

## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2007, at 6.00 p.m.  
in Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Mrs Ridley (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs Faulkner (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs Aston, Burt, Mrs Cowell, Islam, Mrs Jordan, Ms Nicholls, and K Turner

### **Officers**

Head of Personnel and Support Services (Lead Officer to the Committee), Director of Finance, Assistant Directors (Learning Disability and Mental Health and Policy, Performance and Resources), (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) Scrutiny Officer (Good Health) and Ms K Smith (Directorate of Law and Property)

### **Also in Attendance**

Ms J Cunningham (Dudley Primary Care Trust), Ms V Little (Director of Public Health) and Ms P MacDonald (Nurse Consultant Communicable Diseases) (NHS), Mr A Marsh (Chief Executive Officer) and Ms S Green (Regional Head of Risk and Governance) (West Midlands Ambulance Service), Mr G Barker (Dudley Primary Care Trust, Patient and Public Involvement Forum) and Mr P Davies.

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### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

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### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Aston declared a personal interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of agenda item 8 – (West Midlands Ambulance Service), as her son was employed by them.

Councillor Mrs Jordan declared a prejudicial interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in agenda item 5 – (Public Forum), as she had personal knowledge of the individuals concerned in the case to be brought before the committee by a member of the public.

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2006, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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PUBLIC FORUM

(Councillor Mrs Jordan, having declared a prejudicial interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, left the meeting for consideration of this item only)

Mr P Davies, a member of the public, made a presentation to the committee on alleged withdrawal of support and inappropriate actions by Social Services and the Dudley Primary Care Trust with regard to care of his adult son.

RESOLVED

That Mr Davies be requested to submit further details of the case he had outlined to the committee to the Lead Officer for further consideration and action by the appropriate officers.

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PROPOSED REVENUE STRATEGY BUDGET 2007/08

A joint report of the Director of Finance and Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2007/08 and on the Revenue Budget Strategy for 2007/08 and later years.

Following consideration by Members, it was noted that there would be a significant increased demand for services to support clients with learning disability, which would require an extra £1 million in resources. It was confirmed that these additional resources would cover the full costs of the fifteen clients in accessing either residential or supported living as appropriate.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2007/08 and Revenue Budget Strategy for 2007/08, be noted.

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PREVELANCE OF TUBERCULOSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF BLANKET VACCINATIONS IN DUDLEY SCHOOLS

A presentation was submitted by the Nurse Consultant on Communicable Diseases, on behalf of Dudley Public Health, on the prevalence of Tuberculosis and implications of the withdrawal of blanket vaccinations in Dudley schools.

A member of the public had raised the issue of withdrawal of blanket vaccinations in schools at a previous meeting of the committee. The Nurse Consultant on Communicable Diseases stated that in July 2005 the Chief Medical Officer had issued a statement outlining the changes in BCG vaccination policy. It had been agreed that; as the BCG vaccination was not guaranteed to give a 100% protection, numbers of cases had dramatically fallen and "at risk " groups were easier to identify, blanket vaccinations would be withdrawn. It was noted that Dudley had had on average thirty-three cases, a rate of eleven per every hundred thousand cases of Tuberculosis, since 2003 and was not considered a high risk in the list of contagious diseases.

Vaccinations were now given based on occupation such as National Health Service workers where they could have to care or nurse patients with the disease, veterinary staff due to Tuberculosis in cattle and people who had to travel to endemic areas for long term work such as health care workers.

Following discussion by Members, it was noted that the Director of Public Health would issue a statement on the BCG vaccination policy to be distributed to Dudley schools by the Directorate of Children's Services. It was also confirmed that members of the public could contact the Nurse Consultant on Communicable Diseases at any time with concerns over such diseases.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the presentation submitted be noted.
- (2) That the Director of Public Health be requested to issue a statement on the BCG vaccination to be distributed to Dudley schools by the Directorate of Children's Services.

WEST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE

A presentation was submitted by the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the West Midlands Ambulance Service on the progress of the ambulance service regional merger and operational performances to date.

Following discussion by Members it was noted that the data presented, with regard to performance, showed that Dudley was operating at above the regional average. In relation to the database for locations, it was confirmed that this was continually updated once the service had been notified of changes by local authorities. It was also noted that the ambulance service worked closely with acute services to ensure that service time was optimised with regard to collection and delivery of patients to hospitals to ensure ambulance useage was maximised and patient-waiting time kept to a minimum.

It was confirmed that the West Midlands Ambulance Service had ample air ambulances but that the flying time needed to be extended, from the current flying time of ten hours during daylight to sixteen hours per day. The decisions to use the alternative means of transport available were made by screening "999" calls at source and then dispatching ambulances or helicopters as required. It was also noted that air ambulances were funded primarily from sponsorship, charities or public donations.

The Regional Head of Risk and Governance then gave a brief presentation of how components of the annual health check, for the West Midlands Ambulance Service, came together to determine the annual performance rating for each trust. The presentation described twenty four essential or "core" standards that all healthcare organisations in England, that treat NHS patients, should be achieving and thirteen development standards that they should be working towards achieving in the future.

In response to Members questions regarding the transportation of patients with possible infections such as MRSA and C.Diff it was confirmed that all patients were treated as infections and accordingly ambulances and equipment were thoroughly cleaned with ambulance paramedics wearing gloves and protective clothing. Where patients were confirmed as being infected, the ambulances and equipment were deep cleaned and all sheets, and everything else in contact with the patient, would be stripped and left at the hospital for treatment.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the information given in the presentations and Members comments be noted.

THE MENTAL CAPACITY ACT 2005

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the main provisions of the Mental Capacity Act (2005), parts of which become law on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2007, and the remainder in October, 2007.

Members noted that implications for services in Dudley would include the impact on Community Care Assessments, as these would have to include a formal assessment of capacity in appropriate cases, which would add to the time taken on assessment. This could impact on discharge from hospital and there could be an increased number of complaints where family members or professionals disagreed about the assessment of capacity.

A training programme for staff had begun, comprising a basic half-day and a more advanced full days training. Members raised concerns that the training would not be adequate and it was confirmed that this would be kept under review to see if further training would be required.

## RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted on the main provisions of the Mental Capacity Act, 2005, be noted.

OLD AGE STRATEGY

The Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, presented a booklet that had been issued to the over 50's by Oxfordshire Council, outlining services and advice available to the elderly. The booklet was being reviewed as a template for distribution of information on similar services within Dudley Borough.

Members agreed that it was a useful document and requested that the print format be large, and information contained be clear and precise with repetitive headings running throughout. It was agreed that the booklet title would need further thought, so as not to offend the over 50's, and means of funding and distribution would also need to be considered, to ensure it reached the groups it was aimed at.

## RESOLVED

That the proposed format, contents and recommendations made by Members, be noted and taken into consideration upon production of the booklet on services and advice available to the over 50's in the Borough.

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 the Committee for the second quarter of 2006/07, July to September 2006.

## RESOLVED

That the Quarterly Corporate Performance Report on the performance of the Council in relation to the activities relating to the terms of reference of the Committee for the second quarter of 2006 - 2007, July to September 2006, be received and noted.

OBESITY STRATEGY ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT; JULY 2005 – JULY 2006

A joint report of the Director of the Urban Environment and Director of Public Health was submitted detailing progress from July 2005 to July 2006, highlighting both areas of progress and problem areas for 2006 targets, and early warning signs for problem areas for 2007 – 2010 targets in respect of obesity.

Members noted that obesity was now recognised as a major public health problem requiring both action by the NHS and Local Government. The “Dudley Charter for Action” had been presented to and endorsed by the Cabinet at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and had identified a range of activities and action to be undertaken by the Council in support of the Strategy.

Members made specific reference to the transport infrastructure in Dudley and the difficulties in implementation of cycle ways and safe routes to schools within the Borough. It was agreed that the action plan would be a challenging, long-term project and as a result some areas would find progress slow or difficult. Developing a healthy workplace would be one such problem area, and although work was in progress, funding implications were envisaged.

## RESOLVED

1. That the Obesity Strategy Annual Monitoring Report; July 2005 – July 2006, and the progress relating to the implementation of the Multi-Agency Strategy to tackle obesity, be received and noted.
2. That other Select Committees be asked to consider the report so far as it relates to their terms of reference and to make recommendations accordingly.

3. That the Obesity Strategy Annual Monitoring Report for July 2005 to July 2006 be referred to the Cabinet or respective Cabinet Members for the Environment, Leisure and Adult and Community Services for consideration.

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EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that:-

- (a) It involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act `972 as indicated below; and
- (b) In all the circumstances, the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Paragraph No</u>
Dudley Local Improvement Finance Trust	1

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DUDLEY LOCAL IMPROVEMENT FINANCE TRUST (LIFT)

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the progress to date of the LIFT project.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, submitted, on the Dudley Local Improvement Finance Trust, be noted.

The meeting ended at 9:10 pm

CHAIRMAN