

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting: 27 October 2009
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Tom McGee (Chair) in the chair; Councillors Walter Brett, Christine Corris, Chris Gordon, Jenny Humphreys, Sylvia Humphreys, Bryan Leck, June Somekh and Craig Wright.

1. MINUTES

The minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 15 September 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. CALL-IN

There were no items to consider.

4. PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES 2011/12 – 2013/14

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) inviting the Committee to consider a new set of Council Plan priorities for 2010/2013, which were in alignment with those set out in Stockport's Sustainable Community Strategy (Stockport 20:20).

The Committee was also asked to consider the following three broad questions in relation to the service areas within its remit:-

- (a) Which areas should be considered as the main priorities for protection / improvement within the Council Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan 2011/12 to 2013/14?
- (b) Which areas, in particular, should be considered for efficiency savings and other cost reductions during the same period?
- (c) What other comments, if any, has the Committee got on the question of priorities and resources from 2011/12 onwards?

Councillors commented that frequently in times of budgetary pressure, resources tended to be focused towards the provision of primary care services. Councillors expressed strong reservations about any diversion of resources away from preventative interventions including that targeted at smoking cessation, alcohol and substance misuse and obesity as this would lead to further pressure on primary care. It was the view of the Committee that investing in prevention at this stage would help to ameliorate the impact of any future pressure on budgets as a result of the anticipated reduction in admissions to primary care services.

The Committee was satisfied that the four areas identified in the Stockport Strategy 20:20 that pointed to a healthy Stockport provided the correct approach and focus for Stockport to follow and would lead to better outcomes for residents in the Borough. In particular, Councillors were of the view that priorities in the Stockport Strategy 20:20 in respect of the empowerment of individuals to assist them to live independently were to be welcomed.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the comments of this Committee in respect of the priorities for protection and improvement be incorporated in the forthcoming report to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee.

5. LINKS WITH NHS STOCKPORT (STOCKPORT PRIMARY CARE TRUST)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing proposals to offer the position of Corporate Director, Adults to the Chief Executive of NHS Stockport (Richard Popplewell) as part of a new combined post. The proposed new structure was based on three premises: firstly, that both the Council and NHS Stockport would face challenging requirements to reduce expenditure, and that a closer integration would make it easier to deliver such reductions through a genuinely collaborative approach. Secondly, that even closer working together would lead to improved services for Stockport people. Thirdly, that a more joined-up focus on vulnerable people, social inclusion and priority neighbourhoods would be possible if the two organisations were more closely integrated.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- Councillors expressed their approval in principle to the proposed revisions to the management structures of the Council and the PCT.
- There needed to be structures put into place to ensure that if in the future there was a need to disentangle the two organisations, that this could readily be achieved.
- Concern was expressed that the postholder may be overburdened in taking on responsibility in two large, complex organisations.
- To whom would the postholder report.
- It was proposed that regular reviews into the arrangements take place to ensure that they were working satisfactorily.

In response to the issues raised by Councillors, it was commented that the proposed arrangements were a new way of managing services, however, there was a working model in Knowsley where similar proposals had worked effectively for the past seven years with annual reviews to monitor their effectiveness. It was further commented that there was no suggestion that the postholder would be taking on two full-time jobs and that both the PCT and the Council would need to take steps to provide the necessary support to enable the effective day-to-day management of the respective services. In terms of lines of responsibility, the position would remain that for those services provided by the Council, the postholder would be accountable to the

Council. It was also acknowledged that there were need to be a process for any potential future disengagement.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That subject to the comments of the Committee, the Committee supported the proposed revisions to the management structure of the Council and NHS Stockport.

6. HEALTH & WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Representatives of the Director of Adult Social Services submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the Health & Wellbeing Partnership's Performance Management Framework for quarter one of the reporting year 2009/10 (1 April 2009 – 31 July 2009). The framework provided highlight and exception information, together with updates on the development of new measures and indicators.

Councillors commented that the work being done in respect of developing services for carers was to be welcomed and encouraged, and the work of partner agencies such as Signpost and MOSAIC in supporting the work of the Council was key to providing quality, joined-up services.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. PRESENTATION ON DEMENTIA SERVICES CONSULTATION EVENT CARRIED OUT BY STOCKPORT PCT

The Committee received a presentation outlining the main items of the National Dementia Strategy; local priorities identified by stakeholders in dementia care in Stockport; the method used for the service users and carers' consultation and the main outcomes of the consultation which focused on the following items:-

- Getting a diagnosis;
- Support to enable people to stay at home as long as possible;
- Carers' support;
- Staff skills and attitudes;
- General hospital care for people with dementia;
- Information and advice.

The presentation further detailed the next steps in the development of a local dementia strategy which was being developed following a review of the outcomes from the consultation event which had been carried out by Stockport PCT.

Councillors commented that problems in respect of care for dementia patients within the Asian community were particularly acute where there were barriers in terms of language and understanding of dementia. The importance of being able to maintain independence and dignity at home was also stressed.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

8. FEEDBACK FROM AGE CONCERN ON THEIR CONSULTATION ON OLDER PEOPLE'S HEALTH SERVICES

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Democracy) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing further information from Age Concern as requested by the Committee at its meeting on 15 September 2009 in relation to their consultation on Older People's Health Services.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the thanks of the Committee be extended to Claire Mullins for her help and assistance.

9. EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY REVIEW ON PODIATRY SERVICES

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Democracy) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People detailing the Executive's response to the Scrutiny Review on Podiatry Services.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10. RÉSUMÉ OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

RESOLVED – That the résumé of the meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Partnership held on 28 September 2009 be noted.

11. AGENDA PLANNING

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Democracy) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out the planned agenda items for the Committee's next three meetings, Forward Plan items which fell within the remit of the Committee and progress with the resolutions made at previous meetings during the current municipal year.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

12. THE FRAMEWORK FOR QUALITY ACCOUNTS – A CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSALS

(NOTE: The Chair was of the opinion that this item, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 to enable the Committee to consider a Department of Health consultation document prior to the deadline for the receipt of comments on 10 December 2009 which fell before the next meeting of the Committee).

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Democracy) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) requesting the Committee to

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give consideration to the Department of Health's consultation document in respect of 'The Framework for Quality Accounts'.

RESOLVED – That the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Democracy) be requested to draft a response to the consultation document, to be circulated to all members of the Committee for comment prior to submission to the Department of Health.

The meeting closed at 8.07 pm

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