

At a meeting of the HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Walker in the Chair

Councillors A. Hall, Maddison, Padgett and Shattock.

Also in Attendance:-

Paul Allen	-	Sunderland Council
Karen Brown	-	Sunderland Council
Debbie Burnicle	-	Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust
Nonnie Crawford	-	Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust
Phil Foster	-	Sunderland Council
Victoria French	-	Sunderland Council
Carol Harries	-	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
Sharon Lowes	-	Sunderland Council
David Noon	-	Sunderland Council

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Fletcher, Morrissey, Old, Smith, Snowdon and Norma Wright.

Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 9th March, 2011

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9th March, 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Shattock declared a personal interest in Item 7 – Provision of Social Care for Adults with a Learning Disability as she had a family member with autism and challenging behaviour.

Performance Report Quarter 3 (April – December 2010)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with a performance update relating to the period April to December 2010 to include:-

- progress in relation to the LAA targets and other national indicators
- results of the annual budget consultation

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Paul Allen, Performance and Information Manager presented the report in relation to Adult Social Care together with Victoria French, Wellness Manager who presented the item with regard to Sport and Leisure.

Councillor A. Hall referred to Sunderland's 'Scores on the Doors' Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme and noted that those premises rated as poor were still allowed to serve food. She asked what mechanisms were in place to improve the standards of such outlets. Mr Allen replied that he did not have the information to hand but would contact his colleagues in City Services on Councillor Hall's behalf.

The Chairman referred to Performance Indicator BV056 – 'Percentage of items of equipment delivered within 7 working days'. He noted that the issue was being addressed via a new model which went live in October however he was able to relate from his personal experience that the 7 day target was not always met despite the new model.

Mr. Phil Foster, Head of Care and Support replied that there were issues and that there was a need to deliver equipment more quickly. In the service's defence he advised that until October it had been ahead of target. The poor weather of November and December had caused major problems not only for the Council in delivering the equipment but also for the suppliers in providing it. It was often the case that special needs would require bespoke equipment which delayed matters as it couldn't be supplied off the shelf.

The Chairman acknowledged the problems but added that his own experience had occurred just 3 weeks previously and therefore couldn't be blamed on the weather.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Allen, Ms. French and Mr. Foster for the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the Committee acknowledges the continued good practice made by the Council and the Sunderland Partnership and those areas requiring further development to ensure that performance is actively managed.

Policy Review – Draft Final Report Malnutrition and Dehydration in Hospitals

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the final draft report from the evidence gathered in relation to the Committee's Policy Review of Malnutrition and Dehydration in Hospitals.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report which detailed the evidence, research and conclusions drawn throughout the review process together with the 8 recommendations arising from the evidence gathering.

Councillor Maddison commended the report and the Chairman thanked Ms. Brown and all involved for their hard work in delivering the Review. Councillor Shattock added her thanks to all concerned. She referred to Recommendation No. 2 which she believed had been drafted very concisely. She stressed the importance of fostering closer links between the catering department and the Wards. The benefit of this had been apparent in the evidence submitted by another hospital whose Catering Manager made a weekly tour of the Wards.

The Chairman having paid tribute to Mr. Alan Patchett for his contribution to the delivery of the Review, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that approval be given to the draft final report of the Committee's Policy Review into Malnutrition and Dehydration in Hospitals and that it be submitted to Cabinet for endorsement.

Commissioning Intentions 2011/12

The NHS South of Tyne and Wear submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with the opportunity to discuss the organisation's commissioning intentions for the 2011/2012 financial year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Debbie Burnicle of STPCT presented the report which covered the issues that the NHS expected to address in the next financial year focusing on investment and disinvestment priorities together with specific initiatives NHS South of Tyne and Wear intends to implement in 2011/12 which are likely to impact across South of Tyne and Wear and those which will impact specifically on the Sunderland locality.

Nonnie Crawford, Director of Public Health was also present to assist with any questions or comments from Members. She advised that despite the current uncertainties surrounding the NHS White Paper most of what was in the report before Members would remain unchanged. The bulk of the report had been written two years ago as part of a 5 year strategic plan.

Ms. Burnicle advised that the first meeting of the Health Transition Group with Neil Revely, Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services was to be held the following day. This would be looking to develop a 4 year plan including an integrated strategic and operational plan. Once drafted a copy of the plan would be submitted to the Committee for consideration.

In response to an enquiry from the Chairman regarding the TPCT staff and their future role in supporting commissioning, Debbie Burnicle replied that the Trust were still awaiting specifics however guidance had been received in the form of a road map as to what would go where. The staff therefore had an awareness of the proposals but awaited the detail. It was evident that whoever was doing the commissioning would require support and from a Sunderland point of view there was a desire to utilise experience.

Councillor Shattock highlighted the degree of uncertainty around the reforms and stated that it put Ms. Burnicle and Ms. Crawford in a difficult position. Ms. Crawford replied that it was interesting that the current proposals were the logical conclusion of changes started by Alan Milburn 10 years previously. The current lack of funding had forced people to remove the 'plasters' and undertake a fundamental look at how things were done and how they could be done differently. She believed that the proposals around joint commissioning would be retained and that the responsibility for Health Improvement would be divested to the Local Authority.

In response to an enquiry from the Chairman, Ms. Burnicle replied that all GP Practices in Sunderland were on board with the consortium proposals. An election to the Board of 6 GPs had recently taken place. The Board was to be Chaired by Ian Patterson and Vice Chaired by Ian Gilmore. The Board was keen to seek pathfinder status. Ms. Burnicle advised that although all practices in the City were signed up for the initiative there was a concern that the Coalfield area did not have a GP representative on the Board. The Chairman stated that the geographical aspect needed to be addressed to ensure an equal coverage across all areas.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. Burnicle and Ms. Crawford for their attendance, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Provision of Social Care for Adults with a Learning Disability

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated the Committee on the procurement of the provision of social care for adults with a learning disability within 9 Residential Care Homes across the City following concerns received from families and carers about the outcome of the tendering process.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Phil Foster, Head of Care and Support presented the report and together with Sharon Lowes, Strategic Commissioning Manager addressed questions and comments from Members. In response to an enquiry from Councillor A. Hall, Ms. Lowes advised that Choices Care were a Scottish based company serving Scotland and North East England who provided domiciliary, day and residential care. The company was to provide the services in the 9 residential care homes referred to in the report but Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust would remain landlord of five of the properties.

Councillor Hall stated that there had been a need to recognise the concerns of the relatives. She referred to the checks and governance visits detailed in paragraph 4.4.3 of the report and asked how long would these be carried out. Ms. Lowes replied that the checks would continue on a quarterly basis together with the normal compliance meetings which would continue for the life of the contract.

Councillor Shattock stated that what she had read in the report as presented by Mr. Foster was excellent however it remained that the matter should not have become an issue in the first place. Complaints had been made by families because they felt there had been a lack of consultation on the Council's part. The organisation needed to learn that when it embarked on a process of change it was essential to talk to people and listen to their concerns.

Mr. Foster acknowledged Councillor Shattock's concerns and stated that the process had been painful. He stated that there was a need to involve people, not just consult people and this included involving people before the matter was reported to Cabinet.

The Chairman having stated that the Committee wished to follow the monitoring of the contract, thanked Mr. Foster and Ms. Lowes for their report.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and that the Committee continue to receive update reports on the monitoring of the contract.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st April, 2011 to 31st July, 2011

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1st April – 31st July 2011.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer, having presented the report it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2010-11

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) for the Committee to receive an updated work programme for 2010-11.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report and having informed Members that the Annual Scrutiny Conference was to be held on 19th May at the Crowtree Leisure Centre, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and contributions to the meetings of Committee over the course of the municipal year.

(Signed) P. WALKER,
Chairman.