

## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON GOOD HEALTH**

Wednesday, 28th September 2005 at 6.00 pm  
in Committee Room 2, Council House, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Burt (Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs Ameson, Boys, Mrs Dunn, Islam, Miss Nicholls, Rahman,  
K Turner and C Wilson.

### **OFFICERS:-**

Scrutiny Officer to the Committee (Good Health), Director of Adult,  
Community and Housing Services, Assistant Director of the Urban  
Environment (Development and Environmental Protection), Finance  
Officer - Social Services, Quality Manager (Improvements and  
Complaints Team), Research Assistant (Good Health) and Mr J  
Jablonski (Directorate of Law and Property).

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:-**

Mr R Checketts - Head of Communications, Dudley Beacon & Castle  
Primary Care Trust  
Mr A Torbet – Director of Organisational Development and  
Communications, Dudley South Primary Care Trust  
Ms A Hodgson – Dudley Primary Care Trusts Governance Manager  
Mr J Evans - Locality General Manager - Dudley South Primary Care  
Trust  
Ms H Horrobin - Podiatry Service Manager  
Ms S Marriott - Podiatry Service Manager

## 14 **MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th  
July 2005, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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## 15 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code  
of Conduct, were made by the following members for the reasons  
indicated:-

Councillor Mrs Ameson, in respect of Agenda Item 6 - Dudley South  
PCT: Podiatry/Podiatric Services Update, as she is a user of the service.

Councillor Boys, in any matter on the Agenda relating to his employment  
as an Account Manager for McKesson and provider to Dudley Trusts of  
their Child Health, Mental Health, Finance and Payroll Systems

(Computing and IT).

Councillor K Turner, in respect of Agenda Item 5 - Update of the Council's Capital Strategy in relation to paragraph 31 of that strategy - Castle Hill Redevelopment - as he is a Trustee of Dudley Zoo.

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16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ali, Mrs Aston, Mrs Faulkner, Harley and Musk.

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17 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES FOR THIS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

It was reported that Councillors Mrs Ameson, Mrs Dunn and C Wilson had been appointed to serve as substitutes for Councillors Musk, Mrs Faulkner and Harley respectively for this meeting of the Committee only.

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18 UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL STRATEGY

A report of the Director of Finance was submitted updating the Committee on the Council's Capital Strategy. A copy of the Capital Strategy 2005-2010 was attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.

Following a presentation on this matter, members commented that future reports to the Committee on this matter should include a summary of the issues relating to the responsibilities of this Select Committee so as to aid consideration of the Strategy. The Finance Officer - Social Services undertook to inform the Director of Finance of the comments made.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Update of the Council's Capital Strategy be noted in so far as this Committee are concerned.

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19 DUDLEY SOUTH PRIMARY CARE TRUST : PODIATRY/PODIATRIC SERVICES UPDATE

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on developments in podiatry and podiatric surgery services, together with a report, attached as an Appendix to the report submitted, from Dudley South Primary Care Trust (PCT) on this matter.

Helen Horrobin and Sharon Marriott, Podiatry Services Managers, were present at the meeting and gave a presentation on the way forward in respect of this service. A copy of the presentation given was circulated at the meeting.

Particular points made related to the raising of the age category for women from 60 to 65 in line with European law leading to a long term goal of re-designing the service so that it became clinical need based, leading to the introduction of a robust and fair discharge policy. These developments were seen against a background of a service currently struggling to maintain its current level of operation.

Following the presentation given, members asked a number of questions, to which responses were given by the Managers and by Mr Evans - Locality General Manager - Dudley South PCT. It was noted that although only a small number of women between the ages of 60 to 65 were affected, the impact of the change could as not yet be assessed as the changes had only been in effect for a couple of months.

It was further noted that discussions were taking place with Social Services Managers on the involvement of care staff in providing a basic nail clipping service. Should it be necessary, a report on this matter would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

At the conclusion of questions, the Chairman thanked Helen Horrobin, Sharon Marriott and John Evans for the presentation and responses given on the update in respect of podiatry and podiatric services.

#### RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on an update of podiatry/podiatric services provided by Dudley South Primary Care Trust be received and noted.

#### THE ROLE OF HEALTH SCRUTINY IN THE PROCESS SURROUNDING THE HEALTH CARE COMMISSIONS ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK OF NHS TRUSTS

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A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the role of this Select Committee in the HealthCare Commission's Annual Health Check of NHS Trusts.

The Scrutiny Officer, in his introduction, referred to a meeting held earlier in the day which he had attended, together with the Chairman and the Research Officer (Good Health), on this matter.

As set out in the detail under the sub-heading - Involvement of the Select Committee on Good Health - in the report submitted, health scrutiny committees would be asked to prepare a statement of approximately 250 words, on how they thought Trusts had done in respect of core and developmental standards. The Scrutiny Officer then cited various activities, which could be commented upon, including the co-operation between Social Services and the Health Sector and the Osteoporosis initiative, together with comments on how well the Trusts had managed their finances.

Following the introduction given, and in response to questions asked, Alan Torbet - Dudley South Primary Care Trust and Alison Hodgson - Dudley Primary Care Trusts Governance Manager, responded to questions on the standards contained within the seven domains and the two types of standards involved, as referred to in the report submitted.

#### RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and as given at the meeting, on the role of this Select Committee in the HealthCare Commission's Annual Health Check of NHS Trusts, be noted; that the involvement of the Select Committee be endorsed on the lines outlined in the report submitted and that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councillors Islam and K Turner be authorised to prepare the statements by the due date, October 2005.

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#### PROPOSED MERGER OF WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL ACUTE HOSPITAL TRUSTS

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on preparations for the consultation process, due to begin in November 2005, on the proposed merger of Wolverhampton and Walsall Acute Hospital Trusts.

It was noted that as yet no details about the merger proposals were available and so it was not yet possible to assess their impact. It was also noted that other options may also be proposed. In view of this, a watching brief would be kept on the situation.

#### RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted on preparations for the consultation process, due to begin in November 2005, on the proposed merger of Wolverhampton and Walsall Acute Hospital Trusts, be noted and that

- (a) This Select Committee seek equal representation with Wolverhampton and Walsall on the statutory joint committee referred to in paragraph 3 of the report submitted;

- (b) The Select Committee's NHS partners, the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Patients' Forums be invited to form a working party with immediate effect, to provide information and advice before and during the consultation period; and
- (c) Councillor Mrs Faulkner be nominated to act as a contact point between officers and the Committee during the preparation period before the start of the consultation.

22                    THE SOCIAL SERVICES STATUTORY COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES ANNUAL REPORT

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A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the Directorate of Social Services Annual Reports on Complaints and Compliments for the period 1st April 2004 to 31st March 2005, attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to the report submitted.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on the Directorate of Social Services Annual reports on Complaints and Compliments for the period 1st April 2004 to 31st March 2005, in respect of Children Services and Adult Services, be noted.

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23                    UPDATE ON WHEELCHAIR SERVICES REVIEW

The Scrutiny Officer reported on the current position in respect of the wheelchair services review in that following a long delay, approval had now been given by the Local Research Ethics Committee to the user questionnaire and so that process was now underway. The questionnaire was very important to the review as it is the main device for gathering client opinion.

It was also noted that some focus groups with wheelchair users had also been carried out and that contact had been made with carers' groups so that information would be gathered from carers as well as users. A meeting would also be held shortly with representatives from Housing, Transport and Leisure to gather their opinions.

Although it had been hoped to complete this review by December, 2005, because of delays, completion will probably now be in February, 2006.

RESOLVED

That the information reported at the meeting, on the current position regarding the wheelchair services review, be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2005-2006

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on a draft work programme for 2005-2006.

## RESOLVED

That the content of the work programme for this Committee for 2005-2006, as submitted, be endorsed for submission to health and social care partners for their comments.

CAR PARKING AT RUSSELLS HALL HOSPITAL/AUDIO DIGITAL HEARING AIDS

Arising from consideration of car parking at Russells Hall Hospital at the last meeting of the Committee, members again expressed a number of concerns and requested clarification from the Health Trust on a number of issues regarding the installation of payment machines which were non wheelchair use compliant; the charging policy and its application to the various categories of user of the car parks and the reasons for differential charging; any further clarification required in the light of the response to the concerns previously raised with them and the issue of allegedly poor signage to the car parks.

Concerns were also expressed at the very long waiting times in Dudley South Primary Care Trust, approximately 250 – 306 weeks, for audio digital hearing aids, which it was projected would increase.

Mr Checketts, Head of Communications, Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust, reported that the position with audio digital hearing aids was a national problem and that in his Primary Care Trust, the waiting time was 87 weeks. Additional resources had also been made available which would make some impact on waiting times.

## RESOLVED

That the Scrutiny Officer to the Committee (Good Health) be requested to write to

1. The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust regarding the further concerns raised by members, as indicated above, about car parking at Russells Hall Hospital.
2. The Chief Executive of Dudley South Primary Care Trust on the position, as reported on, regarding the waiting times for audio digital hearing aids, with particular reference to any plans the Trust had to reduce its waiting times for this service.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm

CHAIRMAN