

At a meeting of the HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 8TH JUNE, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Walker in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Francis, Maddison, Padgett, Snowdon, Waller and N. Wright.

Also in Attendance:-

Karen Brown	-	Sunderland Council
Jean Carter	-	Sunderland Council
Gillian Gibson	-	Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust
Carol Harries	-	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
Fiona MacDonald	-	Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust
David Noon	-	Sunderland Council
Russell Patton	-	Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust
Neil Revely	-	Sunderland Council
Julie Whitehouse	-	Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust
Councillor Tate	-	Chair of Management Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Councillors Francis and Waller who were attending their first meeting as Members of the Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Hall, F. Miller and Shattock.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 6th April, 2011

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th April, 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Change in the Order of Business

The Chairman advised that he would be taking item 6 on the agenda (Health and Wellbeing Board) at this juncture to allow Mr. Revely to undertake a hospital visit thereafter.

Health and Wellbeing Board

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the development of a Health and Wellbeing Board for Sunderland and the wider national policy context.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Neil Revely, Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services presented the report. He advised that under the Health and Social Care Bill, each local authority would be required to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB) for its area. The Bill also stated that the H&WB Board must be a Committee of the local authority being politically balanced etc. Final proposals were not to hand and awaited the outcome of the Government's 'pause to reflect' on NHS reforms as a whole.

With regard to timescales, Sunderland along with other local authorities had been accepted into the early implementer programme. This would allow the Council to develop arrangements which would be reviewed at the turn of the year with the aim of establishing a Shadow Board in April 2012. The Board would take up its full duties and responsibilities in April 2013. The early implementer and Shadow arrangements would allow Sunderland to learn locally and nationally with regard to best practice.

A report on the establishment of the Board would be submitted to Cabinet on 22nd June and would be referred to this Committee prior to submission to Council.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor N. Wright, Mr. Revely advised that membership of the Board had yet to be finalised. It was likely to be Chaired by the Leader of the Council and comprise around five Councillors, the Executive Director/s of Adult Services/Children's Services, the Director of Public Health, a representative of Health Watch and a representative from the local GP consortium. The aim was to make the Board as inclusive as possible.

Councillor Snowdon asked whether the new Board would run alongside the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. Mr. Revely confirmed that it would. The new Bill had the effect of strengthening the role of the Committee in that Scrutiny could go anywhere the NHS goes.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Revely for his report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Integrated Strategic and Operational Plan 2011-2015

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented the Sunderland TPCT Integrated Strategic and Operational Plan (ISOP) for 2011-2015.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Fiona MacDonald presented the report which set out the Sunderland TPCT four year vision for improvement supported by plans for meeting the national priorities set out in the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12 together with identified local priorities.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Fletcher, Julie Whitehouse advised that a meeting regarding the transition to GP consortia was to be held at the Washington Arts Centre on 18th July, 2011.

Councillor Francis referred to the aim of improving the health of the city and asked what was it that Sunderland people were not doing. Ms. Gibson replied that at its most basic there was a lack of physical activity, poor diet and high levels of smoking and alcohol consumption.

Councillors Snowdon and N. Wright pointed out that as the ISOP was a public document it should contain a glossary to explain the numerous acronyms used throughout.

Councillor N. Wright stated that whilst the health of the City was not good it was right to acknowledge that a great deal of positivity activity had taken place and as a result there was a greater awareness among residents of the benefits of healthy eating and exercise. A big part of the problem with regard to tackling poor health was the degree of deprivation in the City. In addition Councillor Wright highlighted her concern regarding the effect of the ongoing cuts in public sector finance on the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programmes (IAPTs). Russell Patton replied that every pound spent at the front end was money well spent. Prevention and early intervention to prevent the need for secondary care had to be the way forward. IAPTs would face increasing pressure both in terms of reduced resources and demands for their services as the impact of the cuts started to bite.

With regard to the levels of deprivation, Ms. Gibson confirmed that their impact on health was recognised. She advised that pilot programmes were ongoing in the West and Washington areas of the City in conjunction with the Area Committees to improve health outcomes for local residents, connect residents to public health services and embed health and lifestyle issues into the work of staff and volunteers in local communities. There was also a joint piece of work being undertaken

between the TPCT and the Council on the effects of the cuts on the delivery of services for children.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. MacDonald for her report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme and Policy Review

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) for Members to determine the Annual Work Programme for the Scrutiny Committee during 2011-12, including the main theme for a detailed policy review.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer, proceeded to brief Members on the report. She referred the Committee to paragraph 3.5 of the report, which provided details of the topics highlighted from the Scrutiny Conference as potential issues for the Committee to consider.

Ms. Brown briefed the Committee on each suggested policy review topic. Members were advised that Scrutiny should only take place in respect of those topics where the Committee felt value would be added.

Councillor N. Wright referred to the work programme and requested that her concerns were recorded regarding the move to a six weekly cycle of scrutiny committee meetings. She stated that she did not think it was a good decision for Scrutiny. The Chairman and Councillor Snowdon stated that they also held reservations about the decision. The Chairman however advised that if extra meetings were needed then they would be organised.

Members of the Committee proceeded to give consideration to the 5 policy review proposals detailed at paragraph 3.5 and following discussion, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that Hospital Discharge (in its widest sense including measures to allow independent living) be selected as the Scrutiny Committee's topic for in-depth policy review for 2011-12.

Safe and Sustainable Consultation: Children's Heart Services

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with details of the ongoing consultation about the reconfiguration of children's heart services in England.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer presented the report advising that the consultation centred on four options to reduce the number of hospitals providing children's heart

surgery from 11 to 6 or 7. Of the four options, A, B, C included the retention of the Freeman hospital, option D did not.

Members having highlighted the importance of retaining the Freeman Hospital, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that option A be agreed as the Committee's favoured option in response to the Safe and Sustainable consultation document.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st June to 30th September, 2011

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an opportunity to consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1st June to 30th September, 2011.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Snowdon, Karen Brown advised that the North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee review into the health of the ex service community had been entered into the Centre for Public Scrutiny Awards. The review had picked up the award for best joint working, together with the overall award for best review of the year. Councillor Snowdon and the Members of the Committee recorded their congratulation to Karen and all involved in delivering the review and in securing such prestigious awards.

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance.

(Signed) P. WALKER,
Chairman.