we help people (back) into work?
- What are the issues in relation to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Torbay? Will the new system address these issues?
- What are the alternatives to bed-based care? To long-distance placements?
- How are we ensuring a joined up approach to mental health services? Between the NHS and local authority? And with other partners?

Sources of Information [to be confirmed by Health Scrutiny Board]

Torbay Council – Director of Adult Services
South Devon and Torbay Clinical Commissioning Group
Devon Partnership NHS Trust
Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust

Methodology [to be confirmed by Health Scrutiny Board]

Information will be collected via a variety of means including visits, briefings, Inquiry Days and meetings of the Health Scrutiny Board.