

MINUTES OF HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING – 8th MAY 2014

Present:

Councillor M Mitchell (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

Councillors

O'Hara Hunter H Mitchell Stansfield

In attendance:

Mr R Fisher and Ms H Skerritt, Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group.
Mrs M Thompson, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
Mr S Morton, Public Health Practitioner, Blackpool Council.
Mr S Sienkiewicz, Scrutiny Manager, Blackpool Council.

Also Present:

Mrs C Mackenzie-Townsend, Healthwatch Co-optee.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M Mitchell declared a personal interest in agenda item 4, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The nature of the interest being that he was a Governor of that Trust.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27th MARCH 2014

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2014, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Committee noted that there were no applications to speak by members of the public on this occasion.

4. BLACKPOOL TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

Mrs M Thompson, Director of Nursing and Quality at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, delivered a presentation to the Committee on the subject of the Trust's Quality Account for 2013/14.

Members were reminded that they had been forwarded a draft copy of the full Account document on 23rd April and that particular elements of the Account had been covered in detail at a number of Health Scrutiny Committee meetings during the past Municipal Year.

MINUTES OF HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING – 8th MAY 2014

The Committee's attention was particularly drawn to the following three elements of the Quality Account:

- The Chief Executive's statement on quality
- Quality achievements in 2013/14
- Priorities for 2014/15

In addition, the presentation covered a number of themes within the Account document which had not been covered at previous Committee meetings. These included:

- Quality Goals, including zero harms by 2020, with a 95% target for harm free care by 2016 (including a reduction in pressure ulcers, falls and venous thrombo-embolism)
- Quality improvements made as a result of audits taken
- Work undertaken by the Clinical Audit Department in 2013/14
- Falls prevention and the improving trend in that area
- Hospital acquired pressure ulcers
- Community acquired pressure ulcers
- Venous thrombo-embolism
- Research and development
- Internal and external audit

Responding to questions from the Committee, Mrs Thompson explained that the majority of patients involved in voluntary research and development work were already on a pathway of care or treatment intervention programme. In relation to untoward incidents that were recorded as an indicator, Mrs Thompson provided an explanation of the action plans from both a Governor perspective and patient safety point of view. The Committee was informed that staff were now reporting more incidents and the feedback from the Care Quality Commission was that the Trust was seen as a high reporter, although it was acknowledged that there was more work to be done.

In relation to the Quality Account document, the Committee expressed a view that in terms of its size and content, it could be difficult to interpret and enquired whether it would be possible to produce something similar to the 6 page summary of the Account that was produced by Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, that would be more user friendly from a public perspective. Mrs Thompson confirmed that the Hospital Trust was looking to produce such a document.

The Committee agreed to note the presentation and report.

Background papers: Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust draft Quality Account, 2013/14.

5. PUBLIC HEALTH – BLACKPOOL ALCOHOL STRATEGY

The Committee received a presentation on progress in relation to the Blackpool Alcohol Strategy that was delivered by Mr S Morton, Public Health Practitioner.

Members were reminded of a number of facts and figures in relation to the inequalities around alcohol consumption in Blackpool. These included the estimate that 40,000

MINUTES OF HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING – 8th MAY 2014

Blackpool residents, or 28% of the population drank at hazardous or harmful levels and that there were 1,900 licensed premises in the town, or one for every 72 residents.

The presentation went on to detail the cost of alcohol per person in terms of local authority population, which was noted as more than any other area in England and much higher than both the North West and national average. Blackpool's alcohol profile figures were outlined to the Committee, including the high mortality rates due to alcohol.

Members were informed of the measures contained within the Blackpool Alcohol Strategy 2013-16, that were aimed at reducing the alcohol related mortality rates and increasing Blackpool's average life expectancy. Various intervention services, together with details of the Local Alcohol Action Area were then outlined to the Committee, before moving onto the topic of minimum pricing for alcohol, for which the Council was continuing to push.

A number of areas of success were explained to the Committee, including reductions in hospital admissions, alcohol related crime and an increase in life expectancy.

Mr Morton responded to a number of questions from the Committee. On the subject of cheap alcohol sales by supermarkets, that were not subjected to time restrictions, he explained that minimum unit pricing would go some way to address this. Regarding a possible by-law for minimum pricing, the possibility of which was being explored across the North West region, it was acknowledged that national legislation would be more effective, but it was also pointed out that smoke free legislation started off as a by-law in Liverpool and gained wider support after its success became apparent. In relation to the suggestion that there were already too many licensed premises, but still more were being approved, it was pointed out that the police had been encouraged to make more objections and that objections were also being made via Community Impact Policies, although more were needed. The government was also looking at considering more objections on health grounds.

The Committee agreed to note the presentation and report.

Background papers: None.

6. PUBLIC HEALTH – TOBACCO CONTROL IN BLACKPOOL

Mr S Morton, Public Health Practitioner, delivered a presentation to the Committee on the subject of tobacco control in Blackpool.

The estimated yearly cost of smoking in Blackpool, broken down into a number of areas, was outlined to the Committee as follows:

Output lost from early death: £14.4 million.

Smoking breaks: £10.2 million.

NHS care: £9.5 million.

Sick days: £8.8 million.

Passive smoking: £2.5 million.

Domestic fires: £1.8 million.

Smoking litter: £1.2 million.

MINUTES OF HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING – 8th MAY 2014

The statistics were followed by comparative data as to where Blackpool stood in relation to other North West Authorities in terms of tobacco related deaths and diseases. Members were then informed of a number of schemes and initiatives that were demonstrating success in reducing health inequalities that were attributable to tobacco related illnesses. These included increasing smokefree areas, the stop smoking services and smoking during pregnancy. In relation to the latter, Blackpool had historically been the highest rate in the country, but has since fallen to the 3rd highest and this was noted as a big improvement.

The Committee was informed that Tobacco Free Lancashire and the Blackpool Tobacco Alliance had been re-established to provide momentum and to steer cross cutting policies. A strategy was being developed in consultation with the Alliance and it was intended for that to be adopted by the Health and Wellbeing Board. In addition, a local government declaration was to be taken to Full Council, whereby the Council would declare not to be influenced by the tobacco industry and to provide smoke free sites and support to smokers.

Members went on to receive information on vapourisers, or 'e' cigarettes. Mr Morton informed the Committee that as yet, no reliable data was obtainable as to whether they were considered an overall benefit (in terms of stopping smoking) or whether the various downsides outweighed that possible benefit.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Mr Morton stated that approximately 27% of Blackpool residents were smokers, although it was not known how many people were quitting, in relation to those who were starting to smoke. In relation to point of sales displays in shops, members pointed out that there appeared to be no consistency in terms of which shops were openly displaying tobacco products and those which had them concealed behind shutters. Mr Morton confirmed that in 2015, shops of all sizes that sold tobacco, would have to ensure concealment behind self closing shutters.

The Committee agreed to note the content of the presentation.

Background papers: None.

7. COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The Committee considered its Workplan for the remainder of the 2013/2014 Municipal Year.

The Committee agreed to note the Workplan.

Background papers: None.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted the date of the next meeting as Thursday 12th June 2014 at 6.00 p.m. (Subject to the approval of Annual Council).

MINUTES OF HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING – 8th MAY 2014

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.06 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

Steve Sienkiewicz, Scrutiny Manager.

Tel: 01253 477123.

E-mail: steve.sienkiewicz@blackpool.gov.uk