

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2006, 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, Harley, Mrs Jordan, Islam, Ms Nichols, and  
K Turner

### Officers

Head of Personnel and Support Services (Lead Officer to the Committee), Assistant Directors of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Learning Disability and Mental Health and Older People and Physical Disability), (Policy Performance Unit), Technical Accountant (Directorate of Finance ICT and Procurement), the Head of Policy and Review, Quality and Complaints Manager, Social Services (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) The Research Officer for Good Health and Ms K Smith (Directorate of Law and Property)

### Also in Attendance

Mr R Checkitts (Dudley Primary Care Trust) and Mr G Barker (Dudley Primary Care Trust, Patient and Public Involvement Forum)

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### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

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### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

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### MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were in attendance for this item, however, a written question had been submitted on why year 7 school children were no longer vaccinated against TB, unless they were considered to be “at risk”.

RESOLVED

That this item be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee, when the Director of Public Health would be in attendance and able to respond.

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UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL’S CAPITAL STRATEGY

A report of the Director of Finance was submitted on the update of the Council’s Capital Strategy, a copy of which was attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.

Following considerations by Members, it was commented on that the archives needed to be moved as a matter of urgency to a place of storage for preservation and that when the review for the Dudley quadrant building was undertaken, a specifically designed room to house the archives be considered. Members also noted that in relation to leisure and culture facilities that the “family group” was not mentioned and considered that it should be included in the report, as should the health impact on the ageing population.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the update of the Council’s Capital Strategy be noted and that the issues raised by Members be taken into account when the Strategy was considered by full Council.

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NATIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS ON THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on local and national issues relating to Adult Protection.

It was noted that nationally, The White Paper- Our Health, Our Care, Our Say and Safeguarding Adults – National Framework of Standards, would have an impact on Adult Protection policy and practice in Dudley. A national audit of the Adult Protection system would be carried out against some of these standards; including promotion, public information, and partnership and service user involvement. Members noted the details of the investigation into the care of people with learning disabilities in Cornwall and requested that a report be submitted to the Committee once the Health Care Commission of Learning Disability Services had taken place

The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), was also developing a new national safeguarding adults protocol with the Association of Directors of Social Services, Association of Chief Police Officers and the Healthcare Commission.

Following discussion by Members, it was noted that the Mental Capacity Act, to be implemented in April 2007, included key provisions to protect vulnerable people by means of an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate, (IMCA), “a person appointed to support a person who lacks capacity”. Statutory rules with clear safeguards concerning “living wills” and decisions made in advance to refuse treatment would also be in place, with a new criminal offence of ill treatment or neglect of a person who lacks capacity being enforced. Members, having raised concerns over the Act, requested that a report on the Act be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Department of Health would be providing Dudley with an initial sum of £42, 000, to be increased with the rate of inflation, to enable an IMCA Service to be set up. It was noted that Dudley had approximately twelve adult protection referrals per month with over half being from the elderly. Members had concerns that this funding would not be adequate as it would only cover the cost of one and a half advocates and would not include administration costs.

It was also noted that the Protection of Vulnerable Adults List (POVA), was to be merged with the Criminal Records Bureau police check in 2008 and would enable employers to increase the protection of vulnerable people by removing those who were clearly unsuitable to work in regulated social care.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted be welcomed and the contents received and noted as a move forward in relation to National and Local Developments on the Protection of Vulnerable Adults but that the reservations expressed by the Committee be noted.

- (2) That a report on the Mental Capacity Act and the results of the national audit of the Adult Protection System be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.
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THE DIRECTORATE OF ADULT, COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICE, STATUTORY SOCIAL CARE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES – ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the Statutory Social Care Complaints Procedures Annual Report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006. A copy of the Annual Report was attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted.

It was commented on that although there had been a slight increase in the number of registered complaints, the compliments received provided evidence of the quality of the services, high standards and performance delivered by members of staff throughout the service. Members also noted that none of the complaints received had progressed through to stage three of the social care service complaints procedure and that there had been no findings of Maladministration by the Ombudsman concerning Dudley Social Services complaint matters for 2005/05.

Members commented on the fact that the Occupational Therapy service had received the most complaints and that these had been over waiting times for assessment due to the apparent shortage of therapists. It was confirmed that this situation was currently under review, but where complaints had been received positive steps had been undertaken to implement appropriate changes to reduce numbers in future.

In relation to the social care services available it was noted that people needed to be made more aware of them and the inclusion of the services in a handbook for older people, currently under review, would be beneficial.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Statutory Social Care Complaints Procedures Council Report for 2005/2006 be received and that the progress made to date be noted.
  - (2) That the annual report be made available as a public document as required by legislation and guidance.
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QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on performance in the first quarter of 2006/07, April to June, 2006, in relation to the activities relating to the terms of reference of this Committee.

Members, having noted the contents of the report, requested an update on the three main aims of the Health Inequalities Strategy that related to poverty reduction, tobacco control and increasing educational attainment.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on performance in the first quarter of 2006/07, April to June, 2006, in relation to the activities relating to the terms of reference of this Committee be noted.
- (2) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the Health Inequalities Strategy.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE –(FORMERLY SELECT COMMITTEE ON GOOD HEALTH)

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the Annual Report of the former Select Committee on Good Health for 2005/2006.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report of the former Select Committee on Good Health for 2005/2006 be received and noted and referred to the Council.

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The meeting ended at 8:20 pm.

CHAIRMAN