

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Thursday, 22nd November, 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. Blood, Mrs. Coulter, Mrs. Cowell, Jackson, Ms. Jordan,
Lavender, J. Martin and K Turner

Officers

Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Policy, Performance and Resources) (Lead Officer to the Committee), the Scrutiny Officer for Health, the Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Learning Disability and Mental Health), the Technical Accountant (Directorate of Finance, ICT & Procurement) and Mr. Sanders (Directorate of Law and Property)

Also in Attendance

Mr. Shaw (Non - Executive Director), Mr. Barker (Patient and Public Involvement Forum), Ms. Sharpe (Director of Governance and Community Engagement) and Ms. Stanfield (all Dudley Primary Care Trust).

28 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs. Aston and Simms.

29 **SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

It was reported that Councillor Mrs. Coulter was serving in place of Councillor Mrs. Aston for this meeting of the Committee.

30 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held on the 8th November, 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

31

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were in attendance at the meeting and no issues were raised under this item.

32

COUNCIL'S CAPITAL STRATEGY

A report of the Director of Finance was submitted seeking consideration of the Council's updated Capital Strategy for 2008 to 2013 and which requested the Committee to consider any issues it wished to have taken into account when the Strategy was considered by the full Council.

RESOLVED

That the updated Capital Strategy be noted and that no issues be raised for submission to the Council.

33

MENTAL HEALTH ACT, 2007

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted indicating the key measures contained in the Mental Health Act, 2007.

The Act had become law on the 1st October, 2007, but its main provisions would not come into force before the 1st October, 2008. In introducing the report, the Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Learning Disability and Mental Health) summarised the developments in mental health care over the previous 10 to 15 years, which had resulted in the Act becoming necessary and expanded on the key measures contained in the Act and their implications for services in Dudley. In so doing, he drew particular attention to the provisions relating to community treatment, with regard to which he reported on the conditions that would be applicable to patients; the arrangements for advocacy services for patients detained under the Act and on the group of practitioners who would be able to take on the (broadened) role of Approved Mental Health Practitioner. He also expanded on the information contained in the report on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and the implications these would have for Primary Care Trusts and local authorities.

A question and answer session followed, in which the following issues were discussed:

- the anticipated role of working practices of the Approved Mental Health Practitioners

- the arrangements that would be made and the facilities that would be available at Ridge Hill for patients who have mental health needs. In this regard, the Assistant Director reported on the Green Light tool kit that had been introduced to guide the respective working responsibilities of the Council and the Primary Care Trust.
- it was confirmed that, notwithstanding the redefinition of “Mental Disorder” under the Act, the service to persons with a learning disability would not be diminished.
- specialist services, including issues such as those relating to children of school age with eating disorders, which could be the subject of consideration under the joint arrangements with Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council.

In the discussion, reference was also made to the advantages of the joint working arrangements with Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council in relation to the opportunities that this could provide for sharing scarce professional staffing resources.

RESOLVED

That the report be received and the comments made, noted.

34

ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED

That, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c), Item 14 on the Agenda be considered as the next item of business.

35

JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE CONFIGURATION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN DUDLEY AND WALSALL: DUDLEY MEMBERSHIP

Further to Minute 27 of the Special Meeting of the Committee held on 8th November, 2007, a report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted seeking further consideration of the Dudley Membership appointed, in light of the legislative requirements regarding political balance.

While accepting the information contained in the report, the Committee regretted that the political balance requirements, together with the limited time available to respond to the Consultation Paper, had resulted in the Liberal Democrat Member of the Committee being precluded from serving on the Joint Committee.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the composition of Dudley's side of the Joint Scrutiny Committee comprise three members of the Conservative Group and two members of the Labour Group and that the following members be appointed to serve for the remainder of the current Municipal Year: Councillors Mrs E Blood, Mrs. Faulkner, Jackson, J. Martin and Mrs. Ridney.
- (2) That the Joint Scrutiny Committee be requested that the Liberal Democrat Member on the Select Committee, Councillor Lavender be permitted to attend meetings by invitation.

36

DUDLEY PRIMARY CARE TRUST SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME

A report of the Director of Governance and Community Engagement of the Dudley Primary Care Trust advising the Committee of the content of the Trust's Single Equality Scheme was submitted.

It introducing the report, the Director indicated that the scheme was designed to set out the approach of the Primary Care Trust to Equality and Diversity in its capacities as an employer, the commissioning body for Health Care Services and as a procurer of general goods and services. The scheme was also proposed for use as an introduction to a Human Rights based approach to health care within the Primary Care Trust. The Action Plan on the Scheme was currently being consulted upon and comments from the Select Committee were invited.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be received and noted.
- (2) That the proposed reporting arrangements for the future, as indicated in paragraph 4 of the report now submitted, be approved.

37

ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK

The Director of Governance and Community Engagement of the Dudley Primary Care Trust reported orally on the Annual Health Check conducted by the Health Care Commission on the Primary Care Trust (PCT), summarising the purpose of the health check and the areas covered.

In the presentation, the Director reported on the performance of the PCT against existing targets, all of which had been met, and indicated that the Trust had been rated as “good” in meeting new targets. She then covered the conclusions of the health check regarding the management of the financial resources of the PCT. The Director explained the manner in which improvement reviews were focused in order to make and sustain progress on selected themes of health care and reported on the conduct and conclusions of an in-depth review carried out into the services provided for patients with diabetes to enable them to look after their condition.

She concluded the presentation by reporting the assessments allocated to the PCT for the 2007 health check and briefly referred to issues proposed for inclusion in the Annual Health Check for 2008, recommendations for inclusion from interested parties in respect of which would be required for submission to the PCT by April.

A question and answer session followed, in which particular reference was made to the issue of decontamination, in respect of which the Director referred to the action that was being taken further to a risk assessment undertaken into the issue. She indicated also that an item on decontamination had been regularly discussed by the PCT Board. In response to an enquiry regarding the nature of the process that had resulted in the PCT as having been assessed as coming within the top 45% of PCTs for ensuring improved life outcomes to adults and children with mental health problems by ensuring that all patients who needed them had access to crisis resolution services and a comprehensive child and adolescent mental health service, the Director agreed to provide the necessary details to the Council’s Scrutiny Officer.

RESOLVED

- (1) . That the presentation by the Director of Governance and Community Engagement of the Dudley NHS Primary Care Trust on the annual health check of the Trust for 2007 be received and noted.
- (2) . That a report be submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 27th March, 2008 on the issues the Council wishes to have included in the Trust’s Annual Health Check for 2008.
- (3) . That a report on the risk assessment on decontamination referred to at the meeting be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

- (4) . That the Director of Governance and Community Engagement of the PCT advise the Council's Scrutiny Officer of details of the process whereby the Dudley PCT had been assessed as coming within the top 45% of Primary Care Trusts which have ensured improved life outcomes for adults with children with mental health problems by ensuring that all patients who need them have access to crisis resolution services and a comprehensive child and adolescent mental health service.

38

OUR NHS - OUR FUTURE: NHS NEXT STAGE REVIEW INTERIM REPORT

A report of the Director of Governance and Community Engagement of Dudley Primary Care Trust was submitted a report on progress since announced by the Government in June, 2007 and being conducted by Professor Lord Darzi.

Professor Lord Darzi had produced an interim report in October, 2007 entitled "Our NHS - Our Future: NHS Next Stage Review Interim Report", a summary of which was attached to the report now submitted. The Director expanded orally on some of the main issues under consideration and stated that the full report was expected to be published in the summer.

In reply to a question, the Director affirmed that patients would not be required to register at General Practitioner-led Health Centres, in order to use the surgeries. She also stated her understanding that new health centres would not necessarily be located in new buildings. She confirmed her expectation that the new computer spine would be designed to enable the computer systems of different health providers to communicate with each other.

With regard to the issue of the provision of 100 new practices in the PCT areas with the worst provision, the Director reported that further information on this would be available in the following week. It was agreed that a press release would be issued when the additional information was available.

RESOLVED

That the report be received and the information reported be noted.

39

COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

This item was withdrawn.

HAVE YOUR SAY - LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORKS (LINKs)

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted, providing an update on developments to date in Dudley in establishing a Local Involvement Network (LINKs) and seeking consideration of the "Have your Say" Consultation Document on the draft regulations for LINKs.

The responses of consultees had been requested in relation to certain issues in the "Have your Say" document and draft responses for consideration by the Committee were attached to the report.

While cautiously welcoming the principle of the LINKs initiative, in that it appeared that provision for involvement in the inspection of residential care homes was to be widened, notwithstanding the discontinuation of the Patient and Public Involvement Forum, the representative of the Forum expressed the need for those authorised to visit such establishments to be clarified. The point was made by one member that there should be some scope for visits to residential homes from LINKs inspectors to be co-ordinated with visits from Ward Members.

The financing arrangements for facilitating LINKs was discussed and the Lead Officer to the Committee estimated that some £120,000 would be made available through government grant.

RESOLVED

- (1) . That the report be received and the comments made, noted.
- (2) . The responses to the questions asked in the Consultation Document "Have your Say", as set out in Appendix 1 to the report now submitted, be approved as the Council's response, subject to the deletion of the last two lines in paragraph 37 and to an addition to paragraph 36 being made to advocate the insertion of a time limit for the submission of the substantive response from a provider to an issue raised with LINKs.

QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the performance of the Council in relation to the activities relating to the terms of reference of this Committee for the fourth period of 2007/08, i.e. the period from 1st April to the 30th June, 2007.

RESOLVED

That the report be received and noted.

The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

CHAIRMAN