

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting: 17th February 2009
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Tom McGee (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Hazel Lees (Vice-Chair); Councillors Walter Brett, Peter Burns, Stuart Corris, Chris Gordon, Bryan Leck, Ann Smith and June Somekh.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 6th January 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests which they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

The following interests were declared:-

Personal interests

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Cllr Chris Gordon	Agenda Item 5 as a member of the Pennine Care Mental Health Trust and the Stockport NHS Foundation Trust and as Chair of a free therapeutic counselling service.
Cllr Stuart Corris	Agenda Item 7 as an employee of the Department of Work and Pensions.

3. CALL-IN

There were no items to consider.

4. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received an oral update from the Director of Public Health on the Director of Public Health's Annual Report which had been commissioned by Stockport Primary Care Trust (PCT).

Each year the PCT commissioned the Director of Public Health to produce an independent professional report on the health of the people of Stockport, including recommendations for improvement for local service providers. These were outlined at the meeting.

In addition, details were given in respect of key messages contained within the report, which related to areas such as the need to address a healthy ageing strategy

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in order to promote an independent rather than dependant population; and the need for a coordinated approach to healthy lifestyles.

In addition, the Committee was informed that the Director's recommendations in respect of Stockport Council would focus on the following areas:

- The diagnosis of illness and treatments for elderly people.
- The consideration of mental wellbeing and issues relating to child volunteers by all area committees.
- Green space – healthy living.
- The promotion of (i) an aesthetic and attractive pedestrian network in Stockport and (ii) Physical activities with consideration of a wider scope for Stockport's Human Resources to employ a wellbeing strategy for the benefit of Stockport's residents.

Councillors asked a number of questions with particular regard to the general increase and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. In response, the Committee was informed that whilst the provision 'Admiral Services' were being considered in the Borough and that drugs were not an effective improvement but acted in slowing down progression of the disease. The Director stated that he would consider an addition to his report with reference to the impact of Alzheimer's on carers.

Further comments were made by Councillors with regard to the need to dispel the perception that 'old age begins in the fifties'; the limited availability of 'Extracare Housing' in the Borough; the age of screening of young women for cervical cancer and the need to move away from age to competency as a way of evaluating an individual's capabilities.

RESOLVED – That the Committee's comments and concerns be referred to the Director of Public Health for further consideration.

5. IMPROVING ACCESS TO PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPIES – FINAL REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy, Performance and Governance) submitted a report setting out the findings into the Scrutiny Committee's review 'Improving Access to Psychological Therapies'.

Councillors expressed their support and approval to the recommendations contained within the report and commented that the review had been a success due to the hard work and cooperation from the diverse representatives involved.

The Director of Public Health commented that he would be recommending that Stockport PCT give priority to psychological therapies over the coming year.

RESOLVED – That the Executive be recommended to submit the report to Stockport PCT, the Pennine Care Trust and the Stockport Foundation Trust and agree to the following:

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- (1) That Stockport PCT and the Council Executive work together to formulate an approach to disseminating information and education about mental health and promoting mental well-being to the people of Stockport through existing public service avenues (e.g. schools, libraries, health centres etc)
- (2) That Stockport PCT develop a programme of education for non-mental health practitioners to enable them to identify people who might be experiencing mental health issues and to direct them to services accordingly.
- (3) That Stockport PCT formally recognise the contribution made by the voluntary sector in delivering psychological therapies, and analyses the potential cost to the statutory sector of the loss or reduction of this provision
- (4) That Stockport PCT take note of the 'Developing the Capacity of the Third Sector' scrutiny review, with particular reference to recommendation 2 of that review, namely that:

*'The Executive Member (Communities) takes steps to:
Support third sector innovation in service delivery by:-
Building on the existing joint working arrangements with the PCT in order to
explore creative solutions and/or funding processes, particularly relating to
prevention and early intervention services.'*

- (5) That the PCT continues to focus on mental health as an improvement priority and gives full account to this status when making resource allocation decisions.
- (6) That the PCT continues to actively monitor and manage waiting lists in the future with particular focus on pressures resulting from improved services.
- (7) That the PCT ensures that appropriate information is provided to referrers to enable them to make informed decisions about when it is appropriate to refer to psychological therapy services.
- (8) That the PCT analyse and reflect on the reasons for the unsuccessful IAPT bid and takes account of lessons learned when preparing future bids.
- (9) That the PCT should ensure that it has a robust framework in place for collection of outcomes and satisfaction data across all its primary and secondary care psychological therapy services, including those non-statutory provider organisations.
- (10) That the PCT ensures outcome measure requirements are clear, and provides additional guidance where appropriate, so that potential future service providers are not unnecessarily excluded from commissioning processes.

6. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT REFRESH

A representative of the Corporate Director (Adults and Communities) submitted a report detailing the outcomes of the annual refresh of Stockport's Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets.

The annual refresh of LAA targets had assumed greater significance during the current municipal year as many of the original targets were negotiated when the economic outlook was more optimistic and would consequently be far more challenging.

The Committee was informed that four key targets had been designated and that pleasing progress had been made in respect of these during the first year. There was a need to develop further targets in respect of adult obesity; help for carers and special status for alcohol related issues including the tracking of alcohol admissions.

In addition, it was recognised that the local performance framework provided an interesting opportunity to identify performance information in respect of the health and wellbeing partnership.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGY – HEALTH OUTCOMES

A representative of the Corporate Director (Adults and Communities) submitted a report detailing the cross-cutting Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy for the Priority 1 Areas in the most deprived areas of Stockport: including health inequalities; mortality rates by area; older people outcomes, and associated performance measures which had been subject to extensive consultation over the past year.

Councillors made positive comments on neighbourhood engagement in particular areas of Stockport such as Lancashire Hill and Heaton Norris. Further comments were made in respect of reports of social isolation from older people and the need to evaluate these in order to target an appropriate response. It was reported that this had been considered and would be addressed as a 'key message'.

In addition, it was reported that further work had commenced in respect of health trainers generating community based solutions. Councillors commented on the need to consider how to translate information into policy whilst impacting in a positive direction.

The Committee agreed that encouraging people to be healthier was a key goal and that communities being labelled as 'Priority 1 Deprived Area' could have a negative impact. It was reported however, that research had shown a more positive outlook from residents towards their areas due to a number of tangible local improvements.

Further comments were made in respect of the probable increase in alcohol abuse as a result of the current economic downturn, which may lead to cheap offers from shops and supermarkets.

The Committee also expressed concern about the potential impact being labelled a "priority 1" neighbourhood may have on local communities. It was reported that achieving a balance between flagging-up priority issues for a local area whilst not affecting community morale was a key concern for Neighbourhood Renewal; and that

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various initiatives were underway to promote priority renewal areas and the services available in a positive way.

The Committee agreed to receive a report later in the year regarding progress made in priority 1 areas and particularly considering the issue of community morale.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Licensing Committee be requested to consider the impact of the economic downturn on alcohol and health related issues.

(3) That an update report be submitted to a future meeting including particular reference to Priority 1 Areas, particularly considering the issue of community morale; and also to the best ten local indicators which had created the most positive impact.

8. HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

RESOLVED – (1) That the résumé of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing partnership held on 15 December, 2008 be noted.

(2) That the Corporate Director (Adults and Communities) be requested to submit a further report on the role of the health and Wellbeing partnership and how it relates to this Committee.

9. AGENDA PLANNING

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy, Performance & Governance) 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.

The Committee noted that the meeting to be held on 31 March 2009, would focus on the changes taking place in the provision of services for older people in Stockport.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.