

REVIEW OF CONSULTATION PROCESS: PROPOSED APPROACH

To: Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 11th May 2007

From: Jane Belman, Health Scrutiny Co-ordinator

Purpose: To propose how the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee should approach its review of the consultation process at its next meeting on 18th July 2007.

Recommendation: Members are asked to consider and agree the recommended approach.

Key issues: The Committee’s terms of reference include:
 “To consider and comment on the extent to which patients and the public have been consulted on the proposals, and the extent to which their views have been taken into account.”

It is also important for the Committee to consider:

- How effectively the Committee has been consulted and to what extent its views have been taken into account
- What lessons can be learned for future joint scrutinies of proposals for health service changes, particularly in the context of the forthcoming Acute Services Review

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In addition to responding to the proposals for services currently provided by Hinchingsbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust, the terms of reference of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee include:

“To consider and comment on the extent to which patients and the public have been consulted on the proposals, and the extent to which their views have been taken into account.”

- 1.2 The Committee has considered reports from Cambridgeshire PCT on the consultation process at all its meetings.
- 1.3 At the first meeting of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, it was agreed that the final meeting of the Committee would review the wider consultation process.

Suggestions for how the Committee could do this are set out below.

2. REVIEWING THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Committee consider the following issues:

- The extent to which Cambridgeshire PCT has consulted patients and the public, including the extent to which its consultation process has complied with Cabinet Office Guidelines
- The extent to which the views of patients and the public have been taken into account in its final recommendations
- The extent to which the views of the Committee have been taken into account in the final recommendations.

- 2.2. It is further proposed that the Committee consider:

- What lessons can be learned from the experience of the Scrutiny Committee on how to conduct effective joint scrutinies in future, and how this learning can be disseminated.
- What lessons for future consultations can be learned from how Cambridgeshire PCT conducted its consultation.

Cambridgeshire PCT and Hinchingsbrooke Health Care NHS Trust, should be invited to contribute their perspective to this discussion.

The discussion should include both those aspects that went well and those that could be done better or differently in future.