

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

25 JUNE 2019

URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION

Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee.

Subject:

To approve the council's response to the '**Future Arrangements for NHS Commissioning across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire**' consultation document (attached).

Appropriate Committee:

Leisure and Environment Committee

Details of Item:

The consultation period (21 May – 17 June) falls between committee dates. Therefore the council's Senior Leadership Team agreed on 11 June 2019, to consult Members on the proposed responses using the council's urgency procedure to ensure submission within the required deadline and subsequent reporting to Leisure and Environment Committee on the 25 June 2019.

The consultation closes at 9am on Monday 17th June 2019.

Background:

The consultation is being jointly led by the 6 NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Currently all six CCGs are separate statutory organisations with the same healthcare responsibilities and the need to meet legal and NHS duties

Over the past five years, CCGs have worked more collaboratively, culminating in two geographical areas:

- Mid Nottinghamshire – Mansfield & Ashfield and Newark & Sherwood CCG
- Greater Nottingham Clinical Commissioning Partnership – Nottingham West CCG, Nottingham North & East CCG, Rushcliffe CCG and Nottingham City CCG
(Bassetlaw CCG in the north of Nottinghamshire will remain part of the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw healthcare system and is not included in the consultation)

Over the past year the CCGs started to consider the potential for a formal joining up of commissioning arrangements, and all six CCG Governing Bodies agreed in April 2019 that the preferred way forward would be to fully merge.

The attached consultation document seeks the views of stakeholders and describes the merger proposal to create one single Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG. Should there be an agreement to merge and NHS England agrees to accept the proposal, the single CCG organisation would be in place from 1st April 2020.

The councils proposed responses to the three questions posed in the consultation paper are provided below.

Consultation questions and responses:

Question 1

To what extent do you support our proposal to merge the six CCGs and create a single commissioning organisation:

- I strongly support it
- I support it
- I neither support it or oppose it
- I oppose it
- I strongly oppose it
- Don't know

Please explain your answer

Whilst Newark and Sherwood District Council support the merger proposal for one single CCG given the benefits outlined in the consultation paper, the Council acknowledges that this would take place in a context of rationalising limited resources with a target to make a 20% saving by 2020/21 and that difficult decision will be required.

Therefore, assurance is sought to ensure that this will not adversely affect patient services, that the new single CCG would continue to collaborate at a local level with the Council and partners in Newark and Sherwood; and that there won't be a shift in emphasis away from Newark and Sherwood towards other areas in the City and County as this would have a wide ranging impact upon patients, communities and other public sector and voluntary sector organisations.

Newark and Sherwood District Council are particularly keen to work at PCN level to ensure local population health needs are met and to influence the Place-ICS and System-ICP from the bottom upwards. Newark and Sherwood is a district of contrasts in terms of its health inequalities. Narrowing the gap in healthy life expectancy is a priority for the Council in its newly adopted Community Plan 2019-2023 and Health and Wellbeing Partnership Plan 2019-2022. It is therefore vitally important that relationships are developed with the newly appointed Clinical Directors and Locality Director and that the PCN's are appropriately funded to innovate and to commission services that address local population health need and help develop community asset based approaches.

A great example of this is social prescribing and the new link worker roles, which is very community focused and needs to be developed at a local level to ensure the right fit for each area. Even mid-Notts is not considered local enough for this piece of work because what works in Mansfield or Ashfield won't necessarily work in each of the two PCN's in Newark and Sherwood as the needs may differ for our residents/communities.

Question 2

To what extent do you support keeping the CCGs as they are now?

- I strongly support it
- I support it
- I neither support it or oppose it
- I oppose it
- I strongly oppose it
- Don't know

Please explain your answer

It is understood that the GPs as membership organisations will need to vote on the merger and if agreement to merge is secured, NHS England will still need to accept the proposal. However, the current formation of a joint leadership team and reorganisation could call into question the validity of statements within the document that 'no decisions have been made' prior to receiving views through this consultation exercise and taking those into account. It is also not clear from the consultation document if doing nothing is actually an option that is sustainable?

Question 3

Is there anything else you think the CCGs should consider when discussing future arrangements for commissioning? If yes, please write your answer here:

The Council would be keen to engage with the new CCG on strategic planning of service and infrastructure provision associated with new development. The Council has been concerned that, despite significant engagement in the past, the CCG has not been able to effectively contribute to securing additional investment as part of new housing development. With the critical mass of a single CCG and the appointment of dedicated estates staff it is hoped that it will be better placed to assist in long term planning and contributing to comments on individual planning applications.

It will also be of interest that in the Council's recent resident survey, carried out in Oct-Dec 2018, the 'provision of health services, such as doctors and dentists' was one of the top 5 most important services selected by residents. Residents were also asked to select the services they thought needed the most improvement and there was an 80% correlation between the most important services and the services most in need of improvement, with the 'provision of health services such as doctors and dentists' appearing in the top 5 requiring the most improvement.

The report which contains the resident's survey results is available online at <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newarkandsherwood/imagesandfiles/consultations/2019ResidentsSurveyReport.pdf>

Page 12 also shows that health is more important to the resident of Newark and Sherwood, than compared to the national comparison in the 2008 Place Survey.

Financial Impact:

Submission of the questions to the consultation has no financial costs.

Equality Impact:

It is not anticipated that the submission of the questions to the consultation will have any impact upon those with protected characteristics.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the responses above are submitted online, via survey monkey, by 9am on 17 June 2019, which is the close of this consultation.

Members Consulted:

Councillor David Lloyd
Councillor Roger Jackson
Councillor Neill Mison
Councillor Mrs Yvonne Woodhead

Signed _____



Date: 13 June 2019