

**HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
3 JUNE 2010
PETITIONS**

Report from: Rose Collinson, Director of Children and Adults
Author: Rosie Gunstone, Overview and Scrutiny
Co-ordinator

Summary

This report advises the Committee of the petitions presented to the Mayor at Council meetings including a summary of officer's response to the petitioners.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The constitution provides that petitions presented at Council meetings relating to matters within the remit of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be referred immediately to the relevant Director for consideration at officer level.

2. Background

- 2.1 Where the Director is able to fully meet the request of the petitioners a response is sent of the proposed action and timescales for implementation. The petition organiser may request to refer the matter to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee if s/he is not satisfied with the answer and has given reasons for their dissatisfaction.
- 2.2 For petitions where the Director is unable to meet the request of petitioners or where there are a range of alternative responses the petition will be referred to the next relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee for discussion.

3. Petition referred to this Committee

- 3.1. The following petition has been referred to the Committee for consideration as the lead petitioner has indicated that they are dissatisfied with the responses received.

3.2. Hydrotherapy pool

3.2.1. Councillor O'Brien presented this petition to Council on 25 February 2010. The petition stated:

"The Medway Pensioners Forum – representing all those pensioners in Medway who have signed herein – petition Medway Maritime Hospital and Medway NHS Foundation Trust to reopen the hydrotherapy pool at the hospital which was funded by public donation.

Additionally, the MPF call upon the Medway Council Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that there is a clear timescale for reaching a decision on the viability of reopening the pool".

3.2.2. The Director of Children and Adults responded to the petition and the letter is attached at Appendix A.

3.2.3. The petitioner telephoned their request for the petition to be referred to the Committee.

3.2.4. Director's Comments

As Members will note from Appendix B to this report the issue of the hydrotherapy pool is being pursued by NHS Medway in consultation with Medway Foundation Trust and Medway Council.

4 Financial and Legal Implications

4.1 Any financial and/or legal implications arising from the issues raised by the petitions are set out in the comments on the petitions.

5. Recommendation

5.1. Members are requested to consider the petition referral and Director's comments in paragraph 3 of the report.

Background papers

None

Contact for further details:

Rosie Gunstone, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

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Please contact: Business Support

Your ref:

Our ref: CS734

Date: 12 March 2010

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Children and Adults – learning and caring directorate

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Director: Rose Collinson

Dear Mrs Baker

Thank you for the petition, campaigning to reopen the hydrotherapy pool at Medway Maritime Hospital, that was presented by Cllr O'Brien at Council on 25 February 2010.

A meeting was held on 11 March 2010 between the Primary Care Trust, the hospital, Cllr O'Brien and yourself to discuss the progress on having a local hydrotherapy pool. As you know, in summary NHS Medway and the hospital trust have both contributed £10k towards having a survey undertaken about the viability of reopening the pool.

Alan Dixon (NHS Medway) will send you and Cllr O'Brien a copy of investigations undertaken so far. A further meeting will be arranged for mid April once the report is ready

Cllr O'Brien has also asked Rosie Gunstone to investigate co-opting a permanent non-voting Member of Medway Pensioners Forum to Health and Adult Social Care. This would need to be agreed by Council.

With best wishes

Rose Collinson
Director Children and Adults – learning and caring

Cc Cllr Mike O'Brien

MEDWAY PRIMARY CARE TRUST

HYDROTHERAPY POOL UPDATE

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been written for the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee as an update to previous reports on the development of discussions on the disused Hydrotherapy Pool situated at Medway Maritime Hospital.

This Hydrotherapy Pool is in a Medway NHS Foundation Trust site and is in a space adjacent to Community Physiotherapy service within the hospital, both facilities are leased to NHS Medway and the services from the sites are provided by Medway Community Healthcare.

- 1.2 The Pool became disused in 2008 following a number of incidents including:

- Tiles coming loose and falling into the pool,
- Water contamination on a number of occasions due to poor construction.

- 1.3 This matter was originally brought to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee by Christine Baker on behalf of the Medway Pensioners Forum at a meeting of the Committee on 20 August 2009. Representatives of NHS Medway undertook to discuss the matter with Christine Baker outside of the meeting. The matter was subsequently raised at a meeting on 28 October 2009 under the heading of the Older People's Plan the Assistant Director, Community Commissioning from NHS Medway attended the meeting and explained that the pool had been closed as it was unsafe to be used. He stated that NHS Medway as commissioners, Medway NHS Foundation

Trust and Medway Community Healthcare as providers will establish the feasibility and the costs involved in bringing the pool back into use.

Following the Committee meeting it was agreed:

- That the current arrangements for access to alternative

hydrotherapy pools for clients with clinical need will continue through Medway Community Healthcare.

- That a structural survey of the pool will be carried out by the Foundation Trust. As the survey had not been commissioned at that point, the time-tabling for this to start could not be confirmed.
- That a firm costing will be reached on the issue of bringing the hydrotherapy pool to use structurally.
- A business case will be considered by the NHS Medway to look at the feasibility of repairing and re-commissioning the hydrotherapy pool. The viability of the hydrotherapy pool will take into account the structural cost, the clinical need for hydrotherapy on the site and the cost of maintaining those services.
- In drawing up the business case the views of service users groups, Medway Community Healthcare (as service providers) and Medway NHS Foundation Trust will be taken into account.

1.4 NHS Medway's intention is to carry out an Option Appraisal with external stakeholders during June 2010. A decision will be reached, informed by the use of NHS Medway's agreed Prioritisation Framework, and reported to the NHS Medway Board in July 2010. The report will then go to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. If a Business Case is appropriate it will follow on from these decision processes.

2. **Activity since last report**

- 2.1 Since the last report the following has been completed:
A meeting held on the 23.3.10 between Cllr. O'Brien, Christine Baker, the Deputy Chief Executive/ Director Commissioning and Performance NHS Medway, the Head of Estates/ Deputy General Manager for Facilities at Medway NHS Foundation Trust, and the Assistant Director Commissioning and Performance NHS Medway, to discuss whether there is a need for the re-commissioning of the hydrotherapy pool.
- 2.2 The expectation was that there would be a completed survey by that date to report to the meeting. Unfortunately the start date of the survey had been delayed due to the availability of a contractor.
- 2.3 The meeting did provide an opportunity to discuss views on the need for Hydrotherapy from the perspective of users, service providers and commissioners. NHS Medway shared with Cllr O'Brien and Christine Baker an initial assessment of the need for hydrotherapy in Medway.
- 2.4 It was agreed that the meeting should reconvene once the survey was available. The survey and the report was completed Mid May and is currently with the Head of Estates/ Deputy General Manager for Facilities at Medway NHS Foundation Trust.
- 2.5 NHS Medway is working with the Medway NHS Foundation Trust and

Medway Community Healthcare to develop an option appraisal taking into account the need for Hydrotherapy and capital and revenue costs. The options are:

- Re-commissioning of the pool at Medway NHS Foundation Trust.
- Continuing to commission services in other NHS funded pools
- Consideration of other local facilities, which may be suitable for this client group.

The working group developing these options includes:

Head of Estates/ Deputy General Manager for Facilities and the Head of Physiotherapy from Medway NHS Foundation Trust.

Head of Business Management and Performance and the Head of Physiotherapy from Medway Community Healthcare.

Assistant Director Commissioning and Performance, Commissioning Manager Long Term Conditions and the Commissioning Manager for Community Contracts from NHS Medway.

2.6 The issues which will be considered in the completing of the Option Appraisal are:

- Current best practice in the delivery of physiotherapy and hydrotherapy
- The needs of the population of Medway for hydrotherapy in-line with NICE guidance and other clinical evidence
- The views of service users and health professionals
- Capital and revenue cost of each option.

2.7 The draft option appraisal will be shared with service user representatives and the Local Involvement Network. A further meeting will be held in June. Following this a recommendation will be made to the Board of NHS Medway in July 2010 and an update provided to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Helen Buckingham
Deputy Chief Executive/ Director of Commissioning and Performance
20/05/2010

