

## **ITEM 2: FOUNDATION HOSPITALS – AMENDMENT**

### **Advice to Executive on consultation on Foundation Hospitals**

The Health and Social Care sub-committee makes the following comments on the consultation on Foundation Hospitals:

The committees notes that:

1. The council has failed to meet the consultation deadline set by the hospitals (14<sup>th</sup> November) and has failed to deliver a joined up and thought through consultation delivery plan involving Executive, Scrutiny and the local people we were elected to serve.
2. In particular, the executive has singularly failed to lead and stimulate a meaningful discussion among other members and local people of the implications of Foundation hospitals status for Guys and Kings ('the hospitals').
3. The leader failed to circulate information on the hospitals request for active engagement in the consultation (or even respond to the letter from the Chair of Guys), despite receiving formal written notification on 8<sup>th</sup> September. As of today's date, the executive has failed even to discuss the issue.
4. The process of consultation through Community Councils has been less than comprehensive. Whilst certain Community Councils have discussed the matter, others will not have it on their agenda until the end of November. We regret the failure to make proper use of Community Councils as a sounding board for discussion on this important issue.
5. Through the scrutiny process, all members of the council should have had a chance to inform themselves on the issue of Foundation hospitals at the scrutiny committee meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October. We regret that due to administrative error, this did not take place.
6. That, in summary, discussion on the consultation and governance process (where we believe the Council could have added considerable value) has been haphazard and dis-organised.

Nevertheless the Committee proposes the following further to its meeting with representatives of the hospitals on 3<sup>rd</sup> November:

- That the issues of governance and the election of community representatives to the hospitals deserves detailed consideration to ensure that the local community has the effective voice which it deserves in setting the direction of the hospitals.
- That the Members council or board of governors should have a majority of local members, who are representative of the area's social and ethnic diversity.

This local representation should be reflected in the constitution of the Foundation Hospital Trusts.

- That the knowledge within the Council in relation to the running of elections will be valuable to the hospitals and that the Council should make this service freely available.
- That Foundation Hospitals should ensure that their flexibility to reward staff does not adversely effect other players in the local health economy, such as the PCT.
- The term contracts with the PCT resulting from Foundation Trust status, need to be flexible enough to respond to changes in local need.
- In principle, local patients must have priority for all medical and specialist services over nation and international patients.
- A two tier system must not be encouraged
- The quality of treatment and care must be to an acceptable standard for all patients.
- Transport facilities to patients between the Hospital Trusts must be improved and provided by the Trusts.
- Both Trusts should inform directly the Executive member for Health and Social Care and the health and social care sub committee on all discussions that have an impact on the local authority and local people, including the reconfiguration of services.