

At a meeting of the HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 10TH MARCH, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Walker in the Chair

Councillors A. Hall, Paul Maddison, Morrissey, Shattock and M. Smith and Snowdon.

Also in Attendance:-

Nonnie Crawford	-	Director of Public Health
Carol Harries	-	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
Claire Harrison	-	Sunderland City Council
Nigel Cummings	-	Sunderland City Council
Graham King	-	Sunderland City Council
Sharon Lowes		Sunderland City Council
Councillor Tate		

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Fletcher, Leadbitter and Old.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 10th February, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10th January, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

Update on Policy Review Recommendations: 'Quality Commissioning for Vulnerable Adults'

The Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to update the Committee on progress against the policy review

recommendations, from the Quality Commissioning for Vulnerable Adults Policy Review 2007/08.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Sharon Lowes, Strategic Commissioning Manager presented the report and provided progress against the remaining policy review recommendations in turn.

Councillor Paul Maddison enquired how many people worked in the call handling team and was advised by Ms. Lowes that there were eight full time equivalent members of staff.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) In future the update report is received by the Committee on a bi annual basis, and
- ii) Recommendation 13 - to consider ways of capturing the knowledge of the voluntary sector to inform judgements and decision-making, with appropriate systems is closed as Provider Forums had been reviewed and will be used as a mechanism for capturing knowledge from the voluntary and independent sectors, in order to improve future commissioning.

Changes to the Annual Health Check

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to consider changes to the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) new assessment processes.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Cummings advised the Committee that the CQC can now receive information from committees throughout the year, and use it both in key assessments (such as decisions to register a service) and in ongoing monitoring of services throughout the year. The old system of a once-a-year commentary from scrutiny committees was being replaced by a system that will give a more continuous influence in assessments. It will also give a more regular feedback on what is being done with the information received.

The CQC were looking to invite committees to get involved in discussions about how to work together in the new assessment systems, (including systems for registering health and social care providers, and assessments of PCTs and councils as commissioners).

Councillor Paul Maddison requested a list of Members of the CQC and Mr. Cummings agreed to circulate the information.

3. RESOLVED that members note the report and look to invite the local representative of the Care Quality Commission to a future meeting of the committee.

Policy Development and Review 2009/10 : Draft Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members of the committee with the first draft report from the evidence gathered in relation to this year's policy review on health inequalities.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer presented the report and advised that the review document presented in detail the evidence, research and conclusions drawn throughout the review process and members were asked to comment on this for relevance, clarity and accuracy.

Mr Cummings advised that he had received a number of comments from the TPCT and Adult Services and would feed them into the final report.

The Chairman advised that a further meeting would be arranged with the Committee to firm up and agree the final recommendations.

The Chairman also stated that he would like to see more statistics at a neighbourhood level in the report in order to target areas within wards where inequality was most acute.

Councillor Paul Maddison referred to Newham Council's pilot project to help residents who would be financially worse off if their benefits ceased to get off benefits and into work by assisting them with their rent if necessary. He also noted that Newham were chosen to pilot universal free school meals for primary age children and he queried why they had taken such a groundbreaking approach.

Dr. Nonnie Crawford advised that Newham was taking a corporate approach to its bad health outcomes to accelerate improvement.

In response to a question from Councillor Shattock regarding what was meant by 'corporate approach', Dr. Crawford advised that this meant a clear recognition of the need for joint action by local authorities, their directorates and their partners.

Members congratulated Mr. Cummings on the excellent report.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- i) that the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee provide comments on the draft report and that any agreed amendments are made, and
- ii) that consideration is given to themes and issues for recommendations to be included in the policy review report by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, and
- iii) that a final review report is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee at its April 2009 meeting.

Work Programme 2009/10

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to consider the current Work Programme for 2009/10 Council Year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Claire Harrison, Assistant Scrutiny Officer, presented the report.

The Committee were advised that future items to be included on the work programme were a report relating to the proposed changes to the laws governing powered mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs and a Clinical Governance report from City Hospitals.

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

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st March – 30th June 2010

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1st March – 30th June which relate to the Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Claire Harrison, Assistant Scrutiny Officer, presented the report and advised that it should be noted that in the current edition of the Forward Plan there were five issues which were relevant to the Committee's remit.

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

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) P. WALKER,
Chairman.