



COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 16th February 2006

Title: PRIMARY CARE TRUST (PCT) CONSULTATION – CUMBRIA & LANCASHIRE

Report of: Acting Head of Strategic and Performance Services

Report reference: SP05/06

Summary:

The Strategic Health Authority (SHA) is currently seeking views on three options for the future of PCTs. Closing date for comments is 22nd March 2006. The report to Executive Committee, 23 January 2006 (attached) recommended that the views of this committee were requested in order to inform the response the Council makes.

Mr Geoff Minns, Finance Director for the PCT, will attend the meeting to present more information about the proposed re-organisation of PCTs in Cumbria and Lancashire.

The full consultation document (15 pages) is available from Acting Head of Strategy & Performance.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to give its views on the proposed re-organisation of PCTs in Cumbria and Lancashire in order to inform the Council's response.

Contact Officer: Carolyn Curr

Ext: 7017

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None



REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA:

Date of Meeting: 23rd January 2006

Public/Private*

Key Decision: Yes/No

Recorded in Forward Plan: Yes/No

Inside/Outside Policy Framework

Title: PRIMARY CARE TRUST (PCT) CONSULTATION - CUMBRIA & LANCASHIRE

Report of: Acting Head of Strategic & Performance Services

Report reference: SP04/06

Summary:

The Strategic Health Authority (SHA) is currently seeking views on three options for the future of Primary Care Trusts. Closing date for comments, which must be made in writing, is 22nd March 2006.

Recommendations:

1. The Executive notes the report and agrees to seek the views of Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Contact Officer: Carolyn Curr

Ext: 7017

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

There are currently 13 Primary Care Trusts in Cumbria and Lancashire. The Department of Health has asked the SHA to consult on three options. The SHA is only seeking views on the three options stated:

Option 1 – Four Primary Care Trusts

Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Lancashire & Cumbria

Option 2 – Five Primary Care Trusts

Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Morecambe Bay, Lancashire (excluding Lancaster City Council boundary) & North Cumbria

Option 3 – Six Primary Care Trusts

Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Cumbria, Lancaster; Fylde, Wyre, Burnley, Rossendale, Pendle, Hyndbur & Ribble Valley, and West Lancashire, South Ribble, Chorley & Preston

Views are sought from a range of stakeholders including local authorities, patient and public forums and voluntary organisations.

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The changes will mean new roles for PCTs including a new approach to commissioning, i.e. the process by which the NHS spends its money to ensure quality, fairness and value for money. It is envisaged, that under this new approach, GPs will have access to a commissioning budget and will lead developments that will produce more responsive local services.¹ Expected cost savings [on management and administration] will be re-invested in clinical services.

PCTs will be measured against Department of Health criteria including; improved co-ordination with social services, improved health and reduced inequalities through influencing councils and more public involvement in planning and delivery of local health care.

£250 million savings must be delivered nationally in management and administration costs, including £10 million in Cumbria and Lancashire.

3. WHAT NEXT?

¹ Consultation on New Primary Care Trusts Arrangements for the Cumbria & Lancashire SHA Area

Closing date for the consultation is 22nd March 2006. The SHA Board will meet on 10th April to agree a recommendation to go to the secretary of state. The Council will prepare its response to inform the debate in due course.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Executive notes the report and agrees to the views of Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS

None at this stage

Note: The full consultation document is available (15 pages) in hard copy or via e-mail.

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2006

**EX.020/06 PRIMARY CARE TRUST CONSULTATION - CUMBRIA AND
LANCASHIRE (Non-Key Decision)**

Portfolio Health and Community Activities

Subject Matter

The Acting Head of Strategy and Performance submitted Report SP.04/06 concerning a consultation by the Strategic Health Authority on three options for the future of Primary Care Trusts in the region.

There are currently 13 Primary Care Trusts in Cumbria and Lancashire. The Department of Health has asked the Strategic Health Authority to consult on three options and were only seeking views on the three options stated:

Option 1 - Four Primary Care Trusts

Blackburn with Darwen; Blackpool; Lancashire; and Cumbria

Option 2 - Five Primary Care Trusts;

Blackburn with Darwen; Blackpool; Morecambe Bay; Lancashire (excluding Lancaster City Council boundary); and North Cumbria;

Option 3 - Six Primary Care Trusts

Blackburn with Darwen; Blackpool; Cumbria; Lancaster; Fylde, Wyre, Burnley, Rossendale, Pendle, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley; and West Lancashire, South Ribble, Chorley and Preston;

The changes introduce new roles for Primary Care Trusts including a new approach to commissioning, i.e. the process by which the NHS spends its money to ensure quality, fairness and value for money. It is envisaged, that under this new approach, GPs will have access to a commissioning budget and will lead developments that will produce more responsive local services. Expected cost savings, on management and administration, will be re-invested in clinical services.

Primary Care Trusts will be measured against Department of Health criteria including improved co-ordination with social services, improved health and reduced inequalities through influencing Councils and more public involvement in planning and delivery of local health care.

Savings of £250m must be delivered nationally in management and administration costs, including £10m in Cumbria and Lancashire.

Closing date for the consultation is 22 March 2006. The Strategic Health Authority Board will meet on 10 April 2006 to agree a recommendation to go to the Secretary of State.

Summary of Options Rejected

None

DECISION

That the matter be referred to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee for comment and a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive.

Reasons for Decision

To respond to the consultation on the future of Primary Care Trusts in the region.