

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL
HEALTH SERVICES TASK AND FINISH GROUP
THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2020 AT 1500 HOURS

Present: Councillors G Perham – in the Chair
D Bowater
S Jones
T Morris
R Goodchild
S Owen
V Harvey

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
S Sandiford (Head of Democratic and Central Services)
Dr J Henderson (Primary Care Network & Bassett Road Surgery)
Mr S King (Primary Care Network)

Members of the Public: 1

01/HS APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor G Perham be appointed Chair of the Health Services Task and Finish Group. There were no further nominations. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor G Perham Chair of the Health Services Task and Finish Group.

Councillor Perham took the Chair.

02/HS APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor V Harvey be appointed Vice Chair of the Health Services Task and Finish Group. There were no further nominations. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor V Harvey Vice Chair of the Health Services Task and Finish Group.

03/HS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Central Bedfordshire Councillors C Hegley and T Stock, Patricia Coker of Central Bedfordshire Council and Diana Blackmun of Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire, all of whom had pre-existing calendar commitments.

For health reasons Cllr B Spurr would be replaced on the group by Councillor G

Perham.

04/HS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were asked to declare any interests, including the nature of those interests, which they had in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

Councillor D Bowater declared an interest as Vice Chair of the Central Bedfordshire Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and as a member of the Beds, Luton and Milton Keynes Health overview and scrutiny committee.

05/HS PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public.

06/HS GROUP AIMS

Representatives of the Primary Care Network were thanked for attending and invited to give an update on healthcare provision in the town.

The group was advised that the Primary Care Network (PCN) focus was for the three GP practices in the town to work together to provide patient services for the locality, to benefit local residents. For example, a drop in blood testing clinic open to patients of all three practices. It was possible that some diagnostic services might be brought in. The PCN was fortunate to have three practices across four sites, thereby having sufficient accommodation available. Its focus was purely on primary health services, having limited scope and limited budget. The creation of PCNs was new and the Leighton-Linslade PCN was felt to be more advanced than some others.

The aim of the PCN was felt to be fundamentally different from the aim of the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, which was understood to be the development of a "health hub" for the town which would combine primary care service and social care services, with the possible addition of mental health services and some diagnostic services.

The group agreed that more co-operation between GP practices could only be a good thing for patients but it was recognised that long term planning was difficult given the lack of clarity about BCCG aspirations.

It was unclear whether the five health hubs proposed for the Central Bedfordshire area were all to be operated on a similar model or whether the individual needs of each locality would impact on the specification for each hub.

The group agreed that further information should be sought from the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and an invitation extended to attend the next meeting in order to provide the group with greater clarity on health hub proposals.

RESOLVED to request from the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning

Group:

- 1) **The original health hub proposal/plan which it was understood had been presented to the Central Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board.**
- 2) **The latest progress/implementation report on the county-wide health hub project.**
- 3) **Clarification on proposed funding arrangements for health hubs.**
- 4) **The specification and intended services to be provided at the Dunstable and Biggleswade health hubs**
- 5) **The space/location requirements for the Dunstable and Biggleswade health hubs**
- 6) **Attendance at a future meeting of the group.**

It was felt by the group that the information to be requested should already be in existence and possibly already in the public domain. It was hoped that BCCG would be able to provide this quickly and that the information would then help to inform further discussions about the possible location, size and specification of a health hub in Leighton-Linslade.

Discussion took place regarding whether the Task and Finish group was the most appropriate forum or whether the project might be better managed through the Leighton-Linslade Partnership (Joint) Committee. It was noted that the Partnership Committee already had a significant remit and its meetings would probably not allow for sufficient time to discuss this specific matter in adequate detail. No changes would be made to current arrangements.

It was suggested that the minutes of group meetings also be presented to the Central Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

The group discussed the proposed aims of the Task and Finish Group. On being put to the vote, the following was agreed (four in favour, one against, one abstention).

RESOLVED that aims of the Health Services Task and Finish Group would be:

1. **To press Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) and Central Bedfordshire Council's Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to bring forward proposals urgently for a Leighton-Linslade Health Hub as part of a planned approach to improved localisation of hospital services for local residents and to secure the town's fair share of Government investment in the localisation agenda.**
2. **To press for the development of that Plan to include local GPs and professions ancillary, patient groups and the Town Council, to promote, encourage and support early and regular consultation with residents of the parish in terms of the services to be provided and the location of the Hub.**
3. **To pursue, in consultation with the three groups mentioned above, that this comprehensive Plan shall include:**

- (a) A Leighton-Linslade Hub providing a range of services that are currently provided by hospitals or not at all**
- (b) The accommodation and investment requirements of existing GP surgeries in the town**
- (c) Planned GP surgeries serving the new developments on the eastern side of the town and also Linslade residents, who used to have two GP surgeries but now had none.**

A date/time for a subsequent meeting was discussed but this was likely to be dependent on availability of a representative of the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to attend. Group members would be kept advised by email.

The meeting closed at 1620 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2020.

Chair

TBC 2020