

Meeting of the Council – 17th October, 2005

Report of the Select Committee on Good Health

Annual Report of the Select Committee on Good Health 2004/05

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the annual report to the Council, for the review of the 2004/2005 year.

Background

2. Article 6 of the Council's Constitution requires Select Committees to report annually to the full Council and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.
3. The Select Committee on Good Health has the role of reviewing and/or scrutinising decisions made or actions taken in connection with the provision, planning and management of health and social care. When it is deemed necessary the Select Committee may engage in joint scrutiny with scrutiny committees from other local authorities.
4. In addition to the Overview and Scrutiny Regulations provided by National Government, a local **Health Scrutiny Protocol** has been drawn up and signed by the Chief Executives of Dudley MBC, The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust, Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care NHS Trust, Dudley South Primary Care NHS Trust, and the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust. The Protocol aims to create sound working relationships between the Select Committee on Good Health and its partners in the Health Service. It stresses the importance of mutual respect and accountability, cooperation and openness. The Chairman and Chief Executives of the Health Service in Dudley have agreed to hold regular meetings with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Officers of the Select Committee on Good Health to discuss matters of common interest.

As both Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) decided to carry out their own review of Chiropody Services, the Select Committee decided not to do its own review of Chiropody.

5. During the 2004/05 municipal year the Committee pursued the following **Work Programme**.

5.1 Reviews

- Access to Maternity Services Review.
- Wheelchair Services Review.

5.2 Relationships with Health Service Organisations

- It was planned to set up regular meetings with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman of Select Committee on Good Health (SCGH) and the Chief Executives of the four Health Trusts in the borough to be held in October 2004 so that discussions regarding respective work programmes and concerns/expectations or any other matters they wish to raise with so as to facilitate communication between all the bodies involved.
- A representative from the local Patients Forums would be invited as an observer to future meetings of the Select Committee and a representative of the Select Committee would attend meetings organised by Patients Forums.

5.3 Promotion of the Work of the Committee

Suggestions for this included:

- Improving communication with the public via the current Good Health Website.
- The possible use of advertisements in the local press asking the public to specify their three main health priorities so that one matter might be selected for further investigation and report back.
- The use of GP surgeries, clinics and Council publications such to advertise the work and role of the Committee.

5.4 Education for Members

This would involve

- Formal education sessions to inform Members of the Committee on aspects of health and social care and on their role as scrutineers.
- Presentations from Health Service and Social Services Officers at meetings of the Select Committee.
- Regular updates from the Scrutiny Officer – Good Health about present developments on health and social care policy, locally, regionally and nationally.

5.5 Scrutiny of Social Services.

This to include aspects of:

- Consultation about new developments.
- Performance of Social Services.
- Updates on progress of new or re-provided services.

5.6 General matters of concern

- Progress reports on the best value reports considered by the Committee in the 2002/2003 municipal year.
- Scrutiny of general matters relating to health of both the citizens of the Borough and employees of the Council.

5.7 Major matters considered by the Committee at its meetings during 2004/2005.

Date	Matters Considered
May 2004	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Black Country Health Review – GP out of hours service. 2. Consideration of the Department of Health's Public Health White Paper: "Choosing Health". 3. West Midlands Ambulance Trust: Business Plan.
July 2004	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consideration of the report from the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) 'The Wider View'- A Strategic Framework for Health and Health Services in Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country to 2010. 2. Social Services: Report of the Annual Review of Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2003/04. 3. Consideration of the Work Programme of the Committee 2004/05.
September 2004	Dudley MBC – Health Promoting Schools Service Development Plan 2004-06.
October 2004	Special Meeting of the SCGH – Consideration of the report by Dudley MBCs Director of Law and Property: A Review of Decision of the Executive to recommend the closure of Brierley Hill Leisure Centre
November 2004	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education and Lifelong Learning: Inclusion Strategy Action Plan. Report of the Director. 2. Consideration of Birmingham City Council's Guidance Note and Policy Statement on Breast Feeding and Returning to Work. Breastfeeding policy for Dudley MBC. 3. Social Services: Inspection of Children's Services 4. Social Services: Performance Report
January 2005	
March 2005	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social Services: Resettlement of Ridge Hill Hospital. 2. Dudley MBC: Osteoporosis Services in Dudley. Report of Dudley and Districts NOS Support Group. 3. Consideration of Access to Maternity Services Review Draft Report "When the Bough Breaks". 4. Proposals for jointly-managed mental health services in Dudley. 5. Social Services: Equality and Diversity Action Plan. 6. Social Services: Draft Directorate Strategic Plan 2005-08

6. **Developments**

- The final draft of the Access to Maternity Services was presented to the Committee in March 2005 and is now being prepared for publication. The Select Committee was invited to nominate a representative to work with the Improving Maternity Care Project Implementation Group set up by the Primary Care Trusts and Dudley Group of Hospitals.
- The Project Board for the Wheelchair Services Review was set up in November 2004. The Project Team was also set up and comprises representatives from the Health Service, Dudley MBC and wheelchair users and carers. The expected date for completion of the review is October 2005.
- A representative of the Patients Forums now attends Select Committee as an observer.
- A meeting has been held with the Chairmen and Chief Executives of the Health Services Trusts. Further meetings are planned.
- Representatives of the Select Committee have attended meetings of the Patients Forums, meetings of the PCT-run Health Panels, the PCT Celebrating Success Days, meetings of the Cancer Network and exhibitions about health and social care.
- The work of the Committee has been advertised in a variety of ways. There have been questions posted on the website and one question led to the proposal of a breastfeeding policy for Dudley MBC.
- Members have listened to a series of presentations from officers of the Health Service and Social Services and have received regular updates about developments in health and social care and about the principles and practice of scrutiny.

Finance

7. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report at this stage.

Law

8. The requirement for the Committee to make an annual report to the Council is contained in Article 6 of the Constitution.
9. The relevant statutory provisions regarding the Council's Constitution are contained in Part II of the Local Government Act 2000, together with Regulations, Orders and Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Equality Impact

10. This report complies with the Council's equality and diversity policy.

Recommendation

11. That the annual report of the Select Committee on Good Health for 2004/2005, as set out above, be approved.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RC', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

**COUNCILLOR RICHARD BURT
CHAIRMAN OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON GOOD HEALTH**

List of Background Papers

Article 6 of the Council Constitution. The minutes of meetings of the Select Committee on Good Health held in the 2004/05 municipal year and the public reports submitted to those meetings.