

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting: 15 September 2009

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Tom McGee (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Hazel Lees (Vice-Chair); Councillors Walter Brett, Anne Graham, Chris Gordon, Sue Ingham, Bryan Leck, June Somekh and Craig Wright.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 7 July 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. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRIMARY CARE TRUST (PCT)

Consideration was given to the Annual Report of Stockport PCT (copies of which had been circulated) which outlined the activities and progress made during 2008/9, together with details of the Trust's forward plans for 2009/10-2010/11. These included various developments and improvements with particular regard to older people.

Councillors expressed their approval to improved access to psychological therapies together with a focus on both shorter waits for counselling services and early intervention. The change from a reactive to a proactive service was also seen as a positive development.

The Committee asked a number of questions in respect of the new health centre to be located in central Stockport with particular regard to locality, usage, financing, mental health issues, reprioritisation of services and investment in health improvement (with particular regard to addressing health issues relating to smoking). It was commented that a better use of resources would promote an improved understanding of secondary care provision.

In conclusion, the Chair commented on the significant improvement between the Council and Stockport PCT and that the Committee's role was to constantly monitor key related issues and maintain a shared agenda. Therefore, it was requested that the Committee be kept informed and involved with any significant changes in the future.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

5. DRAFT STOCKPORT HEALTHY WEIGHT STRATEGY – A LONG TERM VISION FOR TACKLING OBESITY

Representatives of the Director of Adult Social care submitted the draft Healthy Weight Strategy (copies of which had been circulated) for consultation to the Committee before submission to Executive for approval to replace the current obesity strategy adopted in 2006. It was a coherent ten year strategy with a three year action plan.

The Committee raised a number of related issues with particular regard to the lack of availability of adequate public transport in Stockport which had led to increased car usage. In response it was reported that this issue was being considered with transport groups and environmental groups in order to consider perceived gaps. Transport issues could be incorporated within the 'change for life' agenda. In addition, the Committee commented on the positive effects of encouraging young children to participate in games and sports. In response to a request for free swimming provision in the borough, the Committee was informed that there was a current shortfall in Government funding of a national scheme.

The Committee commented that the promotion of inter-generational skills such as gardening and cooking was important for the future and that healthy eating and improved food culture moving away from fast foods and heavily salted packet meals - combined with fitness programmes - were essential in improving general health and fitness levels.

The next step in the action plan was to firm up targets and indicators and it was hoped that workplace involvement could be introduced. In response to questions relating to social marketing, the Committee was informed that although there was a national Government budget of £75m, but that no local budget was available.

In welcoming the report and its cross-partnership targets, the Committee commented on the need to consider the wider use of allotments and identify ways in which re-introduction of free swimming passes for young people could be achieved.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted and recommended for approval by the Executive as far as the Health Scrutiny Committee is concerned.

6. IMPLEMENTING MAKING IT BETTER FOR STOCKPORT

The Committee received a presentation outlining progress and future plans for Stockport in relation to the Making it Better programme.

"Making it Better" was a five year programme which set out plans for the reconfiguration of women's and children's healthcare across Greater Manchester. The programme was approved by the NHS in July 2007, following the most extensive public consultation ever conducted by the NHS. The Greater Manchester Health Scrutiny Committee was heavily involved in this consultation.

In addition, a short DVD was shown detailing progress made in the Greater Manchester Area. The Committee was informed that there had been positive

improvements in the partnership between the Stockport NHS Trust and Stockport PCT.

It was accepted that good facilities were available in Stepping Hill Hospital and response to Councillor's concerns in respect of staffing levels, the Committee was informed that there had been great improvements. In addition, Councillors expressed their approval to the introduction of overnight accommodation for parents of patients at Stepping Hill Hospital. The national shortage of midwives was being addressed as home births had become increasingly popular.

In answer to further questions, the Committee was informed that the main challenges were to continue to deliver and improve despite restrictions imposed by the current financial climate. Robust support had been given by Stockport PCT and it was anticipated that all relocations would be carried out by 2011. In addition, there was confidence that the greater Manchester health community would continue to work together in a positive and constructive manner.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. SCRUTINY REVIEW ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPIES – EXECUTIVE RESPONSE

The Stockport PCT Board submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing its response to the Scrutiny Review on Improving Access to Psychological Therapies.

The Committee expressed their approval to Stockport PCT's commitment to improvement and were informed that the PCT had now been successful in with its wave 2 application for IAPT. The PCT were currently in the process of allocating places for trainees in October.

In response to Councillor's questions, the Committee was informed that the mental Health Market Day scheduled for September would not be taking place due to lack of funding.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. SCRUTINY CONSULTATION ON OLDER PEOPLE'S HEALTH SERVICES – FEEDBACK

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Democracy) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) which fed back and discussed the findings of the Scrutiny Committee's consultation on health services for older people, including:

- Members' visits to Spey House Extra Care Housing Scheme and Ada Kay, Whitehill and Parkview Resource Centres;
- Consultation carried out in residential and care homes by members of the LINK; and
- Outcomes of the questionnaires distributed by Age Concern.

Health Scrutiny Committee – 15 September 2009

While certain specific and individual problems were identified, nothing major or significant had been raised as most consultees had been very positive. Atmosphere with staff was generally good and good inter-relationships prevailed. However, there had been a low response rate and some concern was expressed regarding communication between health professionals.

RESOLVED - (1) That in view of the lack of a clear theme to address resulting from the consultations on older people's health services, Age Concern be requested to carry out a wider consultation and report its findings to the October meeting of the Committee.

(2) That the Scrutiny officer be requested to carry out a scoping exercise in respect of services relating to dementia.

(3) That a meeting be arranged with representatives from the PCT, Pennine Care and Age Concern before the next Committee meeting, to provide background info on Dementia Services and help identify issues to consider in further detail.

(4) That the Committee considers the results of recommendations 1,2&3 (above) and decides a way forward at the meeting scheduled for 27 October, 2009.

9. RÉSUMÉ OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

RESOLVED – (1) That the résumé of the meeting held on 22nd June, 2009 be noted.

(2) That the Health Scrutiny Committee be sent the links to future electronic agenda in respect of the health and Wellbeing Partnership and the All Our Tomorrows Partnership Board.

10. 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.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.