

## **HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Meeting: 7 December 2010  
At: 6.00 pm

### PRESENT

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

### Also in attendance

Councillor John Pantall

### **1. MINUTES**

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meetings held on 4 and 19 October 2010 were approved as correct records 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. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE AND FORECASTS 2011/12 –2014/15**

The Corporate Director, Business Services and Corporate Director, Adults and Health submitted a joint report (copies of which had been circulated) on the Medium Term Financial Plan and Financial Landscape 2011/12 – 2014/15. The report outlined the financial challenges facing the Council as a whole and commented on budget savings relevant within the remit of the Committee. Councillors were invited to identify areas which could be considered for future savings and comment on priorities.

With regard to prospective changes to health services as a result of forthcoming financial constraints, it was reported that the position was currently unclear as the final figures had not yet been released. It was anticipated that there would be a ½ % budget increase during the next financial year as opposed to 7 or 8%. This reduction would dictate the need for significant savings and amended targets during the next financial year. An annual plan would be submitted to the Stockport PCT Board in either February or March 2010, and would be forwarded to the Committee for scrutiny.

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With regard to adults and health, proposed changes amounted to just under £4m which would be met by the improved commissioning of services. The Committee was also informed that the eligibility criteria had not been amended.

In addition, it was commented that every effort would be made to avoid changes to front line services. A medium term financial plan would be designed to maintain services although there would be changes to the way in which services were provided. It was hoped that a range of user led providers could be maintained through the contract process from which savings could be made through alternative working practices.

The Committee was also informed that Stockport had been chosen as one of 50 pathfinder authorities for the General Practitioner schemes.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That a report on Central Government Settlement and implications for Stockport Council be brought to a future meeting.

### **5. STROKE SERVICES**

A report of NHS Stockport was considered (copies of which had been circulated) detailing progress made in Stockport towards implementing the National Stroke Strategy, including an overview of early outcomes and future challenges/plans.

In addition, the Committee received a presentation detailing the provisions of the National Stroke Strategy with particular regard to:

- Prevalence, risk factors, management and awareness.
- The availability of information, advice and support.
- Transient Ischemic Attacks and urgent response and assistance.
- Urgent assessment procedures and access to brain scans.
- Urgent treatments in respect of thrombolysis from 'the hospital door to the needle.'
- Rehabilitation and transfer of care from hospital services to community services.
- Patient feedback.
- Discharge destination/life after stroke/end of life care.

Councillors asked a number of questions with regard to response times, access and availability of services and hospitals. The Committee was informed that an awareness campaign was currently in operation with regard to the risks of strokes and heart disease and that various drug companies had helped to sponsor such initiatives. It was suggested that stroke awareness could be featured in the Civic Review, the LINK magazine, various publications within the voluntary sector together with a weekly show on the local Stockport Pure Radio station hosted by Councillor June Somekh.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **6. LINKs UPDATE**

A report was submitted by representatives of the Stockport LINK (copies of which had been circulated) detailing an overview of work currently being undertaken by the LINK relating to “Dignity in Care” and hospital discharge policies adopted and used by the Stockport Foundation Trust. The Committee was informed that this was an interim report and it was hoped a final report would be compiled in March 2010.

The Committee expressed its concern with regard to ongoing negative issues in respect of hospital discharge policies, which were distressing for people and in urgent need of attention. In response to Councillors’ questions, the Committee was informed that both training and communication were important in addressing patient discharge problems and suggested that key workers should be assigned to take on responsibility to ensure that discharge policies were effective.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That a full report relating to Dignity in Care be submitted to the last meeting of the current municipal year.

## **7. AGENDA PLANNING**

The Scrutiny Officer 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 7.15 pm

