

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Thursday 27th September, 2007, 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, Jackson, Lavender, J Martin, Simms,
K Turner and J Woodall

Officers

Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Policy, Performance and Resources- Lead Officer to the Committee), Assistant Director of Housing (Housing Strategy and Private Sector), Scrutiny Officer (Good Health), Health Inequalities Manager (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), General Manager, Planning and Development (Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Ms K Smith (Directorate of Law and Property)

Also in Attendance

Ms K Sharpe, (Dudley Primary Care Trust), Mr Kelly (West Midlands Ambulance Service) and Mr Barker (Patient and Public Involvement Forum, Dudley Primary Care Trust).

14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs Cowell and Mrs Jordan.

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any agenda item to be discussed at the meeting.

16 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10th July, 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman drew attention to a matter raised at the AGM of the Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS trust concerning the Car Parking situation.

The General Manager, Planning and Development, updated the committee on the current planning position on the multi storey car park proposal at Russells Hall Hospital. During consideration of this item Members noted that it was not just patients who were affected by the cost of parking, but the families of patients whose car parking fees, as in an example given, could be as much as £1,000 over a two-month period.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee note the ongoing issue of car park charges.
2. That the current planning position with regard to a proposed multi storey car park at Russells Hall Hospital be noted.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE DIRECTORATE OF ADULT, COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN FOR 2006/2007.

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the achievements and progress made against the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2006/07.

During discussion of the report, Members commented on the number of man-hours spent in its compilation and queried whether the time would have been better spent implementing the progress. The Lead Officer stated that the Directorate took a "mainstreaming" approach to its work in this area recognising the responsibility that everyone held for equality and jobs. The Assistant Director of Housing Strategy and Private Sector agreed to provide a response in relation to the query on the number of man-hours utilised to Members.

Members also noted the figures for black minority ethnic (BME) groups and that the percentages between contacts, referrals and assessments had dropped. It was confirmed that this was due to 46.7% of contacts for BME adults having resulted in an outcome of advice and guidance given.

In relation to the numbers of BME groups employed throughout the Directorate, it was confirmed that full data about employment across the Council had been presented in the Annual Review of Equality and Diversity 2007, to the Cabinet in September.

RESOLVED

That the report be received and progress noted.

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USING HEALTH SCRUTINY TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN THOSE WITH THE BEST AND THE WORST HEALTH IN DUDLEY -
ALCOHOL

A report and presentation was submitted on behalf of the Lead Officer to the Committee on tackling health inequalities in Dudley, to ensure the closure of the gap between those with the best and worst health in Dudley, with particular reference to alcohol,

During lengthy consideration of this item it was noted that alcohol related diseases and obesity were the two most important trends in health risk factors within Dudley. It was recommended that a local target to reduce the proportion of excessive drinkers in Dudley by 10% by 2009, as measured by lifestyle surveys, be adopted.

It was noted that groups living in deprived areas within the Borough had the greatest difficulty in accessing health services, with regard to issues connected to the use of alcohol in Dudley. In considering this item the Committee indicated that they wished to endorse the continuation of the current Neighbourhood Management Scheme as it assisted with this issue in deprived neighbourhoods and suggested that funds be made available for the current scheme to continue.

It was acknowledged that alcohol use had wider issues that impacted on families, emergency services, hospitals, licensing laws and the public and that further wider consultation needed to be undertaken

RESOLVED

1. That the report and content of the presentation made be received and noted and that the Chairman be authorised, on behalf of the Committee, to write to the Chairman of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services regarding the issue of the current Neighbourhood Management Scheme in the terms indicated above, so that the letter may be considered at the Special Meeting of that Committee, to held on the 8th October, when it reviews the above.

2. That a Special Meeting of this Committee be held at a date and time to be arranged to which associated partnerships and agencies were to be invited to attend to discuss issues in respect of health inequalities in relation to alcohol.

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DEVELOPING A CENTRALISED COMMUNITY PAEDIATRIC CENTRE FOR DUDLEY

A report was submitted on behalf of the Primary Care Trust updating the committee on the strategic intent for development of a Community Paediatric Centre for Dudley. It was proposed that establishment of a steering group to develop proposals and procure construction of a building, to identify progress with interim proposals for clinical facilities and an office base for the paediatric therapy services, in preparation for the sale of the Ridge Hill site for redevelopment, be established

During consideration of the item, Members requested that they be informed of the operational date of the Stourbridge Health and Social Care Centre, which was, for the interim, to house the Paediatric and Physiotherapy Services. Operational information was also requested on the running of the "GEM" Centre in Wolverhampton, upon which the Dudley Paediatric Community Centre was to be based.

RESOLVED

That the report be received and progress noted and that the Lead Officer to the Committee be requested to arrange to make available to Members the information requested.

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INVESTING FOR HEALTH A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK – WEST MIDLANDS STRATEGIC HEALTH AUTHORITY CONSULTATION

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted, in relation to the proposals contained in the Investing for Health Framework Consultation.

The consultation had been launched on a micro-site website and Members were encouraged to use the website instead of the paper version to consider the proposals in the framework and register decisions as appropriate.

RESOLVED

- . That the information contained in the report submitted be noted and that Members be requested to use the website referred to in respect of proposals for consultation on the Investing for Health Framework Consultation.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE IN HEALTH AND
ADULT SOCIAL CARE– 2006/2007

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care for 2006/2007.

During consideration of the report, and the attached appendices, listing the briefing reports and principal matters considered by the Committee, it was acknowledged that a large volume of work had been successfully undertaken during 2006/2007.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care for 2006/2007, be received and noted and referred to Council.

The meeting ended at 7:45 pm

CHAIRMAN