

SELECT COMMITTEE ON GOOD HEALTH

Tuesday, 20th July, 2004 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor Burt (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs Faulkner (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Ali, Mrs. Aston, Banks, Boys, Bradney, Harley, Miss Nicholls, Ms Partridge and K Turner, together with the Head of Personnel and Support Services (Lead Officer), Director of Social Services, Assistant Director of Social Services – Business Services, Mr S Ward (Scrutiny Officer to the Committee) and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Law and Property).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr T Taylor – Director of Delivery Strategic Health Authority

1

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That, the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held on 10th May 2004, be approved as a correct record and signed.

2

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 Ali, in the light of his employment by South Birmingham Primary Care Trust.

Councillor Boys, in the light of his employment by a supplier to the National Health Service.

3

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Musk.

4

APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE FOR THIS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

It was reported that Councillor Banks has been appointed to serve as a substitute for Councillor Musk for this meeting of the Committee only.

5

A WIDER VIEW – A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES IN BIRMINGHAM AND THE BLACK COUNTRY 2004-2010

Tom Taylor, Director of Delivery from the Strategic Health Authority gave a presentation on a consultation document entitled “A Wider View – A Strategic Framework for Health and Health Services in Birmingham and the Black Country 2004-2010.

A summary of this document had been prepared by Sean Ward, Scrutiny Officer to the Committee, and had previously been circulated with the agenda for this meeting of the Committee. A full copy of the consultation document was available on request from Sean Ward.

Tom Taylor in his presentation, outlined the reasons for the consultation document, which was in line with the need for the Strategic Health Authority to take a wider view of health and health services in Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country, the strategies proposed to be implemented and the seven key priorities that had been identified following detailed consultation with patients, the public and frontline staff.

Details were given of each of the seven key priorities which were; a programme to reduce health inequalities; action on race and health; reshaping services to support a healthy start to life; better management of chronic disease; more and better choice for patients; capacity and investment planning and the delivery of a five star health economy.

The need for action in respect of these key priorities was also highlighted by analysis of each area which included reference to mortality rates, which indicated a nine year difference between the top and bottom primary care trusts, a gap which was widening; the significantly different mortality rates between different ethnic groups and an analysis of the number of admissions of persons in a year which could rise to as many as six in one year.

As part of the consultation process, reference was made to nine key questions, as set out in the summary circulated to the Committee, on which the Strategic Health Authority was particularly interested in receiving responses to. The consultation period ended on 8th September, 2004 and responses received would be analysed by an external company. A final report would be submitted to a meeting of Strategic Health Authority Board on 28th September, 2004.

At the conclusion of the presentation, comments and questions were asked in particular relating to:

- (a) The methods by which healthy lifestyles could be encouraged in deprived wards so that health inequalities between areas could be reduced.

In response it was stated that schools were only one method in this regard and that people with a higher standard of education and with better educated parents were likely to be more informed about health. It was suggested that if a suitable question on this was submitted a representative from Surestart would respond.

- (b) That in relation to Local Service Provider of IT Services, it was noted that a clinical forum had only recently been set up and that it was essential that this included both primary and secondary care sectors.
- (c) That whilst recognising that there was a danger that consumerism might increase inequalities, the ways in which this could be mitigated were still being considered and that it would be helpful to the Authority if a question on this for response could be framed together with any helpful ideas on how it might be tackled.
- (d) It was considered that in order to deliver the five star health economy referred to in the presentation, there was a need for all the health agencies to work together. In response, it was acknowledged that such a need to work together was required and that the consultation document should be seen as a way of assisting this.

At the conclusion of questions and comments the Chairman thanked Tom Taylor for the presentation given and in response he indicated that if there were any other questions or information required, this could be obtained from the contact points indicated on the consultation document.

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE 2004/05

Arising from consideration of proposals regarding the method of working of the Committee for the forthcoming municipal year, consideration of items for the work programme and related matters, it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That in respect of working groups of the Committee:-
 - (a) The Access to Maternity Services Review Working Group be reappointed for the municipal year 2004/05 comprising Councillor Mrs Faulkner, as the Chairman, together with Councillors Boys, Miss Nicholls and Ms Partridge and that, in view of her previous involvement, Councillor Ms Craigie be invited to attend future meetings of the working group as a co-opted member.
 - (b) That the Co-Ordination of the Provision of Wheelchairs Working Group be reappointed for the municipal year 2004/05 comprising Councillors Ali, Mrs Aston, Bradney and Harley, with the Chairman of this working group being determined by its members.
 - (c) That, in view of a current review being undertaken by the Primary Care Trust, the Chiropody and Podiatry Services Working Group be reappointed in the municipal year 2004/05 but that no further action be taken in respect of the work of this working group pending the outcome of the review being undertaken.
- (2) That a representative from each of the four health trust patient panels be invited to attend future meetings of the Committee in view of the relationship of the work of this Committee with that of primary care trusts and other health bodies.
- (3) That the proposal of the Chairman that a similar meeting to that held in the last municipal year with the Chairmen and Chief Executive's of the four health trusts in the area of the Borough be held this municipal year on a date to be arranged in either September/October, 2004 be endorsed so that discussions regarding respective work programmes and concerns/expectations or any other matters they would wish to raise could be dealt with so as to facilitate communication between all the bodies involved.

- (4) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee be authorised to give further consideration to, and take the appropriate action regarding, the ongoing promotion of the work of the Committee through the various measures mentioned at the meeting, set out below, so as to elicit further messages, complaints and comments from members of the public and aid such communication with a view to reporting back to the next meeting of the Committee on the action taken:-
- (a) Improving communication with the public via the current website.
 - (b) The possible use of advertisements in the local press asking the public to specify their three main health priorities so that one matter might be selected for further investigation and report back.
 - (c) Consideration of the report to a recent meeting of the Health and Well Being Partnership on the analysis of the approximately five thousand responses received arising from the consultation exercise held on the document "Choosing Health? A Consultation and Action to Improve People's Health – Department of Health Spring 2004".
 - (d) The use of GP surgeries, clinics and Council publications such as the Tenant's News to advertise the work and role of the Committee.
- (5) That the Lead Officer be requested to arrange training sessions, updating members of the Committee on aspects of the health economy and on their scrutiny role on dates, and at times and venues to be determined.
- (6) That in respect of a proposed work programme of the Committee:-
- (a) The following matters be considered for inclusion in the work programme –
 - (i) Improving obesity rates and lifestyles, particularly of young people and in this connection Val Little, a Director of Public Health be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee to give a presentation on the work being carried out in schools on this matter.

- (ii) Monitoring the implementation of the Children Act.
 - (iii) Consideration of the MRSA figures in respect of hospitals in the Borough for consideration at the next meeting of this Committee.
 - (iv) The reporting of Social Services Performance Matters to be reported biannually to the Committee.
- (b) That Councillor Banks be requested to forward to the Chairman details of the points raised regarding the lack of and unsuitability of signage and access at Dudley Group of Hospitals for people with physical disabilities with a view to further consideration being given to this matter.

7

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2003/04

A report of the Director of Social Services was submitted on the achievements and progress made against the Directorate of Social Services Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2003/4.

Arising from the presentation of the content of the report, and appendix to the report, submitted by the Director of Social Services, and comments and questions raised, it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and appendix to the report, submitted on the review findings on the implementation of the Social Services Directorate's Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2003/4, be noted.
- (2) That the Director of Social Services be requested to provide information to the Chairman regarding adjustments made to enable people with disabilities to perform their roles with a view to a report being submitted to the next meeting of the Committee, if appropriate.

ANNUAL REPORT ON REPRESENTATIONS AND COMPLAINTS RECEIVED WITHIN THE DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL SERVICES

A report of the Director of Social Services was submitted on information about the performance of the Social Services Directorate in receiving, monitoring and responding to compliments and complaints and on performance in delivering the service to assist in continually improving standards. A copy of the annual report for the period April 2003 to March 2004 on compliments and complaints, a statutory report on the workings of the Social Services complaints and representations procedures arising from the Children Act, 1989 and the NHS and Community Care Act, 1990, was attached as an appendix to the report submitted.

Arising from the presentation of the content of the report, and appendix to the report, submitted, by Hilary Jackson, Assistant Director of Social Services – Business Services, a number of comments and questions were asked in particular relating to the various categories for resolving complaints; the analysis undertaken of information contained in the annual report, for example in respect of the areas of service complained of for adult and children services in respect of which further information could be provided on the aspects of the adult services complained about as shown in paragraph 4.4 of the Annual Report; the apparent difference in the number of complaints received between the North and South of the borough on which additional information could be provided if requested and the measures that were being undertaken to encourage a greater number of complaints to be made by children and young people.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and appendix to the report, submitted on representations and complaints received within the Directorate of Social Services and on the information contained in the Annual Report 2003/2004 Compliments and Complaints – be received and noted.
- (2) That the proposal that the report be made available as required by legislation and guidance be endorsed.

A report of the Chairman of the Committee was submitted on the Annual Report to the Council on the review of the work of the Committee for the 2003/2004 municipal year.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Good Health for 2003/2004, as submitted, be received and submitted to the Executive and the Council for approval.

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm

CHAIRMAN

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