

**20 JANUARY 2000****CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the proposed changes to local Health Services which are currently the subject of consultation.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 The report details the three strands of consultation (Primary Care Trust, Mental Health Services and Learning Disability Services) which is taking place from 4 January 2000 to 31 March 2000. The report lists some of the key questions which will need to be considered. There are major implications for the delivery of social care and the longer term integration of some of these services.

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Committee is recommended to:
- (a) agree to support the creation of a Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust from 1 October 2000, including Mental Health, Learning Disability and all local Primary Care Services; and
  - (b) authorise the Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services, once further local consultation has taken place, to finalise the Council's response with the Spokespersons of the main parties.

#### 4. **Background**

4.1 At its meeting on 7 September 1999, the Committee received a presentation from the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Milton Keynes Primary Care Group, Dr Dewji and Gina Shakespeare. This included discussion about the benefits and timing of the establishment of a Primary Care Trust.

4.2 Subsequently, the Primary Care Group has decided to consult on the proposal to become a Primary Care Trust from 1 October 2000.

4.3 The changes mainly flowing from the 1997 White Paper, "The New NHS - Modern, Dependable", and particularly the Primary Care developments, gave rise to a review of local health services.

4.4 The work of the Health Economy Reconfiguration Action Group (HERAG) was reported to the Buckinghamshire Health Authority Board on 15 December 1999. The recommendations were approved and will be the subject of consultation from 4 January 2000 to 31 March 2000.

4.5 The leaflets produced by Buckinghamshire Health Authority, which are to be read in conjunction with the report, will be circulated at the meeting.

4.6 There are **three strands to the Consultation** which will affect Milton Keynes:

(a) The proposal on the creation of Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust from 1 October 2000.

(b) A model for Mental Health Services.

Services will be provided by either:

(i) a specialist mental health trust covering the whole of the Buckinghamshire Health Authority area; or

(ii) Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust in the North and a specialist trust in Central and South Buckinghamshire.

(The Milton Keynes Primary Care Group is proposing, as part of its PCJ consultation, that Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services are provided by the new PCT in Milton Keynes, as part of the Community Child Health Services)

(c) A model for learning disability services.

Services will be provided by either:

(i) a specialist learning disability trust covering the whole of the Buckinghamshire Health Authority area;

(ii) a specialist learning disability trust covering a wider area than the Health Authority area; or

- (iii) Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust in the North and a specialist trust in Central and South Buckinghamshire.

- 4.7 All the options have major implications for the delivery of Social Care.
- 4.8 A second stage for Mental Health and Learning Disability Services is proposed which would entail the integration of Social Care with Health Services.
- 4.9 This is not part of the current consultation and would require detailed work on the practicalities, time scales and governance and accountability arrangements. Nevertheless, some options could make this longer term objective more difficult to achieve.

## 5. **Issues and Choices**

- 5.1 Preliminary consultation with local stakeholders has strongly favoured the local organisation of Health Services through a Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust.
- 5.2 However, it is essential that there is an open consultation process with the focus on how the options will impact on the care and treatment of local patients, users and carers.
  - (a) How can we build on the advantages of a shared area (co-terminosity) between the Primary Care Group and the Unitary Authority?
  - (b) How can we best take forward developments such as joint commissioning?
  - (c) How should partnership arrangements be developed in respect of Health and Social Care?
  - (d) How should Central Government requirements such as the National Service Frameworks influence future service delivery?
  - (e) How can we ensure safe effective services are provided, whilst increasing the availability of primary care?
  - (f) What is the best way to increase users and carers involvement and promote the principles of normalisation?
  - (g) What is a viable population for the delivery of services?
  - (h) What type of organisation will benefit Milton Keynes in terms of local resources and accountability?
- 5.3 The Health Forum will be considering the options and related issues at its meeting on 18 January 2000. An oral report will be given to the Committee.

## 6. **Implications**

### 6.1 Environmental

Health is an issue for all aspects of Local Authority Services, particularly Environmental Health.

### 6.2 Equalities

Deprivation and inequality are determinants of health.

### 6.3 Financial

The indirect impact on the Council will need to be considered as part of the Consultation process.

### 6.4 Legal

The options will affect the way the Council meets its obligations.

### 6.5 Staff and Accommodation

It is not possible to assess these in any detail.

## 7. **Conclusions**

### 7.1 The options for the reconfiguration of local health services will have a major impact on local people and on the way the Council works with the NHS.

Background Papers: Report to Buckinghamshire Health Authority Board 15.12.99