

## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2006, at 6 p.m.  
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Mrs Ridney (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs Faulkner (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs Aston, Burt, Harley, Islam, Mrs Jordan, Ms Nicholls, K  
Turner and J Woodall

### **Officers**

Head of Personnel (Lead Officer to the Committee), Director of Adult,  
Community and Housing Services, Assistant Director of Adult,  
Community and Housing Services (Dr Sims), Assistant Director of the  
Urban Environment (Development and Environmental Protection), The  
Scrutiny Officer for Good Health, the Research Officer for Good Health,  
and Mr Sanders (Directorate of Law and Property)

### **Also in Attendance**

Mr Barker (Dudley South Patient and Public Involvement Forum), Mr  
Cooke (Chief Executive, Dudley Primary Care Trust) and Mr Farenden  
(Dudley Group of Hospitals)

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### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of  
Councillors Mrs Cowell, Simms and Waltho.

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### **SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

It was reported that Councillors Mrs Jordan and J Woodall were serving  
in place of Councillors Waltho and Mrs Cowell, respectively, for this  
meeting of the Committee only.

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### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No member declared an interest, in accordance with the Members'  
Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter to be considered at this  
meeting.

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## MINUTES

### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the former Select Committee on Good Health held on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2006, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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## TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES AND PROCEDURE AND SCRUTINY PROTOCOLS FOR SELECT COMMITTEES

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted for information, setting out the terms of reference of the Committee, the procedural rules applicable to it, the scrutiny protocols for Select Committees and the Health Scrutiny Protocol.

### RESOLVED

That the report be received and that Article 6 of the Constitution, the Select Committee Procedure Rules, including the section with regard to this Select Committee, and the Scrutiny Protocol for Select Committees, as set out in appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the report, be noted.

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## PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were in attendance for this item.

A discussion ensued on ways in which the Public Forum item could be better publicised. Suggestions were made involving the issue of a press release in the local newspapers prior to meetings of the Select Committee and to the invitation of questions via the Committee's website.

Reference was also made to the Select Committee review outcomes report considered by Select Committee Chairmen in November, 2005, arising from which it had been agreed that agendas for Area Committees should include a diary of dates of future meetings of all Select Committees, together with a note that a public participation item would be included on the agenda in respect of those Committees which had agreed to have such an item. Select Committee Chairmen had resolved to request the submission of a report on this and other outcomes arising from the review to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

In considering this item, the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services cautioned about the manner in which public forum items in relation to matters under the terms of reference of Select Committees should be raised in view of the primary role of those Committees to scrutinise policy and service improvement issues, rather than to deal with issues relating to individual service users.

#### RESOLVED

That the issue of greater publicity for a public forum item on agendas for this Committee be referred back to Select Committee Chairmen for further consideration.

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#### 'IN CONTROL' – LEARNING DISABILITIES, LEARNING PILOT PROJECT

An oral presentation on this pilot project was given by Ann Parkes, Head of the Learning Disability Service in the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services.

The aim of the pilot study was the organisation of social care for disabled people so that clients could assume more direct control over the facilities perceived necessary to met their individual requirements within the financial resources available. The presentation covered the aims of the project nationally; how the relationship between professional treatment and advice and the control disabled people had over how they lived, worked; a comparison between the existing arrangements in relation to resource allocation and those in the pilot scheme, in which disabled people would provide their own self assessment and be allocated accordingly in line with their support plan; and how individual budgets would be operated and managed. The presentation concluded with a summary contrasting existing provision with the provision that would be made under the pilot scheme.

A question and answer session followed, in which the anticipated comparative costs of existing provision and provision under the pilot project were indicated. Questions were asked in relation to the monitoring and review procedures for clients under the new arrangements, in response to which the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services confirmed that this would be undertaken on at least an annual basis, and perhaps more frequently. She confirmed further that the directorate would be working closely with Audit Services to ensure that relevant checks and balances were put in place and worked to. There would not be an automatic right for a disabled person to have an individual budget and this would be subject to the person's individual care plan, which would be reviewed frequently. The pilot project did not cover medical care.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the presentation be received and noted.
  - (2) That a further report on the issue be submitted to the Committee later in the year.
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#### ANNUAL REPORT FOR SOCIAL SERVICES ON EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY 2005/06

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted under cover of which was set out the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services on Equality and Diversity for 2005/06.

In presenting the report, the Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Dr Sims) made particular reference to the record of the Directorate in relation to the employment of black and minority ethnic employees.

A question and answer session followed in which reference was made to the issue of accessibility of buildings to disabled people. In response, the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services referred to the responsibilities of the Council under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 regarding compliance but drew attention to the financial constraints on capital expenditure in this regard. She also indicated the Council's role in giving advice to the proprietors of buildings outside the control of the Council to which the public were admitted in relation to disabled access.

In response to a question in which attention was drawn to incidents of deprivation in certain areas of the Borough, the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services referred to work being undertaken with leaders of ethnic minority groups for the introduction of service level agreements for resource allocations in particular areas.

In response to a comment from one member, the Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Dr Sims) agreed to provide a glossary of terms in future annual reports made to the Committee on equality and diversity.

RESOLVED

That the report be received and noted.

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#### QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANGEMENT REPORT

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted under cover of which was set out the corporate performance report for the activities relating to the terms of reference of the Committee for the third quarter of 2005/06.

RESOLVED

That the report be received and noted.

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WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2006/07

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted seeking approval to the proposed work programme of the Committee for the 2006/07 municipal year.

The proposed work programme for the Committee was attached to the report now submitted. Arising from discussion, it was agreed that the issue of medical care received by older people in residential homes be added to the programme. A suggestion by the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services that, on this issue, an overview of arrangements in place be provided as a starting point and that a scoping of the older people strategy would be helpful, was accepted.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the addition of the issue of medical care received by older people in residential homes, the proposals for the work programme of the Committee for 2006/07, the priorities to be given to each respective issue and the action recommended, be approved as follows and that the comments made in respect of each respective item, as set out below be endorsed;

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Action through</u>
		<u>Full Review</u> <u>Action through Committee Meeting</u>
	<b>1. Reviews</b>	
8	Continue with tracking recommendations from <b>Maternity Services Review</b>	X

1	Draft of <b>Wheelchair Services Review Report</b> Consideration of draft report at this meeting, and, subject to such consideration, to be followed by consultation with users involved and publication in August/September	X
12	<b>Review of Out-of-Hours Services of General Practitioners and National Health Service Direct.</b> The National Audit Office has very recently examined out of hours services in detail, and had concluded that to date services have a good many limitations but are improving. Committee to scrutinise local picture by using the National Audit Office report as a basis for discussions with the Primary Care Trust.	X
2	<b>Review of Care of Older People.</b> The “caring matters” section of the Council Plan sets out some objectives for improving the lives of older people; and there is a new Older People Strategy under development for Dudley. There have been a number of media reports recently about abuse of older people and the problems surrounding end of life care for elderly people. This review has the potential to cut across all the Select Committee’s areas of interest by taking in health and social services.	X

## 2. *Health Inequalities*

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| 4 | <p>The Select Committee on Good Health commented on an early draft of the local policy but the Committee needs to keep an eye on developments. Committee also needs to keep an eye on the local Obesity Strategy and the new National Healthy Communities Programme led by Improvement and Development Agency (I&amp;DeA).</p> | X |
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### ***3. Health Service Developments***

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| 9 | <p><b>Mergers.</b> The Committee to follow up the mergers of the Primary Care Trust, the Strategic Health Authority and Ambulance Services.</p> | X |
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### ***4. Dudley Group of Hospitals Foundation Trust Application***

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| 10 | <p>The Select Committee on Good Health commented favourably on this proposal, but the Committee needs to keep an eye on developments.</p> | X |
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### ***5. Joint developments – Health and Social Care***

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| 5 | <p><b>Proposed Mental Health Trust for the Black Country.</b> Select Committee on Good Health discussed this briefly at the March meeting where members were not enthusiastic about Dudley's good service being merged with others whose services were not so good. This is due to return to the Committee for further comment.</p> | X |
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6	<p><b>Our Health, Our Care, Our Say – White Paper</b></p>
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|  | <p>The proposals in this White Paper could have a significant effect on the structure of health and adult social care and on health and social care scrutiny. It may be useful to link future reviews to this programme. Some of the main points are:</p> | X |
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*Hospital reform:* Payment by Results; Care closer to home; shift in the balance between acute and primary care; better access to care; better co-ordination.

*Patient Choice/Patient-led NHS:* re-structuring of patient and public involvement forums; “calls to action” by Councillors; strengthening of OSC functions (No details yet). More stringent measure of NHS performance in involving patients.

*Prevention:* more emphasis on prevention of ill-health and prevention in social care; emphasis on public health.

*Long-term conditions:* expansion of expert Patients Programme; more support for carers; better information for patients. Dudley MBC’s Occupational Health Service provision could be included as part of Expert Patients.

*Integrating health and social care:* extending Local Area Agreements as a means of creating better joint working between health and social care.

## **6. Annual Health Check**

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| 7 | Collect relevant information through the year on each of the main themes that make up the Healthcare Commission’s Annual Health Check, so that the Committee can make a detailed and reasoned comment on the Dudley NHS Trust’s performance. | X |
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## **7. Scrutinising Adult Social Care**



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| 3 | Members to consider how they want to do this and where Members want to focus, as there will not be time to consider every report that Social Services would like to present. A HASC Working Group to scrutinise routine social services reports to save time to the main Committee. | X |
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### **8. Future Consultations**

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| 11 | In the course of the year there will be new matters which will require the attention of Committee, so there is a need to keep some slack in the system. | X |
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## **WHEELCHAIR SERVICES REVIEW – DRAFT REPORT**

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted under cover of which the draft Wheelchair Review Report was set out.

In relation to the recommendation in the report on home visits, the representative of the Dudley Group of Hospitals confirmed that such visits were already made by the hospital authorities. In relation to the provision of car parking facilities at Corbett Hospital, he indicated that, while additional on site parking facilities had been proposed by the Hospital Group, planning permission had been refused.

In relation to the recommendations in the report, the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services cautioned that work would need to be undertaken to ascertain whether the organisation with the relevant agencies was addressed sufficiently to comply with the recommendations.

Reference was made to the coverage given in the local press to the draft report, given that it had been necessary to publish it with the agenda papers, in response to which it was considered that the issue of a press release in advance of its publication would have been advantageous.

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the draft be received.
- (2) That the advice of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services that consideration be given as to whether relevant agencies are organised sufficiently to address the recommendations, before implementation, be accepted.

- (3) That consideration be given to alternative means of releasing the details of major review reports to the public, before they have been formally approved, including the utilisation of the Marketing and Communications Service for press releases.

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#### FUTURE CONFIGURATION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BLACK COUNTRY

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services updating the Committee on health and adult social care in the light of recent developments with the project looking currently at the future of mental health services in the Black Country, was submitted.

In presenting the report, the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services reported briefly on the work being undertaken and indicated the conclusion of the representative agencies that further time was needed to determine the governance arrangements. While it was anticipated initially that the matter would have been determined by April, 2007, the date had been put back to October 2007. The revised date, however, would allow for greater consultation to take place.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be received.
- (2) That it be noted that the completion date of the project is now likely to be October, 2007.
- (3) That a further progress report be submitted to this Committee in September/October, 2006.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm.

CHAIRMAN