

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 17th July, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Mrs Ridney (Chair)
Councillor K Finch (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Cowell, Elcock, Harris, Hemingsley, Kettle, Roberts, Mrs Rogers,
Vickers and C Wilson

Officers

Assistant Director of Law and Governance (Lead Officer to the Committee), Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Private Sector, Head of Policy and Performance and the Scrutiny Officer (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Also in Attendance

Mr Steve Corton – Head of Community Engagement, Dudley Primary Care Trust
Ms Marsha Ingram – Acting Director of People and Corporate Affairs (Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust)

8 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Hemingsley declared a disclosable non-pecuniary interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of agenda item No 6 (Consultation on the Future of New Bradley Hall), as he had been part of the Action Team to save the home.

9 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19th June 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed.

10 PUBLIC FORUM

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF NEW BRADLEY HALL

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the outcome of the formal consultation process regarding the future of New Bradley Hall residential care home.

In presenting the report the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services highlighted key issues and points contained in the White Paper and Social Care Bill and indicated that an in-depth presentation on issues relevant to Dudley and information on further updates could be presented at the next meeting of the Committee

Arising from the presentation of the report a Member referred to the recommendation as contained in the report that New Bradley Hall would remain open as a residential care home for long term residents and sought clarification on that point and also indicated that there was no mention of respite care. In responding the Chair indicated that the recommendation was part of the original document and that the matter was still under consideration.

A Member indicated that the document should be viewed as an interim paper and that the issue was about long term care for the elderly in the Borough. The Stakeholder Working Group would consider the matter and once the work of the Group was concluded, amendments could be made, if necessary.

In response to a query about the pressures and demands in the service due to the increase of the population in Dudley and the significant percentage of people requiring long term support, the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services acknowledged the pressures on resources and emphasised the need to ensure that the Council achieved the right balance of care. The Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services were building a comprehensive demand management tool to provide a clear framework for establishing that balance and the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services indicated that a presentation on the system could be made at a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report on the outcome of the formal consultation process regarding the future of New Bradley Hall residential care home, be noted.
- (2) That a further in-depth report on issues pertinent to Dudley and information on further updates be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

12 LOCAL HEALTHWATCH DEVELOPMENT IN DUDLEY

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on developments to establish a Healthwatch for Dudley and an update on some of the key national or over-arching matters dictating the delivery of Local Healthwatch.

Arising from the presentation of the report the Chair commented that it was important for communities to see that Local Healthwatch were making an impact and offering value for money and it was queried whether evaluations would be undertaken on their effectiveness and whether they were meeting the needs of local people. She also queried if there were any repercussions if it was found that Local Healthwatch did not meet the requirements or standards. In responding the Head of Policy and Performance indicated that Local Healthwatch would be accountable to the Local Authority and that a key difference between Local Healthwatch and Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) was that there would be an overarching body, Healthwatch England, that would be setting standards and working with Local Healthwatch to ensure that the views of the public and people who used services were taken into account. The Head of Policy Performance further reported that if it was found that the provider did not meet expectations the Local Authority had the power to withdraw the contract.

In responding to further questions the Head of Policy and Performance reported that it was a legal requirement to have a Local Healthwatch, a representative from Local Healthwatch would be attending meetings of the Committee, the chosen provider would be monitored on their spend, that certain functions would be mandatory for Local Healthwatch and that consideration would be given to shared services.

With regard to the selection and interviewing process for Local Healthwatch a Member indicated that the Panel should not be purely Officer led and suggested that consideration be given to including external people in the selection process.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on developments to establish a Healthwatch for Dudley, be noted.
- (2) That further updates on the development of Healthwatch Dudley be submitted to the Committee in due course.

13 COMMITTEE REVIEW 2011/12 : CARING FOR CARERS

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the draft 2011/12 Caring for Carers Committee Review.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report submitted, on the draft document on the 2011/12 Caring for Carers Review, be approved.
- (2) That the emerging recommendations, numbered 1 to 11, as detailed in the Appendix to the report submitted, be approved and monitored through future development of the work plan of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

CHAIR