

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting: 13 July 2010
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Tom McGee (Chair) in the chair; Councillors Walter Brett, Christine Corris, Chris Gordon, Bryan Leck, Adrian Nottingham, Iain Roberts, June Somekh and Craig Wright.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 1 June 2010 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. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

5. HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK UPDATE

The Director, Adult Social Care submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the Health and Well Being Partnership's Performance Management Framework for the year 2009/10 (1/04/09 – 31/03/10). It also provided highlight and exception information against national and local indicators, as well as information about key achievements, future risks, and future priorities for each of the Partnership's ten key priorities.

Councillors expressed concern with regard to the various performance targets which had not been achieved, commenting that these required further consideration by the Committee. It was requested that further information be circulated with particular regard to mortality rates from circulatory diseases, mortality rates from all cancers under 75 and the process of and the shortfall in referrals to the Alcohol Health Advice Service. Information was also requested in respect of whether children ate an enjoyed schools meals when placed in front of them and if there was evidence to support whether or not they were healthier than packed lunches. Councillors also requested (i) additional detail regarding the significant increase in figures in relation to Chlamydia, and (ii) further the validity of the figures relating to travel to school by car.

The Committee also requested information on potential improvements to figures relating to strokes in 18 months time once the new stroke strategy had had time to take effect.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. UPTAKE ON SCREENING FOR BREAST CANCER IN DEPRIVED GP PRACTICES

NHS Stockport submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing more in-depth information on performance and initiatives relating to the target to “maximise uptake in deprived GP practices of screening for breast cancer.” Year end performance data for 2009/10 showed a significant fall in uptake of breast screening services from the previous year. The reasons for the decline were outlined together with measures being taken to address the issue. The Committee was informed that the breast screening programme in Stockport operated within a three year cycle.

Councillors asked a number of questions with particular regard to uptake and accessibility of the screening van in Woodley, Marple and the lack of availability of suitable locations in both the Heatons and Reddish areas. In response to further questions it was commented that there was no need for an additional screening van in Stockport as one was enough to accommodate the cycle of visits within the borough. As the numbers of people to be screened increased the hours of use of the screening van would be increased.

Councillors commented that one of the key issues was to help people to recognise that breast screening was a life saving exercise and to persuade them to attend sessions. It was suggested that a future ‘mini-scrutiny review’ could be carried out to assess reasons why many women failed to attend the screening sessions which would increase survival rates as a result of catching the disease earlier.

In response to further questions, Councillors were informed that Wythenshawe hospital Nightingale wing was over-subscribed and consequently Stockport residents had to use the centralised expertise which was based at Macclesfield Hospital.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. FOUNDATION TRUST QUALITY ACCOUNT 2009/2010

All NHS providers were required to produce a Quality Account from 2010. Quality Accounts were annual reports delivered to the public which aimed to set out the quality of services an NHS organisation delivered. Stockport NHS Foundation Trust submitted its Quality Account to Monitor on 7th June and was required to publish the document by the June.

The Quality Account focussed on key elements such as safety, effectiveness, patient experience and the level of quality provision at Stepping Hill Hospital. Councillors commented that they were pleased with the increased effectiveness in reducing the

levels of hospital infection control, commenting that excellent services were more important to the public than excellent financial management.

Discussion ensued with regard to the key issue of the 'end of life pathway' and how best to deal with people in this position. There was currently a high percentage of hospital deaths in Stockport and although it was commented that this highlighted a possible need to improve care support, it was recognised that the figure could be distorted due to the practice of measuring the number of individuals brought into hospital from nursing homes who then died within 24 hours. This was a practice which Councillors agreed needed further consideration as it was considered that death with dignity wasn't as achievable hospitals as in the home. Further discussion centred on the comparatively high figures in respect of patient falls in hospitals.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. SCRUTINY REVIEW SELECTION PROCESS

The Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Democracy) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the relationship between the Business Improvement, Transformation and Efficiency (BITE) strategy and the scrutiny review process in the current municipal year alongside the arrangements for scoping of reviews identified under the BITE Strategy.

The Committee was requested to consider the process to be followed for identifying scrutiny review topics for the current municipal year and how scrutiny activity could align with any of the BITE service reviews.

Councillors commented on the need for each individual scrutiny committee to consider areas of savings appropriate to its area in tandem with consideration of individual experiences in Stockport while identifying value for money service provision. In combating limited and ever decreasing financial resources the need to identify improvements to services remained a key issue and focus would be placed certain individual areas in order to achieve this.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY SCRUTINY

Background information on the potential review topics identified by Members at the meeting 1st June 2010 was considered (Copies of which had been circulated) with particular regard to both Information on Community Cultures (provided by the Director of Public Health) and a Letter from the North West Ambulance Service, detailing areas of work that the Trust would be considering during 2010/11, which may be of interest to the Committee

In addition, oral reports were provided by representatives from Adult Social Care and the PCT on Motor-neuron disease / Parkinson's Disease – availability, accessibility and uptake of support and care packages; and Epilepsy – availability, accessibility and uptake of support for those diagnosed with the condition and their families (including NHS and voluntary provision).

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Councillors suggested that services in respect of Motor-neuron disease, Parkinson's Disease and the treatment of epilepsy could be considered.

RESOLVED – That the scrutiny review programme for 2010/2011 be as follows:

Scrutiny Review 1: Epilepsy – the identification, awareness, public attitude, social issues, impact and economy.

Scrutiny Review 2: End of Life Care.

Scrutiny Review 3: New Stroke Strategy – Evaluation.

10. RÉSUMÉ OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP PARTNERSHIP – 21 June 2010

RESOLVED – That the résumé of the meeting held on 21 June 2010 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 meeting and Forward Plan items which fell within the remit of the Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm