

HEALTH SELECT COMMISSION
9th January, 2014

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Dalton, Goulty, Hoddinott, Roche, Wootton, Watson and Beaumont, Victoria Farnsworth (Speak Up), Robert Parkin (Speak Up) and Peter Scholey.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barron, Kaye, Havenhand, Middleton and Sims; Richard Wells (National Autistic Society).

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

54. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There no members of the public or press present at the meeting.

55. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: - That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial/business affairs of any person (including the Council)).

56. ROTHERHAM FOUNDATION TRUST - UPDATE ON FUTURE PLANS

Louise Barnett, Interim Chief Executive, and Christopher Langley, Interim Chairman, Rotherham Foundation Trust, gave a powerpoint presentation setting out:-

- The background
- NHS financial challenge
- Key strategic principles
- The 3 Strategic options
- The preferred option, its financial challenge and clinical sustainability
- Delivering the preferred option
- Summary of forthcoming actions

The following additional information, incorporating questions by Select Commission Members, was given:-

Monitor

- 5 year financial plan and strategic options submitted by the 31st December, 2013, deadline
- The proposals had not been considered by the Trust's Governors as yet
- The next step was to set the detail of the vision in conjunction with commissioners and the community

Financial Situation

- Challenges and risks faced by the Trust
- Organisation now on a more stable footing
- Clarification with regard to the Trust's forecasted financial position at the end of 2013/14 financial year and the 2014/15 budget
- Inflationary pressures and continuing reduction in Government funding

Transformation Programme

- Financial situation improved by Bolt Partners through reduced corporate functions
- Involvement of workforce in finding efficiencies – key staff identified to lead on change
- Set of priorities agreed with commissioners to look at opportunities to work together across the region i.e. procurement for any potential efficiencies through economies of scale
- Need to ensure the best interests of the patient
- Clinically led systematic speciality based reviews would commence to understand what services were being provided and how
- Assessment of clinics and whether they were meeting patients' needs
- Important that through general partnership working, there was a shared view with regard to the way forward – there was support for the preferred option

Workforce

- There were a number of vacancies where high cost locum and agency staff were used
- Assessment of clinics and whether they were meeting patients' needs
- 7 day working would have implications for staffing
- Smarter use of rotas to anticipate absences and reduce the need for agency staff
- Continued commitment to recruit the extra nurses identified previously
- Important to have the right skills mix of staff such as qualified nurses and health care assistants

Governance

- Interviews for the position of Board Chair would be held shortly
- The recruitment process was to start for the Chief Executive Officer

Communication

- There would be a series of communications issued
- Patient groups would be targeted
- Communications Strategy being drawn up

Louise and Christopher were thanked for their attendance.

Resolved:- (1) That the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Rotherham Foundation Trust attend the 14th April meeting of the Health Select Commission to give a further update.

(2) That, once known, the Health Select Commission be informed of any comments by Monitor on the 5 year financial plan and strategic options.

57. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a further meeting of the Health Select Commission be held on Thursday, 23rd January, 2014, commencing at 9.30 a.m.