

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Thursday, 27th January, 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, Ms Harris, Kettle, Mrs Westwood, J Woodall, P Woodall and Mr D Orme

Officers

Assistant Director Policy, Performance and Resources (Lead Officer to the Committee), Director of Corporate Resources, Interim Director of Adult Social Services, Assistant Director Culture and Leisure, Treasurer and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Also in Attendance

Primary Care Trust

Ms Val Little – Joint Director of Public Health
Ms Kimara Sharpe – Director of Community Engagement and Primary Care
Mr Tony Collins – Deputy Director/Consultant in Public Health
Mr Steve Corton – Head of Community Engagement
Mr Derek Hunter – Urgent Care Lead (National Health Service (NHS) Dudley)

37 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman announced and welcomed young people from Castle High School who were in attendance to observe how the local democratic process operated in Dudley.

38 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Miller.

39 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

It was reported that Councillor J Woodall had been appointed as a substitute member for Councillor Miller for this meeting of the Committee only.

40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Member declared a personal or prejudicial interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

41 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18th November, 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

No petitions had been referred to the Committee.

43 PUBLIC FORUM

No issues were raised under this Agenda Item.

44 REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2011/12

A joint report of the Chief Executive, Treasurer and Interim Director of Adult Social Services had been submitted on the proposed Revenue Budget Strategy for 2011/12 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/12 – 2013/14.

Arising from the presentation of the report a Member referred to paragraph 22 of the report and commented that the £4.3 million of NHS funding being transferred to the Council to be used to support the delivery of services and efficiencies would mainly be spent across Adult Services. Concern was expressed that owing to this service already being under pressure the money could be absorbed in shortfalls and it was also commented that the funding should also be used for supporting Children's Services as there were children with long term needs. In responding the Interim Director of Adult Social Services indicated that guidance on the funding did not preclude the money being spent on healthcare for children, however he undertook to seek clarification on the matter. With regard to concerns about the money being swallowed up in overspends, the Interim Director of Adult Social Services confirmed that this would not happen as there were conditions and criteria as to how and what the money could be spent on.

In responding to further queries from Members, the Interim Director of Adult Social Services indicated that savings with regard to Social Workers would not be achieved by reducing the total number of Social Workers but by reducing the ratio of qualified Social Workers to unqualified, as some tasks could be carried out by unqualified staff. It was pointed out that the difference between a qualified and unqualified Social Worker was that of approximately £15,000 per Social Worker.

With regard to the hostel accommodation at Gibbs Road, the Interim Director of Adult Social Services stated that there were no plans for closure but that ideas revolved around a new build or to redesign the existing service and that savings would be made by fewer places being made available. In response to a query from a Member involving the impact the reduction of places would have on people, the Interim Director of Adult Social Services stated that it was evident that clients would be affected in that some people would not receive this service from the Local Authority, other vulnerable people would have a reduced service and that some people may have to be turned away as beds could be fully occupied. In response to a further query the Interim Director of Adult Social Services undertook to provide in writing a response to the query on the number of staff and the number of beds before and after the anticipated funding cuts.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet's Revenue Budget Strategy proposals for 2011/12 and Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2011/12 – 2013/14, as set out in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted be noted and that the Cabinet be informed that there were no observations that this Select Committee wished to make on the proposals.

45 QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on performance in relation to the second quarter of 2010/11, for the period July to September, 2010, for the services under the terms of reference of this Committee.

A Member requested that a written summary of the key activities which denoted areas that were of concern or required further background information be included in future reports. The Lead Officer to the Committee undertook to include the summary in future reports.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and copy of the extracted report circulated separately, on performance in relation to the second quarter of 2010/11, for the period July to September, 2010, for the services under the terms of reference of this Committee, be noted.

46 UPDATE ON DUDLEY'S HEALTHY TOWN PROGRAMME

A joint report of the Director of Public Health and the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on progress made with the implementation of the Borough's 'Healthy' Town programme.

The Chairman referred to the evaluation undertaken by Worcester University and requested that details of the data be circulated to all Members of the Committee. It was also requested that an annual report on the outcomes and the impact made on health also be submitted to this Committee.

During the ensuing discussion a Member commented on the lack of sporting facilities in central Dudley and in particular the lack of quality football pitches. Another Member concurred with the comments made but pointed out that the problem existed throughout the Borough and commented that discussions with young people had highlighted the need for a quality football pitch, skating and cycling facilities and that young people had requested that the Council revisit facilities at The Dell. It was commented that if there was any funding left then this be used for this purpose. The Assistant Director Culture and Leisure undertook to investigate the matter and to respond direct to the Member concerned.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on progress made with the implementation of the Borough's Healthy Town programme, be approved.
- (2) That an annual report detailing the impact on health be included in the Committee's Work Programme for 2010/11.

47 IMPROVING OUTCOMES GUIDANCE COMPLIANCE FOR UPPER GASTRO-
INTESTINAL CANCERS

A report of the Director of Community Engagement and Primary Care was submitted on the proposed changes to upper gastrointestinal (upper GI) cancer services in Dudley prompted by the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) Improving Outcomes Guidance (IOG).

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on the proposed changes to upper gastrointestinal cancer services in Dudley, be noted.

- (2) That the recommendation that the proposed change did not constitute a substantial variation in local services, based on the numbers of patients involved and the suggested approach to further public communications, be supported.
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48 THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW HEALTH FACILITIES IN LYE AND PENSNETT

A report of the Director of Community Engagement and Primary Care was submitted on the development of new health facilities in Lye and Pensnett.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report on the development of new health facilities in Lye and Pensnett, be noted.

49 URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE IN DUDLEY

A report of the Director of Community Engagement and Primary Care was submitted on progress made with urgent care in the Borough.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on urgent and emergency care in Dudley, be noted and that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

50 UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (NHS) WHITE PAPER : EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on progress with the NHS White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' and preparation for its implementation within Dudley.

A Member referred to discussions that had been held with regard to the review on current Scrutiny arrangements and asked that the matter be pursued and that Members of Select Committee's be involved in any discussions. The Lead Officer undertook to investigate progress on the matter.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report on progress with the NHS White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' and preparation for its implementation within Dudley, be noted.

51 A VISION FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the Government's vision paper for Adult Social Care 'Capable Communities and Active Citizens' and progress on implementing the vision in Dudley.

Following a comment made by a Member regarding the need to safeguard people the Lead Officer to the Committee agreed to submit a report on "Safeguarding" to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report on the Government's vision paper for Adult Social Care 'Capable Communities and Active Citizens' and progress on implementing the vision in Dudley, be noted.
- (2) That a report on "Safeguarding" be included in the Committee's Work Programme for 2010/11.

52 HEALTH INEQUALITIES STRATEGY 2010-2015

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on an updated Health Inequalities Strategy 2010-2015, which had been referred from the Cabinet meeting held on 8th December, 2010.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Health Inequalities Strategy 2010-2015, be noted.

The meeting ended at 8:30 pm

CHAIRMAN