

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Tuesday, 7th July, 2009, at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Mrs Ridney (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Aston, Mrs Cowell, J D Davies, K Finch, Islam, Kettle,
Miller and Tyler and Mr D Orme

Officers

Assistant Director Policy, Performance and Resources (Lead Officer to the Committee), Assistant Director Older People and Physical Disability, Assistant Director of Housing Strategy and Private Sector, Policy Manager, Scrutiny Officer, and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources)

Also in Attendance

Ms Val Little – Director of Public Health
Ms Diane McNulty – Public Health Manager, Primary Care Trust (PCT)
Dr Mayada Abu Affam – Public Health Consultant, Dudley PCT
Mr Neil Bucktin – Head of Partnership Commissioning, Dudley PCT

1 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor K Turner.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of personal interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by Councillors Mrs Aston and K Finch in relation to Agenda Item No 8 (Report on the Annual Review of the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2008/09) in view of them being Members of the North Priory Project Board.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th March, 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed.

5

PUBLIC FORUM

No issues were raised under this item and no members of the public were in attendance.

A Member raised concerns about the lack of attendance by members of the public and it was requested that the reasons for this be explored and publicity be maximised by using distribution lists compiled by Dudley Council for Voluntary Service and the Centre for Equality and Diversity to generate interest.

In responding the Chairman commented that information about Select Committee meetings was made available on Area Committee agendas. The Lead Officer to the Committee further indicated that information was available on the Council's website and that a press release was also issued. However, he undertook to explore publication and advertising with a view to further promoting the matter and to make the public more aware.

6

QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on performance in relation for the final quarter of 2008/09, for the period 1st January, 2009 to 31st March, 2009, for the services under the terms of reference of this Committee.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and copy of the extracted report circulated separately, on performance in the final quarter of 2008/09, for the period 1st January, 2009 to 31st March, 2009, for the services under the terms of reference of this Committee, be noted.

7

CO-OPTING A LINK MEMBER ON TO THE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE COMMITTEE

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee on the appointment of a co-opted non-voting Member of Dudley's Local Involvement Network (LINK) to the Committee and the revised relationship protocol to govern the significant relationship between LINK and the Committee was submitted. An annual report of the Dudley's LINK for the period 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2008 had been circulated separately to Members. A user-friendly guide on LINKs had also been made available in the Members Library.

A Member suggested that feedback in the form of a report should be submitted to the Committee from LINK on a regular basis.

A query was raised on whether a substitute could be made in place of the Co-opted Member should the need arise. The Lead Officer to the Committee undertook to seek advice and to advise Members accordingly.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the co-option of a LINK member on to the Committee, be noted.
- (2) That the information contained in the Appendix relating to the revised guidelines to govern the relationship between the Committee and LINK be approved.
- (3) That the Lead Officer to the Committee be requested to meet with the Co-opted Member with a view to discussing the practicalities of submitting a regular report to the Committee to feedback on matters on behalf of LINK.

8

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE DIRECTORATE OF ADULT, COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2008/09

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on achievements and progress made against the Directorate's Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2008/09. A copy of the annual report was attached as an Appendix to the report submitted. An addendum had also been circulated to Members prior to the meeting pointing out an error in the report. Paragraph 2.3.4 of the appendix to the report submitted stated that black and minority ethnic households held 22.74% of tenancies. This figure was incorrect as a problem with the accuracy of ethnicity data had been identified and the data was currently being rechecked and validated and following completion of the exercise a report would be submitted to the Committee.

Arising from the presentation of the report specific reference was made about the information that had been used and concerns were raised that the last Census had been undertaken in 2001 and the validity of the data was questioned. In responding the Assistant Director of Housing Strategy and Private Sector indicated that Census information was a form of data that was used nationally as it was an official Government statistic. However, the Directorate also used information held on their own data system, which was updated on a yearly basis.

Members requested that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee to include a breakdown of statistical information to expand on the figures given and information particularly in relation to black and minority ethnic groups as there were concerns that these groups may not have access to services or may not be aware of services offered.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Annual Review of the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2008/09, be noted.
- (2) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee to provide a breakdown of statistical information particularly in relation to black and minority ethnic groups.

9

THE DIRECTORATE OF ADULT, COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES STATUTORY ADULTS SOCIAL CARE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES – ANNUAL REPORT 2008 – 2009

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the Directorate's Annual Report on Social Care Complaints and Compliments for the period 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services Annual Report on Social Care Complaints and Compliments for the period 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009, be noted.
- (2) That, subject to the inclusion of contact details being inserted for the complaints service, approval be given to the Annual Report to be made available as a public document as required by legislation and guidance.

10

CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c), it was

RESOLVED

That agenda item Number 11 be considered as the next item of business.

11

SEXUAL HEALTH

A report of the Director of Public Health was submitted on the current position in Dudley with regard to sexual health. Information in the report contained the recommendations from the sexual health needs assessment, the findings from community consultation and the current progress towards the Chlamydia screening target.

Arising from the presentation given Members commented on the need to allocate resources to nighttime activity particularly to those people coming out of Nightclubs and that stands and publicity to raise awareness should be displayed at prominent places such as in Cinemas. It was also requested that awareness leaflets should be distributed to pupils in secondary schools and that efforts should be made to be more proactive in reaching out to young people.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report now submitted, on the current position in Dudley with regard to sexual health, be noted.

12

UPDATE ON SWINE FLU

The Director of Public Health gave a verbal update on the current situation in respect of the Swine Flu outbreak in a local and national context.

The initial strategy for the United Kingdom had been to contain the virus and to swab patients who had been abroad. It was reported that the advice now being given was that, in the majority of cases, General Practitioners (GPs) were no longer being asked to swab people and that clinical symptoms for diagnosing the illness were being used rather than testing at laboratories. Patients in Dudley were being asked to ring the Swine Flu Information Line or their GPs who in turn would contact the Flu Response Team. Anti-viral collection points had also been set up to enable people that had not been diagnosed with the virus but had been in contact with another member of the family to collect their own prescriptions, or on behalf of someone, as they were not infectious.

The Director of Public Health further reported that schools were being asked to remain open and parents were being asked to keep children suspected of having swine flu at home and an absence monitoring system was being put into place.

RESOLVED

That the verbal update given on Swine Flu by the Director of Public Health be noted.

13

CAR PARK CHARGES AT RUSSELLS HALL, CORBETT AND THE GUEST HOSPITALS

A report of the Interim Director of Law and Property was submitted in relation to a Notice of Motion Under Council Procedure Rule 12 considered by Council on 27th April 2009 on the level of car park charges at Russells Hall, Corbett and The Guest Hospitals.

Arising from the presentation of the report it was agreed that the issue should be investigated and included in the Work Programme of the Committee.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the level of car park charges at Russells Hall, Corbett and The Guest Hospitals be included as part of the Work Programme of the Committee for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.
 - (2) That the above report, to include information on charges levied by neighbouring hospitals for comparison purposes, be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.
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DEVELOPING IMPROVED CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH HOSPITALS

A referral from the Licensing and Safety Committee meeting held on 28th May, 2009 had been made with regard to developing improved channels of communication for Members representing the people of Dudley in relation to hospitals with particular reference to Russells Hall Hospital and included on the agenda for consideration.

RESOLVED

That the matter be deferred pending further information being obtained by the Lead Officer to the Committee to clarify specific details of the information required.

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2009/10

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the proposed Work Programme of the Committee for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the inclusion of the level of car park charges at Russells Hall, Corbett and The Guest Hospitals, the Work Programme of the Committee for 2009/10, as set out in the Appendix to the report submitted, be approved.

The meeting ended at 8:35 pm

CHAIRMAN