
Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care – 27th September 2007

Report of the Lead Officer to the Committee

Annual Report of the Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care 2006/2007

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the annual report to the Council, for the review of the 2006/2007 municipal year.

Background

2. Article 6 of the Council's Constitution requires Select Committees to report annually to the full Council and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.
3. The Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care has the role of reviewing and/or scrutinising decisions made or actions taken in connection with the provision, planning and management of health and social care, including the NHS.
4. The Chairman and Chief Executives of the Health Service in Dudley have agreed to hold regular meetings with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Officers of the Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care to discuss matters of common interest.
5. During the 2006/07 municipal year the Committee pursued the following Work Programme:
 - 5.1 Scrutiny Reviews (see para. 12)
 - Review of Wheelchair Services for Adults in Dudley
 - Review of the Integrated Stroke Service in Dudley
 - 5.2 Promotion of the Work of the Committee
 - Continue to use advertisements in the local press promoting the standing Public Forum item and Committee web page where the public can specify health issues they wish the Committee to investigate.
 - Continue to use Area Committees, Libraries, and Council publications such to advertise the work and role of the Committee.

5.3 Information updates for Members – [a number of Briefing Reports were sent to members during the committee term, and are included at Appendix 1 :](#)

5.4 Select Committee Meetings

- Scrutiny of Adult Social Care Services by considering:
 - Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Reports
 - Updates on progress of new or re-provided services
 - Consultation about new developments e.g. Mental Health Services
 - Council's Capital Strategy
 - Equality and Diversity Reports
- Scrutiny of NHS provided services (Primary Care Trust, Dudley Group of Hospitals and West Midlands Ambulance Service,) with a focus on:
 - Accessible and responsive care
 - Patient-led NHS
 - Safety
 - Environment of care for patients
 - Public health
 - Governance
 - Clinical and cost-effectiveness of services
- Respond to consultations on changes in services when matters arise. Matters the committee considered were:
 - Resettlement of Ridge Hill Hospital
 - Future of Mental Health Services in Dudley and Walsall.
 - Development of Dudley Group of Hospitals towards Foundation status
 - Department of Health's (DH) consultation document A Stronger Local Voice: Framework for Creating a Stronger Local Voice in the Development of Health and Social Care Services.
 - Health reform in England Consultation (NHS) : update and commissioning framework
 - General matters of concern
- Progress reports on the best value and performance management reports considered by the committee in the 2005/2006 municipal year.
- Scrutiny of general matters relating to health of both the citizens of the Borough and employees of the Council.

6. The principal matters considered by the Committee at its meetings during 2006/2007 are shown in Appendix 2.
7. Scrutiny Reviews

The Wheelchair Services review, published in 2006, concluded that:

- The Wheelchair Service in Dudley is well run, provides a good service for users, and is well thought of by those who use the Service. The Committee commends the Wheelchair Service Department for the excellent work it does in providing a high quality service and in particular the provision of bespoke chairs and cushions for its clients and for the skill of its staff.
- There are some aspects of the service that could be improved, notably physical access for severely disabled people to the Centre at Corbett Hospital, the implementation of a wider lifestyle assessment for wheelchair users, better knowledge by users and carers of what is available and more transparent commissioning for services for disabled people.
- Directorates within Dudley MBC take a lot of time and care to involve people with disabilities in planning services. They take note of their needs and make good provision for meeting those needs, although changes are often rather slow to come about.
- The Committee commends the Directorate of the Urban Environment for its proactive stance in involving disabled people in its planning processes.
- The Committee commends the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services for its awareness of the needs of people who use wheelchairs, for the services it provides at Centres such as Queens Cross, and its future plans to improve the standard of housing for them.
- The Committee commends the Taxis Committee for its first class work in setting up training programmes on disabilities for taxi drivers.
- Transport and leisure opportunities present problems for wheelchair users in Dudley as they do not always have the same choices as citizens who are not disabled and cannot live their lives with the same freedom and spontaneity.

Recommendations in the report were acknowledged by the Dudley Group of Hospitals Executive (DGOH) and the Directorate of the Urban Environment. DGOH issued a report in response to each of the report's recommendations in good time, complete with respective completion/ implementation dates. The Committee plan to initiate a 'follow-up' review in the near future to track the progress of each recommendation.

8. Stroke Services Review – During 2006/07 the committee appointed a Project Board to review the provision of services for Dudley residents who have suffered a stroke against the Department of Health’s “National Service Framework for Older People – Standard Five: Stroke” and to review work being done by health services towards the prevention of strokes.

The aim of the review is to cover the areas of prevention, treatment and after-care and measure the effectiveness of coordination between these stages:

- To assess access to diagnostic and the acute treatment services
- To review current Public Health policies and strategies towards stroke prevention
- To consider how well the discharge planning process for the return to the community works
- To review and assess the availability of rehabilitation services within the community
- To look at arrangements for on-going/long term support including the voluntary sectors.
- To examine service provision to prevent further strokes
- To assess the availability of support for carers

9. Public Forum: Members had concerns that only one member of the public exploited the Public Forum mechanism since its introduction as a standing item in July 2006. In light of this it was agreed that further publicity should be undertaken. Furthermore, due to the ‘open ended’ nature of Public Forum, it was agreed that a time limit should be set for discussion, as to ensure other agenda items receive adequate time for consideration.
10. Meetings have been held with the Chairmen and Chief Executives of the Health Services Trusts during 2006/07. Further meetings are planned.
11. Representatives of the Select Committee have attended meetings of the Patients Forums, Board Meetings of the PCT, meetings of the Regional Health Scrutiny Chairs forum and Centre for Public Scrutiny seminars and conferences.
12. The work of the Committee has been advertised in a variety of ways including Local Area Committees. The Council’s web-site has a Health Scrutiny section which has been updated to include a section where visitors may download Scrutiny Reviews undertaken by the Committee.
13. Members have listened to a series of presentations from officers of the Health Service and Adult Social Care Services and have received regular updates about developments in health and social care and about the principles and practice of scrutiny.

Finance

14. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report at this stage.

Law

15. The requirement for the Committee to make an annual report to the Council is contained in Article 6 of the Constitution.
The relevant statutory provisions regarding the Council's Constitution are contained in Part 11 of the Local Government Act, 2000, together with Regulations, Orders and Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Equality Impact

16. This report complies with the Council's equality and diversity policy. Moreover, the work of the Committee is an important way for the representatives of local people to ensure that the voice of local people is heard and acted upon in the provision of statutory health and social care services.

Recommendations

17. That the annual report of the Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care 2006/2007, as set out above, be approved and referred to the Council, together with any comments thereon made by the Cabinet.

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Background Papers

18. Article 6 of the Council's Constitution. The Minutes of the Meetings of the Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care held in the 2006/2007 municipal year and the reports submitted to those meetings.
19. Wheelchair Services Review for Adults in Dudley
20. Integrated Stroke Service Review Scoping Report

APPENDIX 1

Information updates for Members –Briefing Reports sent to Members during the committee term

- Health Committee Patient and Public Involvement Inquiry - key points from evidence. 16/3/2007
- Commissioning Framework for Health and Well-being. 12/3/2007
- Patient Choice - National Survey Results. 9/3/2007
- Tackling obesity - summary of recent reports. 7/2/2007
- Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill - Second Reading and additional information. 30/1/2007.
- Local Government Bill - Arrangements for Patient and Public Involvement in Health and Social Care. 19/12/2006
- NHS Operating Framework for 2007/2008. 19/12/2006
- Choice in Mental Health . 14/11/2006
- Local Involvement Networks - procedural information and inquiry announced. 13/11/2006
- Local Government White Paper 2006: Implications for Health, Well-being and Care 3/11/2006.
- White Paper 2006: Implications for Local Strategic Partnerships. 3/11/2006
- The annual health check for NHS bodies . 23/10/2006
- NHS Charges - Report by the Health Committee. 31/7/2006
- Health reform in England: update and commissioning framework. 24/7/2006

Appendix 2

Principal matters considered by the Health and Adult Social Care Committee during 2006/2007.

12th July 2006

- a) Terms of reference and rules of procedure of the committee and scrutiny protocols for select committees
- b) “In control” – learning disabilities, learning pilot project
- c) Annual report for Social Services on equality and diversity 2005/06
- d) Quarterly corporate performance management report - Performance of the Council in relation to the activities relating to the terms of reference of this committee
- e) Work programme of the Committee 2006/07
- f) Wheelchair Services Review – draft report
- g) Future configuration of mental health services in the Black Country

21st September 2006

- a) Health reform in England: update and commissioning framework
- b) “A Stronger Local Voice. A framework for creating a stronger local voice in the development of health and social care services” – consultation paper from the department of health
- c) Resettlement of ridge hill hospital
- d) Older people’s strategy
- e) Quarterly Corporate performance management report

23rd November 2006

- a. Update of the council’s capital strategy 2006-11
- b. National & local developments on the protection of vulnerable
- c. Statutory social care complaints procedures – annual report 2005/06

- d. Quarterly Corporate performance management report
- e. Annual report of the Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care (formerly Select Committee on Good Health)

18th January 2007

- a. Proposed revenue strategy budget 2007/08
- b. Prevalence of tuberculosis and implications on the withdrawal of blanket vaccinations in schools
- c. Update on progress of the regional merging of the West Midlands Ambulance Service and operational performances
- d. Mental capacity act
- e. Old age Strategy in Dudley
- f. Quarterly performance management report
- g. Obesity strategy annual monitoring report: July 2005-july 2006 a joint report of the director of the urban environment and the director of public health
- h. Dudley local improvement finance trust (lift) (private session)

22nd March 2007

- a. Audiology services - a presentation was made on behalf of the Dudley primary care trust on the Audiology service provision
- b. Equality and diversity action plan
- c. Ridgehill resettlement
- d. Future configuration of mental health services in Dudley and Walsall
- e. The Health Care Commission's Annual Health Check