

NOTES OF MEETING

CROSS BOUNDARY MEMBERS' REFERENCE GROUP
Monday 16th March 2009 at 11.30am
ROOM 304/5, HCA OFFICES, CBX II, CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

Attendance:**Members**

Cllr John Scott	Beds CC
Cllr Fiona Chapman	Mid Beds DC
Cllr Douglas McCall	MKC
Cllr Cec Tallack	MKC / SEERA
Cllr David Rowlands	Bucks CC
Andrew Peck (chair)	MKPC (Chair)
Malcolm Brighton	MKPC
Cllr Carole Paternoster	AVDC

Officers

Ian Haynes	MKC
John Lewis	MKP
Rachel Jones	Bucks CC
Sue Frost	Mid Beds DC
Andy Barton	AVDC
Bruce Stewart	MKC
Diane Webber	MKC
Sheila Keene	MKP
Cheryl Montgomery	MKP
Marcus Rogers	Bucks CC

PCT & Hospital Presentation

Dr Diane Gray	Dr Diane Gray
David Radbourne	David Radbourne
Dr Walter Greaves	Dr Walter Greaves

Regional organisations

Neil McKillen	Go East
Hilary Chipping	MKSM

Item**Action**

- 1 **Welcome / Introductions / Apologies**
- 2 **Apologies**
David Paine – GOSE
Simon Andrews – Mid Beds DC
- 3 **Presentation on “Public sector healthcare provision in the wider Milton Keynes area, 2015-2030” by Dr Diane Gray, NHS Milton Keynes and David Radbourne, MK Hospital Trust.**

A copy of the presentation is attached.

Key points from the presentation were:

- Increasing personalisation of care
- Integration of health and social care
- In Aylesbury Vale, growth to 2031 will result in a doubling in the number of people over 75; maternity admissions up by 600 per year.
- In Milton Keynes there is a predicted three fold increase in the number of over 65s in critical or substantive need of social

care provision.

- Starting to remove the restrictions of administrative boundaries
- Recognition that for some procedures, the higher volume results in better outcomes for patients, eg acute heart attacks and vascular procedures.
- This will lead to hospitals specialising in fewer procedures, increasing the need for patients to travel in some cases, but with the prospect of better outcomes from treatment.
- The existing 5 district general hospitals in the MKSM area will become unsustainable in their present form without a move towards specialisation.

Questions and Discussion

Cllr McCall hoped that cross boundary working would be successful. Queried whether there was a conflict between specialisation and access to services. Also the need for public transport routes to be able to get people to hospitals easily.

Dr Gray responded that the regional health bodies are supportive of joint working. In terms of access to services there is a trade off between quality of care and local access. On the whole patients want to be treated by an expert and are willing to travel to see them.

David Radbourne added that research shows that while people don't want to travel too far for consultation and diagnosis they understand the need to travel further for specialist treatment that delivers a better clinical outcome.

Cllr Rowlands noted that in north Bucks many people preferred to go to Milton Keynes Hospital rather than to Stoke Mandeville and hoped that they would still be able to use Milton Keynes in the future.

Dr Gray and David Radbourne responded that it is likely that Milton Keynes will remain the hospital of choice for most services and for residents of north Buckinghamshire.

Ian Haynes noted that in our Core Strategies we emphasise the need for public transport links to serve business but place comparatively little weight on public transport access to health services. Also Milton Keynes are being encouraged by GOSE to include the 'big ticket items' in the Core Strategy for which funding will be required. In connection with this, we should be including in the Core Strategy a reference to the need to grow services for children and young people and the elderly.

Hilary Chipping commented that MKSM is developing an integrated public transport system and stressed the need for common

assumptions to be used by all relevant authorities and the need to avoid duplication of effort.

Dr Gray agreed – in Milton Keynes they use the MKi Observatory and Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire are also using the same assumptions.

Cheryl Montgomery asked who monitors quality. Also what impact would a slowdown in the rate of growth have?

Dr Gray replied that quality, which is monitored in terms of safety, effectiveness and experience, is monitored alongside financial systems. A slowdown in the pace of growth might be useful in that it would allow service provision to catch up with demand. In Milton Keynes the per capita funding levels lag behind actual population numbers.

Sheila Keene suggested that we should be aware of the key milestones for the investment plans of the health authorities as well as their strategic funding requirements as this would assist the partnership working.

Dr Walter Greaves agreed there was a need for a common baseline of information and for a mechanism for joint planning. There is still a need to address manpower issues – getting the right number of staff in place at the right time.

Cllr Chapman was very pleased to hear about consultation and joint working with local councils and others. The new Central Bedfordshire authority will be keen to be involved in this.

Marcus Rogers offered to share the results of population projection work in Bucks with the NHS team.

Ian Haynes noted that in Milton Keynes we are seeing a greater ethnic mix – this is apparent from secondary school level down through the primaries and into the nurseries. Does that have any implications on specialisms?

Dr Gray confirmed that this trend has been drawn out in their Strategic Plan to 2013. There are impacts as BME groups can have specific medical conditions. Also new arrivals to the UK are often unaware of the services that the NHS offers and to which they are entitled (eg ante natal care)

Andrew Peck asked Neil McKillen whether Go East was able to assist with cross boundary working at the regional level, which was confirmed by Neil McKillen.

4 Minutes/matters arising from 3 December 2008

Item 3.1. Sheila Keene has spoken to SEERA about the use of RIF to forward fund East-West Rail. We are hoping to get Martin Tugwell from SEERA to come to the next Member Reference Group in May.

Item 3.2 Cllr Rowlands asked when the A421 from Bottledump roundabout to Tingewick would be dualled.

A problem was noted on the funding for the improvement to the A421 in the Bedfordshire part of the SE SDA. EERA do not have funds for this work at present. Sheila Keene explained that there was still a possibility of bringing this work forward but it would require the regions to agree how to manage the EERA funding gap over the short term, as mentioned at the MKSM Transport Board in January.

Item 4.1 Dragons' Den bid, Diane Webber noted that the bid had been unsuccessful, the judges felt that we should be making use of growth funding to support such work.

It was noted by Sheila Keene that the GOSE web-page advises that the final South East Plan report will be released in the Spring.

It was noted that no new date has been set for the Milton Keynes workshop concerning the Future Planning of Milton Keynes being organised by the Milton Keynes Environment Policy Development Committee.

It was noted that the Mid Beds Core Strategy has been submitted to the Secretary of State.

5 Update reports

Andy Barton gave a verbal update on the SW SDA. Pre application consultation by David Lock Associates to take place on 6 & 7 May at Longueville Hall, Newton Longville. The masterplan for the site to be progressed with David Lock Associates and jointly with MKC and MKP. All working towards an April joint member briefing on the SW SDA for strategic and ward members and parish councils.

6 Delivering the Growth – infrastructure funding mechanisms and cross-boundary service delivery

Cllr Scott noted the omission of reference to the South Beds and Luton Joint Committee. Their experience should form part of the overall discussion.

Cllr Paternoster commented that the South West and South East

SDAs are moving at different paces. She is concerned at the use of the term 'pooled resources', whilst this is appropriate for East West Rail and possibly higher education the SDAs will each have their own specific requirement. Highways infrastructure will be provided by Bucks CC.

Diane Webber responded that pooled contributions from both SDAs might be required to support items of strategic infrastructure that are common to both and where the cumulative impact of both development would require improvements eg we have already heard about how the SDAs will impact on MK hospital.

Marcus Rogers agreed with Cllr Paternoster's concerns. He questioned the need for a uniform approach to infrastructure funding. Until an up to date multi modal transport model is in place it is difficult to assess the strategic highway infrastructure requirements.

Cllr Rowlands added that the fire service needs to be considered for funding in any developer contributions package. BFRS have already identified a need for a new fire station at Newton Longville.

John Lewis commented that traditional Section 106 agreements aren't performing well in the current economic climate, nor do they provide forward funding to enable facilities and infrastructure to be in place ahead of development taking place. There is thus a need to work together (and possibly pool contributions) to get the right infrastructure delivery results.

Cllr Paternoster asked whether the HCA had any money to forward fund infrastructure and whether that could be directed through AVA.

John Lewis was concerned that the pre application consultation for Salden Chase in May would lead to aspects of the development being set in stone ahead of full consideration of some of the wider strategic issues and infrastructure requirements. There is a need to find a joint infrastructure delivery solution working together and then, if necessary, to go to Government for funding and related support.

Cllr Paternoster replied that as the planning application for Salden Chase is expected in the autumn AVDC need to be prepared for the application and what it needs to deliver.

Ian Haynes noted that rather than seeking a 'uniform' approach to infrastructure funding, 'consistency' of approach would be a better aim. The danger is that if we are not consistent we will be played off against each other by developers and there is a danger that strategic items that require a joined up approach to their delivery will fall between two stools. Work is underway on the multi modal study and the results will need to feed into the decision making process on all

sides.

Sheila Keene noted that the tariff was a useful device for helping all parties to understand the holistic costs of growth. A tariff charge does not reflect the full costs of growth but helps to clarify who will pay for what, including other potential funding streams. There are benefits of working together to identify how to apportion these costs at the outset.

Overall there was felt to be value in pursuing a consistent approach to infrastructure funding across the wider Milton Keynes area. The role of the HCA in forward funding growth needs further discussion with the local authorities and the Local Delivery Vehicles – MKP and AVA.

7 Membership of Member Reference Group

Ian Haynes introduced the item which came about as a result of a request from members at Milton Keynes Council for wider representation on the Group.

Cllr McCall suggested that if the Group was already large and to extend membership further would make it unwieldy. It would however make sense to limit membership to councillors who are on their local authority's executive or Cabinet and the Terms of Reference should be amended to reflect this.

Cllr Rowlands was happy for local members to receive copies of the agenda and minutes, if they wanted to make comments then they could do that through their member representative.

Cllr McCall added that local members had a role to play on the smaller, site specific groups for the two SDAs.

There was general support for the minutes and agenda to be made available to all members.

Cllr Paternoster noted that for the SW SDA there was still a need for a member equivalent of the officer steering group.

Malcolm Brighton suggested that a topic based summit approach to joint meetings, allowing detailed discussion of a particular issue would help to move things forward.

Cllr Tallack noted that SEERA was being dissolved on 1 April and he hoped that the successor body would send a representative to this meeting.

Marcus Rogers questioned how the Member Reference Group

relates to the MKSM and whether the Group has reached the end of its life.

Ian Haynes felt that one of the reasons why the Group has continued and is well attended is that it is the only such group that brings together members from all of the local authorities and LDVs involved in the growth. There is still a need for cross-fertilisation and consistency between the two SDAs and as with the presentation on health today, it is useful that all partners hear the same message. It is necessary, nevertheless, to look at links between the Members' Reference Group and MKSM.

Cllr Chapman agreed that the Group provides a useful opportunity for the local authorities to talk together and should be retained. Also supported membership being restricted to 1 Executive Member, not wider representation.

Cllr McCall suggested that the way forward was:

- Membership to remain one member from each local authority's Cabinet/ Executive
- The individual SDAs groups to involve local members
- The agenda and minutes of the Member Reference Group to be circulated to all local authority members

Additional point from Neil McKillen to add Go East to the list of members.

Hilary Chipping noted that the MKSM is the forum for discussion of growth in the wider region and that all the local authorities are represented on the MKSM Leadership Group.

Sheila Keene suggested an amendment to the Terms of Reference to explain the cross-over links between the Member Reference Group and the MKSM group. The Members' Reference Group has unfinished business related to the completion of the South East Plan and therefore needs to be retained at least until these matters have been resolved.

Andy Barton suggested a further amendment to the Terms of Reference to include the role of the new SDA working groups.

Andrew Peck suggested then that the way forward was as suggested by Cllr McCall with the further amendments to the Terms of Reference to define the relationship of the Member Reference Group with the MKSM and the SDA groups.

Cllr Rowlands asked for the notes of the SDA groups to be brought to the Member Reference Group.

John Lewis suggested, and it was agreed, that the discussions constituted the 12 month review of the Members' Reference Group.

8 Communications for growth and joint working

There was general agreement to the proposal that communications officers from the local authorities and MKP and AVA be encouraged to meet to discuss a consistent approach to communications for the SDAs.

Cllr Rowlands suggested that any communications go to the Press and Parish Councils.

Cllr Paternoster stressed the need to keep the parish councils in the loop.

This was echoed by Cllr McCall who added that ward councillors also need to be kept informed, (as well as the work being undertaken by the SDA sub-groups).

Marcus Rogers agreed the need for a consistent message but wondered if this could be done for the individual SDAs and then at the MKSM level and not at the Members' Reference Group level.

Ian Haynes was concerned that if the communications channels are divided up too much then links (eg between the SDAs) can get lost.

Cheryl Montgomery commented that communications are vital as we are making a 'new place' through the growth. People still refer back to the leaflets produced for the early consultation on the growth strategy and they tend to see growth as affecting the whole area, not individual sites. The need to work together was supported and re-affirmed.

9 Any Other Business

Cllr Chapman noted that this would be Cllr Scott's last meeting and the Group thanked him for his contribution over the years.

Andy Barton advised that he had received information that the final South East Plan report will be issued before Easter.

10 Future agenda items

Agenda Items for future meetings and suggestions for future presentations:

- May meeting – presentation on water resources and management involving the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and the IDB.

(Also include a progress report on East-West Rail.)

- July meeting – presentation on education provision, involving the three LEAs and to include higher education as well.

11 Dates of forthcoming meetings:

- Thursday 7th May 2009
- Thursday 9th July 2009

Both meetings are at MKP in Room 304/5, starting at 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm. Lunch will be provided.