

Meeting of the Cabinet – 14th September, 2011

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources

Black Country Cluster of Primary Care Trusts

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the request of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee concerning Member and/or Officer representation from the Black Country Local Authorities on the new Black Country Cluster of Primary Care Trusts.

Background

2. A report on the challenges facing the National Health Service (NHS) was submitted to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on 4th July, 2011. The 2011/12 Operating Framework describes the next stage of the NHS reforms. This sets out the conclusion that it will not be possible to retain effective management capacity in all Primary Care Trusts until their abolition in 2013. The current Primary Care Trusts in the Black Country (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton) are therefore being retained as statutory organisations, however, there is a consolidation of management capacity, with a single Executive Team. There is a single Chief Executive, accountable for quality, finance, performance, Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) and the development of commissioning functions across the Black Country Cluster.
3. The Chief Executive for the Black Country Cluster was appointed on 1st April, 2011 and is the accountable officer for the four Black Country Primary Care Trusts. The Cluster continues to support local Primary Care Trusts in continuing the NHS agenda, which includes the support of local consortia in the Black Country, quality and value for money. The Cluster is also crucial in ensuring the workforce is supported in the current climate and recognising resilience problems.
4. The report to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee identified that the Executive Team had been established and comprised the following posts:

Director of Commissioning Development/Managing Director of Sandwell PCT
Medical Director/ Managing Director of NHS Dudley
Director of Nursing and Quality/ Managing Director of NHS Walsall
Director of Finance (or Acting Director until a permanent was appointment made)
Managing Director of Wolverhampton PCT
Assistant Chief Executive – Board Secretary*
Assistant Chief Executive – Communications*
Assistant Chief Executive – Human Resources/Organisational Development*
** Non-voting board posts*

5. As well as the Chief Executive and the posts listed in paragraph 4 above, other members of the Board were identified as follows:

Chairs of Black Country PCTs

Mrs G Cooper	Interim Chair, NHS Dudley (Chair)
Dr G Archenhold	Chair, NHS Walsall
Mr R Nugent	Chair, Sandwell PCT
Mr J Oatridge	Chair, Wolverhampton City PCT

Non-Executive Directors of Black Country PCTs

Mrs J Jasper	Non-Executive Director, NHS Dudley
Ms N Devi	Non-Executive Director, Sandwell PCT
Mrs G Siggins	Non-Executive Director, NHS Walsall
Mr B Jones	Non-Executive Director, Wolverhampton City PCT

Mr M Nizar	SHA Non-Executive Director*
Miss P Jones	Patient and Public Representative*
Mr D Orme	Patient and Public Representative*

** Non-Voting members*

6. The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee expressed concern at the lack of Member/Officer representation from the four Black Country Local Authorities on the new Black Country Cluster Board. The Committee requested that consideration be given to the possibility of including Member and/or Officer representation from all Black Country Local Authorities in the governance arrangements on the new Black Country Cluster of Primary Care Trusts.

Finance

7. There are no direct financial consequences arising from Member and/or Officer representation on the Black Country Cluster of Primary Care Trusts.

Law

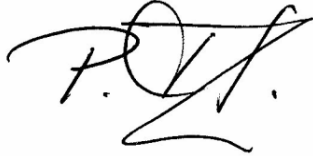
8. The formation of the new Black Country Cluster of Primary Care Trusts is in response to ongoing National Health Service reforms. The current Primary Care Trusts in the Black Country (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton) are being retained as statutory organisations in the transitional period.

Equality Impact

9. This report has no direct implications for the Council's commitment to Equality and Diversity.

Recommendation

10. That the Cabinet consider the issue of Member/Officer representation on the new Black Country Cluster of Primary Care Trusts and make representations via the Association of Black Country Authorities if appropriate.



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