

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

Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2007, at 6.00 p.m.  
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Mrs Ridley (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs Faulkner (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs Aston, Mrs Blood, Mrs Cowell, Jackson, Lavender, J  
Martin, Simms and K Turner

### **Officers**

Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Policy,  
Performance and Resources) (Lead Officer to the Committee),  
Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Learning  
Disability and Mental Health), Scrutiny Officer (Good Health) and Mr  
Sanders (Directorate of Law and Property)

### **Also in Attendance**

Ms Sharpe (Dudley Primary Care Trust); Ms O'Connor and Mr Ivco  
(Dudley Group of Hospitals); and Mr Barker (Dudley Primary Care  
Trust, Patient and Public Involvement Forum)  
Ms Croot (Carer), Ms Hankey (Children's Services, Autism Task Group)  
and Mr Edwards (Autism Spectrum) – for Agenda Item number 8.

### **1 INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

The Chairman introduced new members of the Committee and  
welcomed them to the meeting. She referred also to the revised agenda  
that had been circulated to accommodate agenda item no 12 (Letter to  
Patients – Predictive Discharge Date)

### **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of  
Councillor Mrs Jordan.

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### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of  
Conduct were made at this juncture in relation to any of items on the  
Agenda.

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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5

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

RESOLVED

That, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c) the items on the Agenda be considered in the following order:

Items 5, 6, 8, 12, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13, respectively.

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6

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE AND SCRUTINY PROTOCOLS FOR SELECT COMMITTEES

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted setting out the Terms of Reference and Procedure Rules applicable to the Committee, the Scrutiny Protocols for Select Committees and the Health Scrutiny Protocol.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

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7

PUBLIC FORUM AND PROTOCOL

No members of the public were in attendance at the meeting and no written questions from members of the public were received.

A report of the Scrutiny Officer setting out the Protocol for raising issues under the Public Forum item was submitted.

RESOLVED

That the Protocol be received and noted.

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8

STRATEGY FOR SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM AND ASPERGER'S SYNDROME IN DUDLEY

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted summarising the background and main aims of the draft revised Strategy for Services for people with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome in Dudley, which had been approved by the Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2007. The revised Strategy document, which was attached to the report submitted, was now to be presented for approval to the Board of the Dudley Primary Care Trust.

The Strategy had been developed by the Autism Task Group, and Ms Hankey of the Task Group, Mrs Croot, a carer, and Mr Edwards, a user of the service and a carer of young persons with Autism were in attendance and gave presentations on the Strategy in so far as it related to their respective areas of involvement. In presenting the report and the revised strategy, the Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Learning Disability and Mental Health) indicated the staffing arrangements by which the Strategy would be implemented, drew attention to the funding arrangements, noting that no specific finance had been allocated by Government, and drew particular attention to the four main improvements provided for under the Strategy.

In the discussion, reference was made to the Dudley Autistic Resource Team and Triumph Over Autism Dudley Support projects (DART and TOADS projects, respectively) and the work of the two projects in supporting people with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome was described. In relation to the DART project, it emerged from discussion that it was possible the facility was being constrained from expansion through a lack of available accommodation and a suggestion was made by one member, and accepted by the Committee, that perhaps members of the Council could assist in identifying appropriate accommodation in their wards. The Assistant Director agreed to pursue this line of enquiry with members.

RESOLVED

That the report and the revised Strategy, be received.

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#### LETTER TO PATIENTS – PREDICTIVE DISCHARGE DATE

Draft letters by the Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust proposed for sending to patients, respectively, on admission to hospital and on final discharge, were circulated.

In the discussion, Ms O'Connor of the Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust explained the approach taken by the Hospital Group in the admission and discharge of patients from acute care and the rationale in respect of the proposed sending of the letters.

RESOLVED

That the respective letters, and proposals for sending them, be accepted.

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10

DUDLEY PRIMARY CARE TRUST – POTENTIAL RELOCATION OF THREE GENERAL PRACTITIONER SURGERIES AND THE POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF ONE SURGERY

(During consideration of this item, Councillor Mrs Ridney declared a personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in the item in view of the Clifton Street Surgery being situated in her Electoral Ward. Councillor Mrs Faulkner also declared a personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in the item in view of the fact that one of the General Practitioners referred to in the report in respect of the Colley Gate proposals was her mother's General Practitioner.)

A report of the Dudley Primary Care Trust on their proposals for the closure of three branch surgeries in the Colley Gate area and a potential closure of one surgery in the Woodsetton area was submitted.

The reasons for the proposals in respect of the Colley Gate surgeries were explained in the report and the options available in respect of the Woodsetton area, in consequence of the expected unavoidable vacation of the Clifton Street Surgery by the current General Practitioner, were explained in the report and expanded on by Ms Sharpe of the Dudley Primary Care Trust.

RESOLVED

1. That the proposals of the Dudley Primary Care Trust, in respect of the surgeries at Cradley Road, Highfield Road and Chapel House Lane, Colley Gate, as described in paragraph 2 of the report circulated, be received and accepted.
2. That the preferred option of the Dudley Primary Care Trust, in consequence of the potential closure of the Clifton Street Surgery, Woodsetton, as described in paragraph 3 of the report circulated, be received and accepted.

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11

DEVELOPING LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORKS

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee indicating the proposed next steps in the development of Local Involvement Networks was submitted.

In presenting the report, the Lead Officer outlined progress since the initial consultation paper had been considered by the Committee, drawing attention in particular to the issues it was expected the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill would facilitate, once it became law. In this regard, he referred specifically to the intention to abolish the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement and Health and Patient Forums and to replace them with new bodies called LINKs.

In the discussion, the representative of the Dudley Primary Care Trust Patient and Public Involvement Forum on the Committee, Mr Barker, generally welcomed the principle of LINKs but expressed some concern about how it would be coordinated, particularly when organisations would be able to opt in and out. Similar concerns about the machinery for LINKs were raised by some members of the Committee.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the report be received and progress noted.
2. That the issue of the machinery for LINKs be considered further at a future meeting of the Committee.

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#### QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

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A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee on the Quarterly Corporate Performance Monitoring report for the fourth quarter of 2006/07, in so far as it related to the terms of reference of this Committee, was submitted.

Reference was made in respect of performance indicators BV056, BV195 and BV196, in respect of which it was agreed that update reports be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

Reference was made by one member to performance indicator number BV050 (PAF A2), in which he discussed the respective performances of Dudley and one school in Wolverhampton in respect of gifted children. The appointment of an Officer in the Directorate of Children's Services to oversee Looked After Children was noted.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That further information be provided to a future meeting on performance indicators BV056 (PAF D54), BV195 (PAF D55) and BV196 (PAF D56).

3. That the Lead Officer be asked to submit to a future meeting details of core dates in respect of performance indicators from the services under the remit of this Select Committee.

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13

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2007/08

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted setting out proposals for the Work Programme for the Committee for 2007/08.

In the discussion on this item, reference was made to consultation being undertaken by the Ambulance Service on their five-year strategy, in respect of which it was proposed that Call Centres would be rationalised.

RESOLVED

1. That, subject to consideration being given to the following issues and to any further suggestions being submitted to the Chairman, Lead Officer or the Scrutiny Officer, the Work Programme for the Committee for 2007/08 be approved as set out in Appendix 1 to the report now submitted and that a timetable for the Work Programme be drawn up by the Lead Officer and Scrutiny Officer, in consultation with the Chairman.
2. That an invitation by the Ambulance Service for the Select Committee to engage in a consultation meeting on their five-year strategy be accepted and that the consultation meeting be held at the Council House, Dudley on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2007 at 6.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm

CHAIRMAN