

SELECT COMMITTEE ON GOOD HEALTH

Wednesday, 6th July 2005 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 2, Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Burt (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Faulkner (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Ali, Mrs Aston, Attwood, Harley, Islam, Miss Nicholls,
Rahman, and K Turner.

OFFICERS:-

The Head of Personnel and Support Services (Lead Officer to the Committee), Scrutiny Officer to the Committee (Good Health), Director of Social Services, Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Development and Environmental Protection), Assistant Director of Social Services (Business Services), Research Officer (Good Health) and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Law and Property)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr R Bacon - Chief Executive, Dudley Beacon & Castle Primary Care Trust
Mr R Checketts - Head of Communications, Dudley Beacon & Castle Primary Care Trust
Mr N Nesbett - Director of Finance, Dudley Beacon & Castle Primary Care Trust
Mr K Stride – National Osteoporosis Society – Dudley Support Group
Mr G Barker - Dudley South Patient and Public Involvement Forum.

1

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22nd March, 2005, be approved as a correct record and signed.

2

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, was made by Councillor Rahman in respect of Agenda item number 5 (Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust Local Delivery Plan 2005/06-2007/08) in relation to reference to diabetes as he receives a service from the Diabetic Clinic and his GP.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

4 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES FOR THIS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

It was reported that Councillor Attwood had been appointed to serve as a substitute for Councillor Boys for this meeting of the Committee only.

5 CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c) it was:-

RESOLVED

That the next item of business be Agenda Item Number 8 (car parking at Russells Hall Hospital).

6 CAR PARKING AT RUSSELLS HALL HOSPITAL

The Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Development and Environmental Protection) informed the Committee of the background to, and latest position on, parking provision at Russells Hall Hospital. It was noted that the temporary permission applied for in November 2003 had been extended to December 2006 and that the helipad had been utilised for car parking space. Emphasis was given to the continuous meetings and dialogue between officers of the Directorate of the Urban Environment and of the Health Trust on this matter. It was also noted that initially multi-deck provision was envisaged and that recently there had been a reappraisal of the number of spaces on site. In this connection the trust had commissioned transport consultants to undertake a traffic impact assessment which would assist the new planning application and pre-application advice that could be given at the design and concept stages. However, as the information from the consultants was still awaited no discussions had yet taken place with the trust on an application but when it was available they would be given every assistance. Advice and guidance was also being given in relation to green travel plans.

Arising from the information given Members expressed concerns at the current position regarding car parking at Russells Hall Hospital not only for the hospital but in relation to nearby residents. In response to a particular question asked it was noted that the traffic impact assessment should be received this month enabling the pre-application discussions to commence.

In the light of the concerns expressed by Members it was:-

RESOLVED

That the Chairman, in consultation with the Lead Officer, write to the Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust regarding car parking at Russells Hall Hospital expressing concerns raised by Members at this meeting in relation to accessibility, drop off points, the date when final plans would be submitted, the impact on the hospital and residential areas, the plans envisaged in relation to Green Travel so as to maximise possible other alternative transport instead of the use of motor cars, the need for the helipad to be reinstated given that the loss of this facility would mean the loss of a valuable service and proposals in respect of the provision for disabled parking.

7

OSTEOPOROSIS

At this juncture Mr Ken Stride of the National Osteoporosis Society - Dudley Support Group was invited to discuss the content of a banner erected at the meeting and commented on the latest information which indicated that one in two women over 50 and one in five men over 50 would get osteoporosis. The problem therefore was building unless additional funding was available in the near future. He indicated that he was looking for the Select Committee to support the making of representations to the medical profession to take forward and fund the development of Osteoporosis services.

Arising from the consideration given to the need for a DEXA scanner it was considered that the overall cost of setting up a service including a scanner was £100,000.00.

The Chairman indicated that the Select Committee would like to give their continuing support to Mr Stride's group and the Head of Communications, Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust reported that a business case was currently being looked at for a DEXA scanner and that a Lead Commissioner had been appointed. He also indicated that he would be willing to submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee on this matter and, in this connection, he was also asked to include details as to how the Primary Care Trust were implementing the National Institute of Clinical Excellences initiative in this regard.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive of Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust be requested to report on the current position regarding the development of an Osteoporosis service in Dudley with particular reference to the provision of a DEXA scanner and implementation of the initiative of the National Institute of Clinical Excellence.

8

DUDLEY BEACON AND CASTLE PRIMARY CARE TRUST - LOCAL DELIVERY PLAN 2005/06-2007/08

A copy of the Local Delivery Plan 2005/06-2007/08 of Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust have previously been circulated to Members. The Director of Finance of the Primary Care Trust gave a presentation on the content of the Local Delivery Plan referring to the substantial growth in monies the Trust would receive over the years of the plan reaching £12.9m in 2007/08 which was more than 9% additional monies, the process of continuity in the Plan highlighting investment areas and financial issues and the process involved in putting together the plan which was a bottom up process in that matters were discussed with Clinical staff of the Trust, other Agencies and Boards, the Professional Executive Committee, the PCT Board, Voices for Health and now this Committee. Particular aspects highlighted were capacity and investment planning in that the PCT was expanding capacity both in community and hospital services to improve access and reduce waiting times; developing models of care and implementing them for people suffering from long term conditions; supporting the development of services for families and children so as to provide a healthy start to life; improving health services for black and minority ethnic communities and employing a diverse work force representative of the community across all levels of the organisation and measures in support of the Government White Paper in respect of smoking cessation, obesity, sexual health/teenage conception and disadvantaged communities. In conclusion details of the financial strategy set out in the plan were referred to in that the trust would achieve financial balance in each of the three years of the plan although there were financial risks as set out in the Plan. Key risks were then commented on involving practice based commissioning, in relation to savings and how to achieve them, how to control spending on payment by results, the Mental Health Service re-organisation, issues in relation to waiting times and access targets and the delivery of Choose and Book.

Arising from the presentation given Members made a number of comments and queries arising from which it was:-

1. Agreed that the Head of Communications, Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust would arrange for responses to the following queries raised by Councillor Rahman to be set out in a letter to be sent to all members of the Committee:-

- How were the aims to improve Health Services for black and minority ethnic communities to be achieved (page 5 of the Plan)?
 - In relation to the minimum of 80% of people with Diabetes to be offered screening, what was to happen about the remaining 20% of people with Diabetes (page 14 of the Plan)?
 - How were the Primary Care Trust to improve communication with the black and minority ethnic community (page 23 of the Plan)?
 - In respect of support of vulnerable children and young people who would be responsible for the provision of services required following a home check and filling in any gaps found (page 29 of the Plan)?
 - The position regarding a plan to secure future provision for the Orchard Family Centre (page 35 of the Plan).
 - The apparent lack of any contribution by Consultants in the Expert Patient Programme.
 - The need for better co-ordination of appointments so that patients did not have to make say three trips to a hospital on three separate occasions.
 - How were the cases of MRSA to be reduced to 12 by 2007?
2. Noted that issues raised in relation to health inequalities would be considered as part of the next agenda item and as part of the work programme and that issues in relations to obesity were to be considered as part of the work programme.
 3. Noted that in response to concerns expressed about the need for the Select Committee to be involved at an earlier stage with developments that the Primary Care Trust would be happy to look at this and in this connection mention was made of Health Improvement Centres in that the Primary Care Trust would like to bring plans to the Committee for them to approve by way of consultation.

At the conclusion of questions and comments the Chairman thanked the Director of Finance and the Head of Communications, Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust for the presentation given and responses made to issues raised by the Committee.

DRAFT HEALTH INEQUALITIES STRATEGY

A joint report of the Director of Social Services and the Chief Executives of Dudley South and Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust was submitted on a final draft Health Inequalities Strategy for Dudley Borough. A copy of the draft Strategy was attached as an appendix to the report submitted.

The Chief Executive of Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust gave a brief presentation on the content of the Strategy following which the Director of Social Services also made comments and stated that any comments Members of the Committee wish to make should be received by the end of August, 2005.

Arising from the consideration given by Members to the joint report submitted it was

RESOLVED

That Councillors Burt, Mrs Faulkner, Ali and Islam, in consultation with the relevant officers consider and make representations, on behalf of the Committee, on the content of the draft Health Inequalities Strategy by the end of August, 2005 and that the relevant officers provide information on a ward by ward basis of the resources available so as to aid Members in their consideration.

SOCIAL SERVICES PERFORMANCE

A report of the Director of Social Services was submitted on the performance of the Social Services Directorate.

Arising from comments made by the Director of Social Services on the content of the report, and attachments to the report, submitted Councillor Ali commented that it would be helpful if further information could be provided on the outstanding objectives referred to in appendix 1 to the report submitted.

In response the Director of Social Services stated that consideration would be given to this comment.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and attachments to the report, submitted on the performance of the Social Services Directorate, be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE 2005/06

The Lead Officer reported orally on items to possibly form the work programme of the Committee for 2005/06. Items raised were:

- Questions around obesity/lifestyles
- Quality and perceptions of quality (relating to bench marks using the Health Service and users perceptions)
- Review of the out of hours service provision
- Aspects of the ambulance service

In addition it was considered that later in the year a scrutiny review could be undertaken of the performance of the Health Inequalities Strategy.

Arising from the consideration given to this matter and the suggestion made that people be asked to give examples of one or two improvement issues they would wish the Committee to focus on, the Head of Communications, Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust stated that Mori Patients Surveys into primary care and mental health were undertaken and that a recent lifestyle survey was currently being analysed. Copies of questionnaires could be made available together with comments from other user groups.

RESOLVED

That suggestions for a work programme for the Committee in 2005/06 be discussed, in consultation with the relevant Health Authorities, with a view to developing the suggestions referred to above and reporting back to the next meeting of this Committee.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON GOOD HEALTH

A report of the Chairman of the Committee was submitted on the Annual Report to the Council on the review of the work of the Committee for the 2004/2005 municipal year.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Good Health for 2004/2005, as submitted, be received and submitted to the Cabinet and the Council for approval.

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2004/2005

A report of the Director of Social Services was submitted on the achievements and progress made against the Directorate of Social Services' Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2004/05.

The Director of Social Services in her presentation of the report, and attachments to the report, submitted reported that, as previously requested, key facts had also been included in the report supplementing the information given in the progress report.

Arising from the presentation given Members asked a number of questions and made comments and in response the Director of Social Services undertook to write to Councillor Ali, with a copy to the Chairman, on the costs involved relating to the use of an external agency to establish a Translation Quality Assurance Panel and to Councillor Islam, again with a copy to the Chairman, on the issue of referrals from black and minority ethnic groups referred to under the adult services heading of the activities section of the key facts.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and attachments to the report, submitted on the achievements and progress made against the Directorate of Social Services Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2004/05, be noted.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm

CHAIRMAN