

## **HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.  
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Mrs Ridney (Chairman)  
Councillor J D Davies (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs Aston, Barlow, Mrs D Harley, Ms Harris, Kettle, Miller, P Woodall  
and C Wilson and Mr D Orme

### **Officers**

Assistant Director of Adult Community and Housing Services (Policy, Performance  
and Review) (Lead Officer to the Committee), Assistant Director, Older People,  
Scrutiny Officer (both Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services)  
Interim Assistant Director (Law and Governance) and Mrs J Rees (both Directorate  
of Corporate Resources)

### **Also in Attendance**

Mr R Beekan, Director of Operations and Transformation and L McMahon, General  
Manager Women and Children Division ( Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS  
Foundation Trust) Mr S Corton, Head of Community Engagement, Dudley Primary  
Care Trust, K Larkin Community Engagement Manager, Dudley and Walsall Mental  
Health Partnership NHS Trust

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### **1      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Members declared a personal or prejudicial interest, in accordance with the  
Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any items to be discussed.

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### **2      MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 be  
approved as a correct record and signed.

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### **3      CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS (IF ANY) REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE PETITIONS' OFFICER**

No petitions had been referred to the Committee.

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4      PUBLIC FORUM

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

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5      RESPONSES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COMMITTEE

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on responses to queries raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011 in connection with the delivery of health and social care, as outlined in the Appendix attached to the report.

A member of the Committee commented that the information requested at the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April, regarding the average waiting time for major adaptations was not contained within the report.

In response, the Lead Officer to the Committee indicated that a written answer would be sent to all Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED

- 1)      That the information contained in the report, and the Appendix to the report submitted, be noted.
  - 2)      That a written answer as to the average waiting time for major adaptations be circulated to all Members of the Committee.
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6      CHANGE OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Council Procedure 13(c) it was

RESOLVED

That agenda item 11 (Maternity Capping) be considered as the next item of business.

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7      MATERNITY CAPPING

A report of the Director of Operations and Transformation (Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) was submitted, advising on its requirement to

report of the Director of Operations and Transformation (Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) was submitted, advising on its requirement to report of the Director of Operations and Transformation (Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) was submitted, advising on its requirement to restrict the number of births in its Maternity Unit to maintain safe operating, following a large increase in the number of births, and the increased number from outside of the Dudley Borough.

The Director of Operations and Transformation (Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) advised that the Dudley Group of Hospitals was in discussion with its stakeholders regarding the requirement.

A Member of the Committee questioned whether the costs of maternity bookings from outside of Dudley could be reclaimed from the appropriate Authority, since according to the report there had been an increase of 11.1% births from outside of the Dudley Borough. The Director of Operations and Transformation (Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) advised that the costs of births from outside of the Borough were reclaimed on a case by case basis.

The Director also undertook to advise the Member of the Committee of the number of foreign visitors who gave birth in the Dudley hospital.

In response to questions from Members of the Committee, The Director of Operations advised that:

- a) Recent increases in investment had seen a decrease in the ratio of midwives to births from 1:38 to 1:35, in the last six months. Nationally the ratio was 1:28, although the local ratio was more like 1:34.
- b) The increase in demand from outside of the Borough had indicated that expectant mothers liked to have their babies in Dudley. Some mothers elected for a home birth, and were supported in this, if it was their wish.
- c) There were concerns regarding the increase in births from outside the Borough, although there was no evidence to suggest that there had been an increase in complex births from outside the Borough.
- d) There was no evidence to show that the higher ratio of births to midwives was unsafe.
- e) The situation was reviewed regularly.
- f) There had been an increase in the number of full time Health Visitor posts.

## RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, be noted together with the reassurances that the favoured option would not affect Dudley women and that current pressures had not impacted on service quality.

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted outlining the recommended work programme for the 2011/12 Municipal Year; the findings emerging from the Committee's Dignity in Care Review; the proposals to appoint the discretionary Joint Dudley Walsall Health Scrutiny Committee; to seek the extension of Dudley's Local Involvement Network co-opted appointment to the Committee for 2011/12 and inviting Members to consider reviewing other themes, now that the theme of Dignity in Care was complete, with a final report to be submitted to the September Committee.

Arising from consideration of the work programme, it was agreed that Food Nutrition be considered at the September meeting and a suggestion made that the theme of Caring for Carers, particularly looking at difficulties with Power of Attorney, be included in the programme.

It was also considered that there was a need to investigate the effects on winter death rates and health, particularly people suffering from diabetes, as a result of the recent closures of public toilets in Dudley.

In relation to the LINK's appointment, the LINK Chairman gave a brief report on the work recently undertaken by the LINK including: discharge from hospital; waiting times; improved bus services to and from Worcester and Kidderminster hospitals; hearing impairments, dementia and care home visits.

In response to comments from the LINK Chairman regarding budget issues which he considered had not been answered, the Lead Officer to the Committee undertook to discuss matters with him so as to clarify his concerns and would report back to Members on the issues at the meeting in September.

Regarding the Joint Scrutiny Committee, the Chairman and the Scrutiny Officer confirmed that they would be willing to meet with the Joint Dudley/Walsall Scrutiny Committee to complement the Foundation Trust consultation process.

## RESOLVED

1. That, subject to the inclusion of Food Nutrition for consideration at the September meeting of the Committee, and the inclusion of the theme "Caring for Carers" and "the effects on health, particularly people suffering from diabetes, as a result of the recent closures of public toilets in Dudley" for consideration the work programme, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report submitted, be noted.
2. That the co-option of the Dudley LINK's Chair for 2011/12 be approved

3. That the terms of reference, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, to re-appoint the Dudley Walsall discretionary joint scrutiny committee be approved.
4. That the Director of Public Health be requested to investigate the impact on people with health problems as a result of the recent closure of the public toilets in Dudley and the impact of winter death rates in more deprived areas.

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9      RECONFIGURATION OF VASCULAR SERVICES IN THE BLACK COUNTRY – UPDATE

A report of the Director of Community Engagement and Primary Care was submitted updating on progress of the reconfiguration of vascular services, as requested by the Committee at its meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The representative of Community Engagement and Primary Care advised that the same report had been submitted to the Walsall and Wolverhampton Scrutiny Committees.

The report stated that the main driver for change in the proposed service reconfiguration was the reduced mortality from Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm surgery or repair (AAA) by the introduction of a Screening Programme. Work required for service reconfiguration in the Black Country focused on three locations Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton, although there was no need for the AAA screening centre to be co-located with the vascular surgery hub.

The report also set out other work streams, which were continuing.

The Head of Community Engagement at Dudley PCT reported that it had been suggested that informal discussion should take place between the key stakeholders and the Chairmen of the Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton Scrutiny Committees, with regular updates being brought to each Committee.

Improvements would be made to the programme to ensure its cost effectiveness.

In response to requests from the Committee the Head of Community Engagement undertook to circulate to Members the age limit for the screening and the number of cases for open surgery as well as the numbers for keyhole surgery performed at the hospital. The Committee requested information and some ongoing assurances about the way in which the service would be procured. A discussion ensued where the age limits were discussed along with those patients most vulnerable to AAA. It was commented that prior to surgery some patients often could not walk or had poor mobility.

The situation would continue to be monitored.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the content of the report submitted be noted.

2. That Wolverhampton Overview and Scrutiny Committee be advised of this Committee's agreement that the three Chairmen of Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton Scrutiny Committees meet informally to consider an appropriate way to engage scrutiny in the development of proposals across the three areas as described in the report submitted.
3. That the representative of the Dudley Primary Care Trust to provide information requested to Members of the Committee on the AAA and EVAR surgery.

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10      PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BLACK COUNTRY CLUSTER OF PCT'S

A joint report of the Director NHS Dudley, Assistant Chief Executive and Board Secretary Black Country Cluster was submitted on progress on the development of the Black Country Cluster of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in responding to the challenges facing the NHS.

Concerns were expressed that there was no Member or Officer representation from the four Black Country Local Authorities on the new Black Country Cluster.

Members considered there was a need to request that Dudley's Cabinet explore the possibility of Member and/or Officer representation from all Local Authorities on the new Black Country Cluster.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the content of the report submitted be noted.
- 2) That the Director of Corporate Resources be requested to raise at the next available Cabinet meeting the possibility of Member and/or Officer representation from all Black Country Local Authorities on the new Black Country Cluster.

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11      UPDATE ON CARE HOMES

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted updating the Committee on the current situation from Dudley's point of view in respect of two issues of national concern, which had been widely reported on in respect of the financial situation of the Southern Cross Care Group which operates residential homes in Dudley and its neighbouring Authorities, and updating on a recently shown BBC TV Panorama programme which gave disturbing accounts of

abuse and mistreatment of people with a learning disability at a private hospital near Bristol.

In presenting the report, the Lead Officer to the Scrutiny Committee advised that to address the concerns, the Director of Adult Community and Housing Services was working in partnership with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services at a national level of the Care Quality Commission, including having regular meetings and reporting back to the Regional Steering Group bi monthly and the information contained within the report therefore sought to reassure Members that the situation was being monitored regularly to ensure that the safety and wellbeing and safety of everyone in the six Dudley Southern Cross homes was being upheld.

He confirmed that no resident of Dudley Borough was housed in the home highlighted by the BBC TV programme, although he agreed that the programme had been very disturbing for everyone. One Dudley resident (paid for by the PCT) was in a home owned by the Castlebeck group, however a review had been done which currently gave reassurance about this situation.

A Member of the Committee suggested that Police Community Support Officers be approached to visit local homes, to speak with residents.

The Lead Officer to the Committee advised that Members undertook regular visits to Social Service and Children's establishments and reported back to the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services. Families and friends visited regularly as well as the Care Quality Commission, who monitored staff.

#### RESOLVED

That the content of the report submitted be noted.

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#### 12 CHANGE OF LEAD OFFICER

The current Lead Officer advised that the Interim Assistant Director (Law and Governance) would be taking over as the Lead Officer to the Committee following this meeting.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Clifford, the current Lead Officer, for his support in the past and welcomed Mr Farooq, the new Lead Officer.

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#### 13 HOSPITAL APPOINTMENT TIMES

A Member of the Committee commented on a recent article in the local newspaper stating the cost to the Dudley Group of Hospitals of missed appointments, commenting that there had been no information regarding changes to appointment

times at the request of the Hospital. He requested that the Dudley Group of Hospitals be requested to report to this Committee with the number of letters sent out to patients advising of a change of appointment time, often only a few minutes earlier or later, together with the reasons for the changes.

#### RESOLVED

That the Dudley Group of Hospitals be requested to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee explaining how many letters were sent out advising patients of a change in appointment time together with the reasons for the changes.

The meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN