

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 28th September, 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, K Finch, Mrs Harley, Ms Harris, Kettle, Miller, C Wilson and P Woodall and Ms Angela Hill

Officers

Interim Assistant Director of Law and Governance (Lead Officer to the Committee), Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Private Sector, Assistant Director Older People and Physical Disabilities, Head of Policy and Performance, Quality and Complaints Manager, Scrutiny Officer (all Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Also in Attendance

Mr Steve Corton – Head of Community Engagement, National Health Service (NHS) Dudley
Mr Gary Graham – Chief Executive Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust
Ms Jacky O’Sullivan – Service Transformation Programme Director
Mr Ian McGarry – Dudley LINK
Mr David Orme – Dudley LINK Chairman

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Ridney declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item number 6 (Public Forum) in respect of reference made to Newbridge House, as it was in her Ward.

Ms A Hill declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item No 7 (Service Transformation Progress Report) in view of her being a Chair of a user group and stakeholder of the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership National Health Service (NHS) Trust.

15 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4th July 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed.

16 CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS (IF ANY) REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE PETITIONS OFFICER

No petitions had been referred to the Committee.

17 PUBLIC FORUM

Closure of Care Homes

The Chairman referred to several emails that she had received from residents with regard to the closure of New Bradley Hall. She reported that the press had published a story indicating that three care homes, namely, New Bradley Hall, New Bridge House and New Swinford Care Homes were to shut. However, it was clarified that Bradley Hall was a residential home and that both Newbridge House and New Swinford provided Re-ablement Services.

The Chairman stated that the report on the closures had been submitted for approval to Cabinet in September and that the call-in period had expired. A public meeting on the matter was to be held later that evening.

In response to a query from a Member the Assistant Director Older People and Physical Disabilities stated that residents were made aware if the home they resided in had been identified for closure. There was a lead-in period of eighteen months and during this period staff and social workers were in negotiations and discussions with residents with a view to identifying suitable alternative accommodation for them, which could be in or outside of the Borough. Residents were also entitled to receive a top up funding if they chose their own home and a lifetime guarantee was also given for their care needs, however this did not apply to anyone making a new application to the Local Authority. It was further stated that homes did not close until all residents had been satisfactorily rehoused and an after service also existed whereby contact was maintained with relatives and residents to ensure that there were no problems and that residents were content.

Arising from the ensuing discussion it was agreed that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee to enable monitoring and discussions to take place on care homes with a view to moving forward.

RESOLVED

That a report detailing further information on the closures of care homes and outcomes be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

18 SERVICE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

A report of the Service Transformation Programme Director, Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership National Health Service (NHS) Trust was submitted on progress of the Trust's service transformation plans.

Arising from the presentation of the report, Ms A Hill commented that older people seemed to be neglected and particular reference was made to the memory service in Walsall and it was queried as to why Dudley did not have such a service. In responding Ms O'Sullivan indicated that the Trust had been commissioned to provide a Memory Service in Walsall and that they had not been asked to provide the service in Dudley.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted on progress of the Trust's service transformation plans, be noted.

19 DIRECTORATE OF ADULT, COMMUNITY AND HOUSING, STATUTORY ADULTS SOCIAL CARE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES – ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the Directorate's Annual Report on Adult Social Care Complaints and Compliments for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011.

Arising from the presentation of the report the Quality and Complaints Manager undertook to provide the relevant Member with the total number of complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman in 2010/11 in respect of Dudley Social Care Services. The Quality and Complaints Manager also undertook to provide information to this effect in future reports to enable a comparison to be made on any increase or decrease in numbers of such complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman.

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 Adult Social Care Complaints and Compliments for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011, be noted.
 - (2) That approval be given to the Annual Report being made available as a public document as required by legislation and guidance.
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20 HEALTHWATCH DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATE ON DUDLEY LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK (LINK)

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on national and local Healthwatch developments and the shaping of Dudley's local Healthwatch.

Arising from the presentation of the report the Chairman referred to the Local Healthwatch Stakeholder Forum held at Dudley College and expressed concern that people attending the event had commented that they had not heard of LINK and she further stated that she had not seen any literature advertising their services. In responding Mr I McGarry stated that literature was regularly sent to General Practitioner's (GP's) surgeries but he indicated that they could not be compelled to display leaflets. However, he undertook to visit surgeries with leaflets and posters with a view to personally asking them if they would display them for the benefit of the community.

During the ensuing discussion it was requested that the accounts for Shaw Trust be circulated to Members of the Committee and that they be provided on an annual basis in future reports to the Committee.

Reference was again made to the Memory Service in Walsall and the Chairman requested that a report providing information on whether any such facilities existed in Dudley be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the national and local Healthwatch developments, be noted.
- (2) That the Head of Policy and Performance be requested to circulate to Members of the Committee the accounts for Shaw Trust and that this information be included in annual reports of the LINK to the Committee.
- (3) That a report providing information on whether there was similar facilities in Dudley to that of the Memory Clinic in Walsall be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

21 IMPROVING TRAUMA CARE ACROSS THE WEST MIDLANDS

This item was not considered, as there was no representative in attendance. The Chairman also requested that the Scrutiny Officer write a letter to the relevant person asking for reasons for non-attendance.

22 RECONFIGURATION OF VASCULAR SERVICES IN THE BLACK COUNTRY – UPDATE

A report of the Director of Community Engagement and Primary Care was submitted on progress of the reconfiguration of vascular services.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the reconfiguration of vascular services in the Black Country, be noted.
- (2) That approval be given to the Chairman of the Committee to meet with the Chairmen of Walsall and Wolverhampton Scrutiny Committees to consider the approach to joint scrutiny of the vascular review.

23 DIGNITY IN CARE REVIEW

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the findings of the Committee's 2010-11 Review, Dignity in Care.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Dignity in Care Review, be noted.
- (2) That the emerging recommendations, as set out in the review document, be monitored through the future development of the Committee's work programme.

24 COMMITTEE REVIEW 2011/12 : CARING FOR CARERS

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on proposals to deliver the Committee's 2011/12 review on caring for carers.

RESOLVED

- (1) That approval be given to the aims, objectives and actions as set out in the Appendix to the report submitted to deliver the review.
- (2) That approval be given to a workshop being held with relevant practitioners to gather evidence and identify with key priorities.
- (3) That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councillor Miller form part of the Group to undertake the review.

- (4) That a report on the findings and conclusions of the review be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.
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25 RESPONSES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COMMITTEE

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on queries raised at the last meeting in connection with the delivery of health and social care.

Arising from the presentation of the report Members expressed concern about the increase in outpatients' appointments being rearranged and requested that further information, providing reasons for rearranging and a breakdown of the figures, be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee. It was also requested that figures from other hospitals also be provided to enable comparisons to be made.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted be noted.
- (2) That a further report containing detailed information and reasons for the increase in outpatients' appointments and figures from other hospitals to enable comparisons to be made be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.
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26 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2010/2011

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the Annual Report of the Committee for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee for 2010/2011 be approved for submission to the Council.

The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

HASCSC/14