

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Thursday, 17th January, 2008, at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Mrs Ridley (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Faulkner (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Aston, Mrs. Blood, Mrs Cowell, Jackson, Lavender, J. Martin, K Turner and Simms.

Officers

Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Policy, Performance and Resources) (Lead Officer to the Committee), the Scrutiny Officer for Health, the Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Learning Disability and Mental Health), the Director of Finance (Directorate of Finance, ICT and Procurement), the Director of Partnership and Children's Trust (Directorate of Children's Services), Quality and Complaints Manager (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), and Ms Smith (Directorate of Law and Property)

Also in Attendance

Ms V Little (Joint Director of Public Health Dudley PCT and MBC), Ms. Sharpe (Director of Governance and Community Engagement), Ms S Dugan, Ms S Hill (Community Engagement Officers), Ms H Horrobin, (Podiatry Services Manager), Ms K Jackson, (all Dudley Primary Care Trust), Mr. Barker (Patient and Public Involvement Forum), Mr Edwards (Chairman) Mr P Farrington (Chief Executive) and Ms S Mansell, (all Dudley Group of Hospitals).

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APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor Ms Jordan.

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 22nd November, 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were in attendance at the meeting and no issues were raised under this item.

45

REDUCTION TO THE FREQUENCY OF DUDLEY GROUP OF HOSPITALS (DGOH) PUBLIC BOARD MEETINGS

The Chairman and Chief Executive of the Dudley Group of Hospitals, (DGOH), were in attendance at the meeting, at the request of the Committee, to answer questions in relation to a press release that had stated that the DGOH proposed to reduce the frequency of their public board meetings.

In response to questions from Members the Chairman of the DGOH confirmed that, even though there were some eight thousand public members on the council of governors, the attendance figures at the public board meetings had only been around thirty to forty members and had fallen at recent meetings. The Chief Executive confirmed that the DGOH engaged with the public and meetings were advertised both externally on the Internet and internally through the hospital Intranet and newspapers. It was noted that the DGOH would look at alternative means of advertising and encouraging greater public attendance at future meetings.

RESOLVED

That the information reported at the meeting be noted.

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REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2008/09

A joint report of the Director of Finance and Director of Adult Community and Housing Services was submitted on the proposed Revenue Budget Strategy for 2008/09 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2008/09 to 2010/11.

During the discussion that followed the presentation of the report Members commented on the uncertainty of the final costs of Single Status and Equal Pay Back Pay. It was acknowledged that although the final costs would be subject to review when finally agreed with the workforce, Cabinet would keep the situation under constant review. It was also noted that Meals on Wheels Provision had been reviewed with private sector providers being considered with the advantage of a choice of delivery time and more menu options. It was confirmed that all clients would be subjected to individual financial assessment.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet's Revenue Budget Strategy proposals for 2008/09 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2008/09 to 2010/11 contained in the report and Appendix to the report submitted, be noted and the Cabinet informed that there were no other observations the Committee would wish to make.

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UPDATE ON THE JOINT MEETING WITH WALSALL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL ON THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT "FUTURE CONFIGURATION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN DUDLEY AND WALSALL"

A verbal update on behalf of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was GIVEN on the response to the proposed re-configuration of Mental Health Services in Dudley and Walsall Metropolitan Boroughs.

The Committee were informed that consultation had ended on the 19th December 2007, and Dudley and Walsall Primary Care Trusts had met on the 10th January 2008 to consider the response from the meeting held by the Joint Dudley and Walsall Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th December, 2007. The PCT boards had agreed to the setting up of a Mental Health Partnership Trust, to be reviewed by the Strategic Health Authority on the 20th January 2008, and forwarded to the Secretary of State for approval. Once approved the Committee would then be informed of the timetable for establishing the Trust.

RESOLVED

That the response to the proposed re-configuration of Mental Health Services in Dudley and Walsall Metropolitan Boroughs be noted.

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JOINT COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE IN DUDLEY

A joint report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, the Director of Children's Services and the Chief Executive of Dudley Primary Care Trust, was submitted on the shaping of the Framework and Strategy for Dudley people.

The Commissioning Framework and Strategy required Local Authorities, the PCT and other health partners to work together to provide services that met the needs of the local community who had been engaged in consultation through a variety of means. Wider consultation now needed to be undertaken within Dudley and the views of the Committee and Cabinet on its direction and approach were welcomed as part of the NHS statutory consultation timescales.

Members further commented on the ten commissioning priorities and the work around planned care, increase in Expert Patient Programmes, end of life care and use of new technology. It was commented on that building developers should be encouraged to ensure adequate facilities were installed in advance of future needs.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report and appendix to the report submitted on the progress made on developing a draft Joint Commissioning Framework for Dudley be noted, and that the commissioning priorities as set out in paragraph ten of the report submitted be endorsed.

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DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK

The Lead Officer commented on the draft service specification for procuring a Host Organisation, Dudley LINK circulated to the Committee. Applications had been invited from organisations for the establishment of a host organisation to support a Local Involvement Network (LINK) in Dudley, with the role of the Host Organisation used as a basis for evaluating tender submissions, which will be done shortly.

RESOLVED

That the draft service specification for procuring a Host Organisation, Dudley, LINK as circulated to the Committee and progress to date be noted.

50

HEALTH CARE STANDARD C4c DECONTAMINATION

A report of the Joint Director of Public Health, Dudley Primary Care Trust & MBC , was submitted on ongoing actions towards compliance with the Healthcare Standard on Decontamination of Medical Devices. The report outlined the PCT's responsibilities under The Health Act 2006; Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections, to ensure that their own and commissioned providers complied with all the national standards on decontamination when providing services.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted on the Healthcare Standard on Decontamination of Medical Devices, be noted.

51

SECTION 242 OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (NHS) ACT 2006

A report of the Director of Governance and Community Engagement, Dudley Primary Care Trust, was submitted on the revised legislative requirements to consult and engage communities in the planning and development of services; full details of which were set out in the appendix to the report submitted.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted of a Department of Health briefing on Section 242 of the NHS Act 2006, be noted.

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PODIATRY SERVICES

A report was submitted on behalf of the Dudley Primary Care Trust, Podiatry Services on the change in criteria for patient access to the services.

Prior to 2006 the Podiatry Service was available to all women over the age of sixty and all men over the age of sixty-five. However, as this was not sustainable and the increase in waiting times meant that the service had not adequately met the needs of the patients. In April 2006, following wide consultation, the service became needs based not age related, and directed its resources at those patients with medical and foot conditions putting them most at risk.

In response to questions from Members with regard to people who required a nail cutting service, it was confirmed that provision of this service was under review in consultation with Age Concern.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted on the improvements and the redesign to the Podiatry Service, be noted.

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TACKLING OBESITY – A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

A report of the Joint Director of Public Health, Dudley Primary Care Trust and Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, was submitted on the progress on year two of Dudley's Obesity Strategy and Action Plan, attached as an appendix to the report.

Following discussion of the item Members agreed that more needed to be done to tackle childhood obesity with children being encouraged to take more exercise and eat healthier. It was acknowledged that encouraging children to walk or cycle to school had to be considered under the Safer Routes to School Schemes. It was also noted that deprived neighbourhood areas needed to be targeted in relation to alcohol misuse.

RESOLVED

1. That information contained in the report and appendix to the report submitted, together with Members comments and the contents of the Tackling Obesity a Framework for Action, Annual Report for Year 2, be noted.

ACCESS TO MATERNITY SERVICES IN DUDLEY – 2007 UPDATE

A representative from the Dudley Group of Hospitals, (DGOH), reported on the access to maternity services within Dudley. In 2004 the then Select Committee on Good Health had reviewed the service and key issues that had arisen had formed the base for formulation of an access forum.

The shortage of midwives within Dudley had led to the development of a business case and an improvement in services to women. With the creation of a further twenty-two new posts the ratio of midwives to births had increased to thirty-three to one. Semi trained support workers were in post, working under clinical supervision, giving additional support to families during and after pregnancy. Working within children's centres. specialist needs of women were being catered for with a trained midwife to assist with abuse and child protection issues and assist in liaising with authorities such as the Police.

Patient involvement had been a high priority when the provision of services available had been reviewed and users had been actively encouraged to comment upon their experiences.

During discussion, Members noted that since maternity provision had moved from the Wordsley Hospital site, there had been issues with parking at Russells Hall Hospital and it was commented on that there had recently been a birth on the car park. This was acknowledged as being an occurrence that had happened before and would no doubt happen in the future but that concerns raised over the alleged lack of a midwife on duty at the time, had been unfounded.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the update on the access to maternity services in Dudley during 2007, be noted.

VALUING PEOPLE NOW – CONSULTATION

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on “Valuing People Now”, published by the Department of Health in December 2007. A cross government consultation, the briefing set the agenda across issues including health and well-being, housing, employment, education and community inclusion, for people with learning disabilities.

Five priorities that local agencies had to concentrate on had been identified including; giving users more choice and control of their services through personalisation, looking at what people did during the day enabling them to undertake paid work where possible, better health and safe care of vulnerable adults and access to supported housing enabling people to move from residential care. The fifth priority ensured that the whole policy was delivered so that all people with learning disabilities, including those with the most complex needs, benefited from the changes.

During discussion Members welcomed the choices and opportunities that had been made available, especially with reference to the increase in self worth of service users when supported into finding paid employment.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted on the consultation paper entitled “Valuing People Now” published by the Department of Health, be noted and the proposals contained therein supported.

ANNUAL REPORT ON COMPLAINTS, COMMENTS AND COMPLIMENTS FOR ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the Social Care Complaints and Compliments Annual Report for the period 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007. A copy of the Annual Report was attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted.

It was commented on that although there had been a slight increase in the number of registered complaints, the compliments received provided evidence of the quality of the services, high standards and performance delivered by members of staff throughout the service. Members also noted that none of the complaints received had progressed through to stage three of the social care service complaints procedure and that there had been no findings of Maladministration by the Ombudsman concerning Dudley Social Services complaint matters for 2006/07.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Social Care Complaints and Compliments Annual Report for the period 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007 be received and noted.
- (2) That the annual report be made available as a public document as required by legislation and guidance.

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QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the performance of the Council in relation to the activities relating to the terms of reference of the Committee for the second quarter of 2007/08, July to September 2007. The achievement of the adult social care services in receiving the top Three Star category by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) leading to them being amongst the top-ten performing authorities in relation to the national Performance Assessment Framework in the country was noted.

RESOLVED

That the Quarterly Corporate Performance Report on the performance of the Council in relation to the activities relating to the terms of reference of the Committee for the second quarter of 2007/2008, July to September 2007, be received and noted and that adult social care be congratulated on their achievement.

The meeting ended at 8:50 pm

CHAIRMAN