

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF  
BRACKNELL FOREST REFERENCE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2004  
AT 1PM**

**PRESENT:** Drs Murray, Greig, Crampton, Henman, Kade & Halliwell  
Dr Christopher Tiarks and Jane Solomon  
Diane Hedges, Joy Blight, Anne Owen & David Taylor

**APOLOGIES:**

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**ACTION**

**BF 1/2/04 Minutes of December Meeting**

The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

**Matters Arising**

AO said the QIP payments have been paid, when questioned further she said they should have been paid but she would check.

Mental Health Services - IM said concerns were still being expressed regarding the Mental Health Services in Bracknell. He recounted a particularly bad example of the service. He said the referral system was very poor and the reconfiguration of the service had not improved services.

Demand Management – DH said the LDP is a three year plan. This determines resources and where it will be spent. The PCT works with east Berkshire PCTs and the LDP was always linked to the NHS Plan. A balanced plan had been submitted last Friday but there were problems. A debate was going on with Heatherwood and Wexham, who want 3.3 million extra. She said this has been because of the growth of elective and emergency care. She said there were target areas to reduce cost particularly in relation to mental health costs. There was a growth of 28 million for East Berkshire of that 3 million was being spent on mental health development around the elderly. She said the PCT needed to review the money and the way it was being spent. There were also challenges on learning disabilities and transport for on emergencies.

Continuing care and its application costs were mushrooming by 65% in the past two years. There had been two financial adjustments costing two million. The PCT were concentrating on bringing services from out of county back into the county. There was also a reduction in community services, about 5% across the whole of East Berkshire.

DH talked about the referral for dermatology, plastics and ENT and looking at alternatives.

There is an imperative to ensure that national criteria are applied to transport.

There is a Thames Valley criterion for the application for continuing care in East Berkshire to increase by 65% in two years. In the coming financial year only, there is an adjustment of capital to revenue of 3 million and there is to be a decrease in community services by 5%.

DH asked how general practitioners can contribute to the management of secondary care. She referred the three initiatives; one was the referral hub which would rationalise referrals, which was particularly designed to deal with difficulties in plastic surgery, of which there seemed to be an over provision of service. Dermatology, which would be revived by GPSIs and the same applying to ENT.

She reported that the OOHs arrangements will be bedding down for six months, but it is still expected for PCTs to take responsibility for OOHs care from October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Service charge for rooms occupied by attached staff in surgeries**

RH raised the issue of service charges for rooms used in Practices for attached staff. It was his view that the funding was both inconstant and inadequate; however, GPs valued attached staff in the Practice, which was a great benefit to patients. RH believed that this did not cover all the necessary items including use of telephones by attached staff, photocopying, insurance etc. There is currently a backlog of payments to be made. AO responded for the PCT who made the point that premises had to be adequate and that if they met the standards then a standard contract for service charge was the preferred option for the PCT. This would be dictated by that set by the district valuer, currently estimated to be £30 per square foot per annum.

**RH**

**Action Point:** *RH is to lead for the LMC in continuing negotiations.*

### **nGMS**

The Committee requested that how the proxies had been applied to the global sum equivalent to reach the global sum should be published for every Practice.

Steven Powdrill of the TVPCA had reported to the PCT that the current arrangements for the payments of seniority were complete.

Basket of Services – Currently under debate and is to be discussed at a Berkshire-wide meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Any Other Business**

None

**Date of Next Meeting** Monday 5 April 2004 at 2pm at The Forest End Medical Centre