

**CHILDREN AND HEALTH  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

**PRESENT** – Councillors O’Keeffe (Chair), Evans, Entwistle, Mahmood, Patel, Riley, D. Smith, Groves, Brookfield, Taylor, Walsh, Julie Slater, Gee, John Slater, Pearson, D. Foster.

**Co-opted –**

B. Simpson	Chair of School Governor Forum
F Kershaw	Roman Catholic Diocese

**Also Present –**

Councillor M. Bateson	Executive Member Children’s Services
Councillor M. Khan	Executive Member Adult Social Care
Linda Clegg	Director for Children’s Safeguarding and Protection
Mike Zammit	Link Chief Officer
Janie Berry	Senior Supporting Officer
Peter Soothill	Head of Service (Community Commissioning)
Paul Lee	Head of Service (Safeguarding Unit)
Mark Brearley	Chief Executive of East Lancashire Health Trust
Hazel Harding	Chair of East Lancashire Health Trust
Dr Damien Lynch	Divisional Director East Lancashire Health Trust
Frances Murphy	Company Secretary East Lancashire Health Trust
Ben Aspinall	Scrutiny Manager
Mohsin Mulla	Scrutiny Officer
Michelle Arthur	Democratic Services Officer

**RESOLUTIONS**

**8 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Cllr S Hussain and P Harrison (co-optee).

**9 Minutes of Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012 were agreed as a correct record subject to a change to Agenda item 2 and 2.1 to read “the Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March”.

## **10 Declarations of Interest in items on this Agenda**

Declarations of Interest received from:

- Cllr B Taylor – Personal Interest – Adult Social Care
- Cllr Julie Slater – Personal Interest – Foundation Trust Consultation
- B Simpson – Personal Interest – Children’s Services.

## **11 Work Programme**

### **11.1 Committees Work Programme for the year**

The Chair reminded Members that a list of sub-group meeting dates had already been circulated to the Committee with all Members agreeing at the last meeting to participate in one of the sub-groups.

The Chair noted that at the last meeting it had been agreed to review two topics in the first half of the year and a further two subjects in the second half of the year. Due to the short timescales involved, the Chair asked the Committee to review one topic on Children’s Services and one topic on Adult Services in the first half of the year and to choose a further single topic for each in the second half of the year which would also allow more detailed review of the individual topics to take place.

The Scrutiny Manager then gave a short presentation on national policy on Scrutiny in relation to Safeguarding, informing Members that there are Good Practice Guides on Safeguarding Children and Adults. It was also noted that that these documents would be an aide memoire in establishing a comprehensive work programme and provide some questioning that could subsequently be benchmarked.

The Scrutiny Manager also informed Members that the Scrutiny team had begun some research on reviews already carried out by other local authorities and that this information could also be used to benchmark, compare and contrast work done across the country, also noting that executive summaries of relevant documents could be made available to the Members for information.

### **RESOLVED –**

That the Committee agreed that the Children’s and Adults’ Working groups would to undertake one review on Children’s Services and Adult’s Social Care in the first half of the year and one review on Children’s Services and Adults Social Care in the second half of the year.

## **11.2 Committees Work Programme – Children’s Services**

The Chair informed Members that there was a minor error in the report on Children’s Services in paragraph 2 and this should read “876 contacts and 200 referrals”, not “we received 876 contacts – the highest figure since we started recording in April 2011 – and 200 referrals.”

The Executive Member for Children’s Services presented an update on Safeguarding Children and Young People to the Committee. Members were informed that Safeguarding remained a key area for Children’s Services and Social Care and that there was a timetable in place for areas in need of development which was currently being met.

In response to questions from Members, the Director for Children’s Safeguarding and Protection informed the Committee that there were challenges in understanding why there were increasing numbers of individuals being taken into Care from particular cohorts of people and that some problems still remained hidden.

In response to further concerns raised by Members, they were informed that Children’s Homes have to be registered and that most individuals are taken into Care as single placements, therefore the area does not need to have large Care Homes. It was also noted that the Council would take a strong view if there was a significant increase in the numbers of homes being set up. Members were also informed that it is the Council’s role as Corporate Parent to receive up to date accurate information from the placement service of numbers, locations and size of private Care Homes.

## **11.3 Committee Work Programme – Adult Social Care**

The Executive Member for Adult Social Care presented an update on the service to the Committee. Members were informed that Safeguarding across the wider community was a priority and an integral part of Social Care Support.

Members were also informed that further awareness raising was required within the wider community, specifically; abuse, particularly financial abuse, that was often carried out within the adults own home.

In response to queries from Members, the Head of Service (Safeguarding team) informed the Committee that the Council had a corporate commitment to Safeguarding as a statutory requirement and that as part of the controls within commissioning contracts; the Council had clear and robust protocols in place to enact any alerts of abuse which are monitored regularly and reported 6 monthly. It was also noted that any member of the public can raise an abuse alert using a variety of avenues such as Carers, GPs, and Police or via telephone to the Safeguarding team.

**RESOLVED –**

That the Executive Members for Children’s Services and Adult Social Care be thanked for their presentations.

**12. East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust (Foundation Trust – Consultation)**

The Chair welcomed representatives from East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust (ELHT). The Chief Executive of ELHT gave a presentation to the Committee which outlined why they had applied for Foundation Trust status, which covered the following main points:

- What a Foundation Trust is
- Reasons why should it should become a Trust
- What the Regulator (Monitor) looks for
- How it would operate
- The Integrated Business Plan
- Key dates for implementation

Members raised a number of concerns, querying the benefits of being a Trust and the standards of the service in the future. In response the Chief Executive of ELHT informed Members they had a robust Integrated Business Plan which was financially sound and that the benefits of becoming a Trust would provide a clinically led model of support, with the flexibility that clinicians need to provide local services. Members were also informed that by becoming a Trust, they would have more control and could concentrate on providing a service that meets patient’s needs with high standards of care.

The Chair of ELHT informed the Committee that the Trust wanted to keep people informed of what was happening in their local hospitals and of the local choices that are available.

It was also noted that the Trust had carried out a consultation exercise that anyone wanting to be involved could take part in. It was also noted that anyone could become a member of the Trust and therefore influence the service.

**RESOLVED –**

The Chair thanked the representatives from the Trust for their presentation and requested that the views and concerns expressed by Members be formally recorded as part of Foundation Trust consultation.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....