

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Wednesday, 29th September, 2010, 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, Ms Harris, Kettle, Vickers, Mrs Westwood,
C Wilson and P Woodall and Mr D Orme

Officers

Assistant Director Policy, Performance and Resources (Lead Officer to the Committee), Interim Director of Adult Social Services, Assistant Director of Housing Strategy and Private Sector and Scrutiny Officer (all Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources)

Also in Attendance

Primary Care Trust

Ms Kimara Sharpe – Director of Community Engagement and Primary Care
Ms Sue Cooper

Switchover Help Scheme

Mr Andrew Edwards – Regional Project Co-ordinator (For Agenda Item No 8)

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health National Health Service (NHS)

Ms Marsha Ingram – Head of Corporate Affairs
Ms Ann Marie Carey

West Midlands Ambulance Service

Mr Richard Topping – General Manager for the Black Country

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Harley and Miller.

13 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillors C Wilson and Vickers had been appointed as substitute members for Councillors Mrs Harley and Miller respectively for this meeting of the Committee only.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Aston declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item No 9 (West Midlands Ambulance Service) in view of her son being employed by the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Councillor Barlow declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item No 12 (NHS (National Health Service) White Paper) in view of him being an NHS employee and being affected by proposed changes.

Councillor Mrs Ridney declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item No 12 (NHS (National Health Service) White Paper) in view of her being an NHS employee and being affected by proposed changes.

15 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th July, 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed.

16 PUBLIC FORUM

Personal and Individual Budgets

A member of the public referred to the new personalisation agenda and asked for an explanation on the process and procedures in the allocation of budgets and sought clarification on how payments were made.

The Interim Director of Adult, Social Services advised that the matter was complex due to the changeover and undertook to provide a written response to the next meeting of the Committee.

17 QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on performance in relation to the first quarter of 2010/11, for the period April to June, 2010, 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 relation to the first quarter of 2010/11, for the period April to June, 2010, for the services under the terms of reference of this Committee, be noted.

18 REPORT ON THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE DIRECTORATE OF ADULT COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2009/10

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on achievements and progress made against the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2009/10. A copy of the annual report was attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.

Arising from the presentation of the report, and in response to a query, the Assistant Director of Housing Strategy and Private Sector clarified that the homeless figure of 5987, as stated in paragraph 2.5 of the appendix to the report submitted, was a combined figure and included persons on the waiting list for social housing as well as those registered as being homeless. In response to a further query the Assistant Director of Housing Strategy and Private Sector stated that there were twelve disabled employees in the Directorate but he undertook to confirm that figure and also the number that had learning difficulties and to respond direct to the Member concerned. He also undertook to respond direct to the Member concerned with regard to the exact locations of the new build properties as stated in paragraph 2.3 of the appendix to the report submitted.

RESOLVED

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 2009/10, be noted.

19 BBC SWITCHOVER SCHEME

Mr Andrew Edwards, Regional Project Co-ordinator (Switchover Help Scheme) was in attendance to explain about the Switchover Scheme being run by the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), under an agreement with the Government to offer practical help at switchover to older and disabled people.

Mr Edwards explained about the criteria for eligibility of the scheme and indicated that those eligible would get the standard offer, which included the equipment, help with installing the equipment, an aerial check and replacement if needed. Mr Edwards indicated that leaflets on the scheme were available for circulation to appropriate people and that he could be contacted should any queries arise.

RESOLVED

That the information given with regard to the Switchover Help Scheme, be noted.

20 WEST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (NHS) TRUST

A report of the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust was submitted on progress on the implementation of recommendations of the Lightfoot Report, an update on the Trust's application for Foundation Trust status and current performance and activity.

In presenting the report Mr Topping indicated that the application for Foundation Trust status would be in November and not October, as stated in the report. He also undertook to circulate leaflets on the West Midlands Ambulance Service Strategic Direction 2010-2015 to members of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report on the West Midlands Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust, be noted.

21 TRANSFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICES

A report of the Director of Community Engagement and Primary Care was submitted on Transforming Community Services.

In presenting the report the Director of Community Engagement and Primary Care reported that children's services would be transferred to the Sandwell Mental Health Foundation Trust. It was explained that Sandwell were nationally highly rated and the Board had felt that their bid had been clear about governance of children and a dedicated post was being created. A key issue was that Sandwell were not absorbing Children's Services and that the service would be given a high profile and professional support would be available for staff. Sandwell also had a good understanding and were familiar with Section 75 Agreements.

Arising from the presentation of the report the Director of Community Engagement and Primary Care responded to Members' queries and referred to dental services and clarified that a consultation exercise had been carried out but only with current clientele, as they were the service users. With regard to the reason as to why a number of dental services were only open for one session a week or month it was explained that the service that was offered was a specialist service and safety was paramount as anaesthesia was used and appropriate trained staff had to be available.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on Transforming Community Services, be noted.

- (2) That a further progress report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee in January, 2011.
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22 EATING DISORDER SERVICE

A report of the Strategic Commissioning Lead for Children, Young People and Families was submitted on the current service provision for people with eating disorders in Dudley.

Arising from the presentation of the report and in response to a query from a Member it was explained that young children under the age of 14 would not usually be diagnosed with an eating disorder due to sensitivity issues.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report on the service provision for people with eating disorders in Dudley, be noted.

23 NHS WHITE PAPER

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted summarising information contained in the 'Equity and Excellence in Health, Liberating the NHS White Paper.

In presenting the report the Lead Officer to the Committee reported that information sessions would be arranged for all Members of the Council.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report on the NHS White Paper be noted.

24 HEALTHY WORKFORCE REVIEW

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the findings of the Committee's 2009-10 Review on Healthy Workforce.

In presenting the report the Lead Officer to the Committee reported that information sessions would be arranged for all Members of the Council.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Healthy Workforce Review, be noted.

- (2) That the Lead Officer to the Committee be requested to arrange for the follow-up of the emerging recommendations, as set out in the review document, with the relevant Cabinet Member and other bodies, as appropriate.
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25 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE 2009/2010

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the Annual Report of the Committee for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED

That, subject to an amendment to paragraph 17 of the report to replace 7 clinics with 9 clinics, the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care for 2009/2010 be approved for submission to the Council.

The meeting ended at 8:05 pm

CHAIRMAN