

COMMUNITY POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 26th March, 2015 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cr. M.D. Smith (Chairman)
Cr. M.S. Choudhary (Vice-Chairman)

Cr. D.M.T. Bell
Cr. Sophia Choudhary
Cr. D.E. Clifford

Cr. Liz Corps

Cr. Jennifer Evans
Cr. M.J. Roberts
Cr. P.F. Rust

380. MINUTES –

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd January, 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

381. FRIMLEY PARK HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST –

The Panel welcomed Sir Andrew Morris, Chief Executive of Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, who had been invited to the meeting to provide Members with an update on the current and potential future issues being faced by Frimley Park Hospital (FPH).

Sir Andrew Morris began the update by reflecting on the previous winter period, which included the lead up to Christmas. It was noted that the wrong strain had been used in flu vaccinations, resulting in an influx of children visiting Accident and Emergency with chest complaints in November, 2014. Adults had then began to experience similar health problems throughout December, 2014 and January, 2015. The Panel heard that the average general medical admissions per month, prior to the winter period, had been 1,850; this had increased in November to 1,900 and peaked at 2,312 in December. FPH had begun to see reductions in these numbers in 2015, with January admissions reaching 2,200 and 1,956 in February. Members were advised that this had put pressure on the hospital, which meant that the hospital had exceeded its four hour Accident and Emergency waiting standard. However, Sir Andrew Morris confirmed that he was hopeful this target would be met in March, 2015. The Panel was informed that FPH had cancelled between 40-50 operations during that time as there were difficulties with assigning beds to patients; to help with this issue, FPH had added an extra 30 beds on to the site. 20% of patients that were using beds at FPH were ready to be discharged, although they had nowhere to go; this issue was considered as on-going and the Hospital continued to look for solutions.

Members heard that the current quarter would be the first failed by FPH in eighteen previous quarters, however, the Hospital had felt that the cancellation of operations had helped them succeed in December as FPH did not have to close, which was a result of the winter pressures for a number of other hospitals.

Questions arose concerning staff to patient ratios and the Panel was informed that the Hospital aimed for one member of staff for eight patients during the day and one member of staff for ten patients during the night. It was stated that there was an intention to improve night cover as agency staff had been used. The Hospital had hired staff from the Philippines and also a number of students had worked at FPH. Some of these had been offered jobs for after the completion of their studies. There was an intention to increase the number of consultants from four to six/seven at the weekends.

Members also questioned the current status of the FPH merger with Heatherwood and Wexham Hospitals and it was noted that there had been a turn around in the performance at the Hospitals. They had reached Accident and Emergency targets in February, 2015 and it was hoped this would continue.

The Panel **AGREED** that it would be beneficial to invite Sir Andrew Morris to attend a Panel meeting alongside representatives from the local CCG and Hampshire County Council to discuss the connections between the services they deliver.

The Panel **NOTED** the update.

382. **REVIEW OF REGISTERED PROVIDERS –**

At the request of the Panel, the Registered Provider (RP) Review Group had prepared Report No. EHH1507, which provided details on the outcomes of review meetings held to scrutinise performance and develop partnership work of RPs during 2014/15. Ms. Zoe Paine, Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager, gave a presentation which provided Members with further information on the reviews for 2014/15. The RPs reviewed in 2014/15 were Stonham, Radian, Sanctuary and Hyde.

It was heard that each RP was required to submit financial and performance information in advance of the meeting, which enabled Members and Officers to structure the questioning process. Site visits were also made prior to each meeting which provided an opportunity to understand the location, nature and quality of the housing through observation and meeting residents. The key issues explored were performance management, quality of housing and development opportunities, customer satisfaction, estate management and repairs, anti-social behaviour and impact of Welfare Reform.

An overview of each RP was then provided; Ms. Paine highlighted issues that had been raised as a result of the reviews and it was noted that a number of these issues were to be followed up by the relevant RPs. The Panel heard that Stonham had been involved with the closure of Skunkworks in

Aldershot as it was felt that a shop of that nature could have had a negative impact on the area in which the RP provided housing.

It was concluded that the RP Review process had played an important role in developing a good understanding of the affordable housing stock in the Borough. The Panel noted that the site visits had been a key component in the development of working relationships with the housing providers; this then enabled the Council and associations to work together in resolving problems.

The Panel **ENDORSED** the Report.

383. **PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING IN RUSHMOOR –**

The Panel received a presentation from The Head of Environmental Health and Housing, Ms. Qamer Yasin, and Private Sector Housing Officers, Ms. Sue Berry and Mr. Del Smith, that supported a briefing note that had been provided to Members. The presentation informed Members on the work of the Private Sector Housing Team and the regulatory controls.

Ms. Yasin shared the percentages of what made up Private Sector Housing in the Borough: owner occupied, privately rented and other, which included social housing and empty properties. Members heard the definition of a house in multiple occupation (HMO) which was three or more persons in two or more households who were not related and who shared amenities. Landlords of HMOs were required to ensure that it was well managed, had adequate amenities, had appropriate means of escape and an early warning system in the event of a fire, there was no overcrowding or sub-letting and the property had a licence if it needed one. It was explained that a licence was required if the property was three or more storeys high and if it was occupied by five or more people; failure to comply could lead to prosecution.

Members heard that the regulatory controls were set by the Housing Act 2004, the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) and the Mandatory HMO Licensing Scheme. Enforcement powers were also discussed and it was noted that there were Category One and Category Two hazards, which influenced the following actions that could be taken, with an example of each given to the Panel:

- Hazard Awareness Notice
- Prohibition Order/Emergency Prohibition Order
- Improvement Notice
- Emergency Remedial Action
- Demolition Order/Clearance Area

The Panel then participated in a discussion that was influenced by a number of set questions, these questions allowed Members to share their understanding of the work done by the Private Sector Housing (PSH) Team, as well as their own opinions. The discussion also allowed the PSH Team to share photographs of previous incidents and the Panel was informed of how

those issues had been dealt with and what actions were or could have been taken in similar situations.

The Panel **NOTED** the presentation.

384. **PANEL ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15 –**

The Panel **NOTED** and **ENDORSED** the Report.

385. **WORK PROGRAMME –**

The Panel **NOTED** the work programme and work schedule.

The Meeting closed at 9.37 p.m.

M.D. SMITH
CHAIRMAN
