

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting: 8 January 2008
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Tom McGee (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Roy Driver (Vice-Chair); Councillors Walter Brett, Christine Corris, Sylvia Humphreys, Bryan Leck, and Craig Wright.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 20 November 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made

3. CALL-IN

There were no items to consider.

4. PROGRESS REPORT ON INTEGRATED CLINICAL ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT SERVICES (ICATS)

The Chief Executive, Stockport PCT gave a brief presentation which outlined the provisions of the scheme and changes in service delivery models. These were designed to provide a number of benefits such as the development of care and treatment services in primary care provision outside hospitals when possible, thus shortening the patient pathway and providing a more efficient service.

Jane Ball, a representative of Stockport NHS Foundation Trust, attended the meeting and commented on the cooperation between Stockport PCT and the NHS Foundation Trust. However, she envisaged that there would be concerns that would need addressing in respect of the business arrangements.

Councillors asked a number of questions with particular regard to the availability and provision of the necessary local facilities such as clinics, and diagnostic equipment, together with the need for cooperation and input from General Practitioners in order for the scheme to succeed. It was recognised that patients would still require hospital care when appropriate, and that primary care provision would need strengthening.

RESOLVED – That the report noted and that the Chief Executive, Stockport PCT be thanked for his informative presentation.

5. PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING IN STOCKPORT

The Deputy Chief Executive, Stockport PCT, and the Chairman – ‘Stockport Managed Care Commissioning’ submitted a joint report (copies of which had been

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circulated) detailing progress with regard to the local approach to the implementation of Practice Based Commissioning (PBC) in Stockport.

The Committee was informed of fundamental issues in respect of PBC in Stockport with particular regard to the budgeting process and the need to involve all commissioners within the commissioning process. It was intended that a more effective more accurate service would be provided through joint working with the public and local GPs.

Councillors asked questions in respect of budgets based on the needs of patients within each local practices.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. EARLY HOURS STROKE SERVICE

The Chief Executive, Stockport PCT submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out current issues for Greater Manchester Stroke Services and discussions taking place about changes to provide an early hours stroke service for Greater Manchester.

The report included details on the possible developments in stroke services and how this might affect Stockport.

In recognising the need for and benefits of quick diagnostics, discussion ensued with regard to the prospect of a centralised integrated Greater Manchester (GM) stroke service incorporating one Comprehensive Stroke Centre and at least two Primary Stroke Centres.

Councillors asked a number of questions, with particular regard to the choice of sites within the GM area, and the consequences of Stepping Hill Hospital being overlooked as a potential Primary Stroke Centre.

The Committee was informed that there would be formal consultation on the issue of a centralised integrated stroke service for the GM area at a later date.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

7. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT

Each year the Director of Public Health produces a statutory report on the state of public health in Stockport. The report is commissioned by Stockport PCT and is produced by the Director of Public Health in his independent professional advocacy role. The 16th Annual Report was produced in instalments during 2006 and the final report drew together these numerous chapters and special reports into one publication

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Public Health (copies of which had been circulated) which had previously been submitted to the Executive on

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8 October, 2007. The report focussed upon the set of 19 recommendations that were made by the Director of Public Health to the Council.

As the annual report was typically produced with a degree of appropriate consultation and over a period of 12 months, some of the recommendations had been significantly progressed, while others may have yet to be fully considered by the Council. The report presented to the Executive on 8 October, gave Executive Members the opportunity to reflect on progress within their own portfolio of responsibility and collectively agree on a written response to the Director of Public Health's recommendations.

The Director of public Health reported that the process of publishing recommendations which could be up to 12 months old, would be amended. The recommendations of the 17th Annual Report would be published at the same time in the main report, thus giving the Council and Health Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to comment at an earlier more appropriate time.

Councillors made a number of comments with regard to the various recommendations with specific regard to smoking cessation and obesity. It was suggested that these could be used as the subjects of future scoping exercises for scrutiny reviews. Further issues of concern were mentioned such as the expense of nutritious foods such as fruit and vegetables and the easy availability of cheap alcohol and inexpensive fast foods, particularly within deprived areas.

Councillors commented further on the need to separate local and national health policy and to considered lobbying at a national level where appropriate.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. HEALTH SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE REPORTING – PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP BOARD PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK QUARTER TWO EXCEPTION REPORT

At its meeting on 20th November, the Committee agreed that quarterly monitoring reports on the Local Area Agreement and the Public Health Performance Management Framework should be provided to the Committee. These sources were considered to provide cross sector health information that would be most meaningful for health scrutiny reflecting health and well-being shared goals.

The Corporate Director, Adults and Communities submitted the Public Health Performance Management Framework (PMF) Quarter Two exception report (copies of which had been circulated). The PMF offered a system for the Council and PCT to monitor and evaluate joint public health activity. It focused on the set of local public health priorities agreed by the Public Health Partnership Board (PHPB) and for which they are jointly accountable.

Councillors asked a number of questions with specific regard to:-

- The alarming number of women who smoked whilst pregnant.
- The reduction in smoking habits resulting from the ban on smoking in public areas

- The need to address the issue of a higher percentage of smokers attempting to give up in deprived areas, but with lower success rates.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. CHILDHOOD OBESITY - COMPLETED SCRUTINY REVIEW: PROGRESS UPDATE

With the consent of the Committee, this item was deferred for consideration at a future meeting.

10. COMPLETED SCRUTINY REVIEWS : PROGRESS UPDATE

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy, Performance and Governance) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing progress made on outstanding actions agreed by relevant decision making bodies in response to the recommendations of each of the following reviews.

- Young People's Substance Misuse Services
- The Impact of Housing Conditions on health
- Health Inequalities in Brinnington
- Alcohol Related Attendances at A&E

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

11. SCRUTINY REVIEW FINAL REPORT: OLDER PEOPLE'S PREVENTATIVE SERVICES

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy, Performance and Governance) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out the findings of the Health Scrutiny Committee's review, 'Older People's Preventative Services'.

Councillors expressed their support and approval to the recommendations contained within the report and commented in particular with regard to strong support for recommendation 6 as detailed below.

RESOLVED – That the following recommendations be submitted to the Council's Executive for approval

(1) That the Executive and the PCT give consideration to making a greater commitment in terms of increased investment on an invest to save basis in low level preventative services, provided by voluntary sector organisations and otherwise, within Stockport's health and social care economy. For example, by expanding existing successful initiatives such as Stockport Care Schemes

(2) That the outcomes of the POPP programme are monitored when further findings are published in October 2008 and that, subject to satisfactory outcomes, Stockport Council apply to the Department of Health for funding if a third round of POPP grant applications is invited. Alternatively, the Committee suggests that if projects

demonstrate effectiveness, Stockport should consider taking forward similar approaches to promoting independence for older people, seeking alternative sources of funding.

(3) That any new investment in low level preventative services, in the interests of addressing need and providing person centred services, particularly takes into account:

- (a) The needs of dementia sufferers and their carers;
- (b) The need for services enabling older people to have someone to talk to such as befriending, anxiety management and counselling services;
- (c) The need to ensure that Council-provided and commissioned day care services accommodate modern day expectations, offer opportunities for older people to participate in community life and address the negative perceptions associated with these services which can deter service users and/ or their carers and families.

(4) That further clarification on the policy on equipment and adaptations, the prioritisation criteria therein and implications of any amendments to this be sought with a view to considering whether the Council is working appropriately to prioritise access to bathing services.

(5) That a two-pronged approach to increasing awareness about preventative services, including widespread availability of information for potential users, carers and families and targeting of information at those in most need, in terms of:

- (a) Using existing contact points and networks to publicise up to date information and contact details for all low level preventative services, particularly voluntary sector services. For example, it is suggested the 'Find Out Guide' be made widely available to partner agencies and the public and that a centre page pull out in the Civic Review might be used;
- (b) Making information available on the Council website accessible and user friendly, particularly by improving the search facility to respond to a specific issue or question;
- (c) Exploring ways to make better use of existing intelligence to reach older people, at most risk of losing their independence and hospitalisation, more proactively.

(6) That information provided to Members at their induction includes an information pack containing the most recent edition of the 'Find Out Guide' and other relevant information and contact details on community based health and social care services in the borough. In addition, that further training for Members, in dealing with case work relating to broad social work issues, includes how to help older people living in the community and having low level needs.

12. SECOND SCRUTINY REVIEW : YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy, Performance and Governance) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated).

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The Scrutiny Committee agreed at its meeting on 3rd July that its second scrutiny review will be on the topic of Young People's Healthy Lifestyles. A pre-scoping exercise was undertaken on this topic and the results detailed in the report.

RESOLVED – That Young People's Healthy Lifestyles in Secondary Schools be selected as the Committee's second scrutiny review for the municipal year 2007/08 and that the following Councillors be appointed to serve on the Panel:-

Councillors Roy Driver (Lead Councillor), Walter Brett, Brian Leck, Sue Ingham, Tom McGee and Craig Wright.

13. AGENDA PLANNING

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy, Performance & Governance) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out, forward plan items which fell within the remit of the Committee and progress with the resolutions made by the Committee at previous meetings during the current municipal year.

Councillors noted that the next meeting would be "themed" on the topic of mental health at a venue to be confirmed. It was envisaged that it would take the form of a "mini" scrutiny review".

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

