

HOSC/39/15

Committee Health Overview and Scrutiny

Date 29 June 2016

REPORT BY HOSC MEMBERS ON VISIT TO ST HELENA HOSPICE ON THURSDAY 2 JUNE 2016

Report by: Councillor Margaret Fisher
Councillor Dave Harris
Councillor Andy Wood

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the report by Members on their visit to St Helena Hospice, Colchester
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Premises:

- Shown around the site, it has the hospital look.
- Are looking into renting the old Peter Bruff Ward in Clacton for dementia patients.
- They are looking to move into a bigger unit as this one is getting too small now.

Finances and Tendering for work:

- Most of the money they get is raised through events such as Midnight walks, and personal donations.
- The CCG is asking them to tender for work even though they only charge them 33% of cost.
- We asked how Essex County Council could work with St Helena and the response was a view on the tendering process which suggests that maybe the process needs streamlining as St Helena provided charitable services raised from funds donated by the populace, but if the "Paid for" segment (about 25 %) is switched off away from St Helena it may effect service delivery costs.

Partnership working:

- Working with the Volunteer sector and other Hospices around Essex.
- Working with the GPs and Colchester Hospital with end of life care.
- We asked how they worked with Colchester Hospital to improve their audit scores, and the response was very positive and St Helena has given a large amount of help to Colchester Hospital.

Staffing:

- The Hospice has a mixed group of paid and volunteer people.
- There are 750 volunteers working across the whole Hospice.
- We were all very impressed with the facility and could see the ethos of the staff and managers was very well embedded.

Communication:

- They have a call centre within the site with experienced nurses and volunteers providing a service over 24 hours.
- We asked to be kept informed of fundraising schemes so we could personally support the work of the hospice going forward.

Future Strategy:

- The question was raised about going forward and expanding in line with population growth, and the discussion centred on the inability to expand the Colchester St Helena hospice, but rather that the option would be to have satellite facilities eg Clacton and other parts of Colchester and Tendring. The Medical Director clearly knew the task in hand very well, and impressed us.
- The range of service provided is founded in the needs of the community, more beds are clearly needed for the future population and will be a challenge we felt in decades to come with geographical growth eg new garden towns being developed will add many more people to serve, and of course the local plan of Colchester and Tendring Councils include extra housing in future years.