

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010, at 6.00 p.m.  
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

### PRESENT:-

Councillor Mrs Ridney (Chairman)  
Councillor K Turner (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs Aston, Mrs Cowell, Islam, Kettle, Miller, Woodall and  
Mr D Orme

### Officers

Assistant Director Policy, Performance and Resources (Lead Officer to the Committee), Assistant Director Performance and Partnership (Directorate of Children's Services), Assistant Director of Housing Strategy and Private Sector, Assistant Director Older People and People with Physical Disabilities, Assistant Director Learning Disabilities and Mental Health, Scrutiny Officer (all Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources)

### Also in Attendance

#### Primary Care Trust

Mr Steve Corton – Head of Public Engagement

#### Dudley Group of Hospitals

Ms Marsha Ingram – Head of Corporate Affairs  
(Dudley and Walsall Mental Health National Health Service (NHS))

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47                    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J D Davies, K Finch, Mrs Harley and Tyler.

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48                    APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

It was reported that Councillor Woodall had been appointed as a substitute member for Councillor J D Davies for this meeting of the Committee only.

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49                    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Aston declared a personal interest in respect of reference made to the North Priory Estate in view of her being a Member of the North Priory Project Board.

Councillor K Turner declared a personal interest in respect of reference made to Age Concern in view of him being a Member of Halesowen Age Concern.

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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PUBLIC FORUM

Obesity Information Chart

The Committee noted that the following written question had been received:-

“In relation to Obesity Information Chart – “Obesity (BMI 30+) Prevalence by 2001 Census Ward (Age-standardised) for Dudley Persons” – Why is information for the Cradley and Foxcote Ward not available?”

The Scrutiny Officer reported that a response to the question would be submitted based on the following information:

It was understood that the Chart, based on 2001 Census ward data had been produced by the Primary Care Trust as part of wider research into health inequalities. Cradley and Foxcote did not exist as a ward in 2001 but emerged following a reconfiguration of Dudley’s ward boundaries in 2004 and that this was the reason for the perceived omission. The Census 2001 data was standardised to accord with the new boundaries as part of the reconfiguration process. The results of the 2009 Dudley Health Survey led by the Primary Care Trust should consider breakdown by current boundaries and it was envisaged that obesity would be included as an identified health priority in Dudley.

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QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

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A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on performance in relation to the third quarter of 2009/10, for the period October to December, 2009, for the services under the terms of reference of this Committee.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and copy of the extracted report circulated separately, on performance in relation to the third quarter of 2009/10, for the period October to December, 2009, for the services under the terms of reference of this Committee, be noted.

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**DIRECTORATE OF ADULT, COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2010/11**

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the Annual Equality and Diversity Action Plan for 2010/11 for the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services. A copy of the action plan was attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.

Following the introduction of the report by the Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Private Sector, Members made the following comments:-

- Reference was made to Priority 2 and it was queried whether there was any mechanism in place to inform and involve Members about events that had been arranged
- The budget allocated to equality and diversity was queried
- Reference was made to Priority 3 with regard to the performance indicator to increase the number of English speakers in the borough and the number of requests received for correspondence or literature in another language was queried
- A Member referred to Priority 3 relating to working with partners to develop a 'living library' and requested that further information be provided detailing who the partners were, how it related to equality and how it would be achieved
- It was commented that the target relating to Priority 6 to deliver a programme of adaptations in line with resources was vague. It was further commented that aids and adaptations for the elderly in their homes should be designed to suit the individual so that he/she could remain independent for longer.

In responding to the comment about involving Members, the Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Private Sector reported that the BME Corporate Consultation Event was open to the public and that all Members of the Council would receive an invitation to attend. Discussions had also been held within the Directorate and it was anticipated that the circulation list for the event would be widened in the future. The Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Private Sector undertook to provide a feedback report on the matter to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Private Sector undertook to respond to the Member concerned with regard to the budget figures relating to equality and diversity and on the number of requests received requesting documents in a language, other than English. With regard to the query about working with partners, the Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Private Sector stated that a range of people were being invited to libraries to answer questions for evaluation purposes and he undertook to provide further detailed information to the Member concerned about the issue.

#### RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Annual Equality and Diversity Action Plan for 2010/11 for the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services, be noted.

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#### UPDATE ON THE CARE QUALITY COMMISSION SERVICE INSPECTION OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE 2009 ACTION PLAN

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the progress being made on the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Service inspection on aspects of Adult Social Care in Dudley.

Arising from the presentation of the report by the Lead Officer to the Committee the Chairman referred to Telecare systems and asked for an explanation on the "Just Checking" system. In responding the Assistant Director Older People and People with Physical Disabilities informed the meeting that the system allowed people with dementia or memory loss to continue to live independently. The system monitored a person in their home and provided a chart of activity via the internet. The Assistant Director Older People and People with Physical Disabilities stated that a report evaluating the benefits of the system could be presented to a future meeting of the Committee. In responding to a query about maintenance and running costs of the system, the Assistant Director Older People and People with Physical Disabilities informed the meeting that she was not aware of the figures but undertook to include the information in the report.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted on the Care Quality Commission Service inspection on aspects of adult social care in Dudley, be noted.
- (2) That the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services be requested to submit a further report evaluating the benefits of the "Just Checking" system, including the cost of maintaining and running the system, to a future meeting of the Committee.

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## INFANT MORTALITY

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted on the findings of the National Support Team (Department of Health) visit to Dudley to investigate infant mortality in the summer of 2009 and subsequent progress in addressing the issues that were identified.

In presenting the report the Assistant Director Performance and Partnership referred to paragraph 5, bullet number 4, of the report submitted and informed the meeting of an error and pointed out that "preconception" should read "prenatal".

Arising from the presentation of the report several comments were made including the need to be proactive and to extend and offer services at places where young people congregated, as not all young children had access to a Youth Club. It was also suggested that signs be erected to advertise the availability of services together with contact information.

### RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report on Infant Mortality be noted.

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## THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DUDLEY LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the Annual Report of the Dudley Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Arising from the presentation of the report by the Assistant Director Learning Disability and Mental Health, and in response to a query, it was stated that arrangements were in place for monitoring satisfaction rates, although it was acknowledged that the various arrangements should be available collectively in one Plan. In response to a comment about hate crime, particularly involving vulnerable people and for the need for the Directorate to be proactive as these people were often very frightened, the Assistant Director Older People and People with Physical Disabilities undertook to feedback to the Older People's Board.

### RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report and Appendices to the report submitted, be noted.

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THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DUDLEY SAFEGUARDING  
VULNERABLE ADULTS BOARD

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A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the Annual Report of the Dudley Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report and Appendices to the report submitted, be noted.

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COMMITTEE'S THANKS

As this was the last scheduled meeting of the Committee for the 2009/10 Municipal Year the Chairman thanked all Members of the Committee and Officers for their support and contributions throughout the year.

The Chairman was also thanked for the way she had conducted the meetings throughout the Municipal Year.

The meeting ended at 7:50 pm

CHAIRMAN