

At a meeting of the HEALTH AND WELL-BEING REVIEW COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER, 2006 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor R. Bainbridge in the Chair

Councillors Blyth, J. Heron, Leadbitter, Paul Maddison, M. Smith, W. Stephenson, S. Watson, A. Wilson and N. Wright.

Welcome and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited all those present to introduce themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Dixon and Richardson.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 11th October, 2006

In relation to page 1 of the minutes Ms. Jane Hedley, Legal Advisor informed the Committee that a report on the Easington Lane Branch Surgery closure was likely to be tabled at the December meeting.

With regard to Councillor Wright's query on Performance Reporting and Adult Education, the Committee were advised that this had been answered in the recently dispatched Members' Bulletin.

Regarding page 3 of the minutes and Councillor Wilson's query on timescales for care tasks, Mr. Graham King, Adult Services advised that activities were allocated in 30 minute slots and the duration was dependent on an individual's care plan. Therefore people with the same required task might have a different time allowance. Mr King also advised the Committee that the Council's resubmitted bid for extra care funding had been unsuccessful.

Referring to page 5 of the minutes, Ms. Hedley advised that dates for the Bunny Hill visit were being canvassed with the Centre for early December. A memo would be circulated to Members shortly.

Councillor Richardson had attended the North East Ambulance Service event and had provided feedback in the Members Bulletin.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 11th October, 2006 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

Item 4 - The Development of Primary Care Centres in Sunderland

Councillor Blyth declared a personal interest as his daughter was involved in establishing radiography departments in the new Centres.

Councillor M. Smith declared a personal interest in the report as a family member was employed by the Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT).

Councillor Watson declared a personal interest in the report as a family member was on the Board of the TPCT.

Item 6 - Reference from Cabinet : Comprehensive Performance Assessment – Value for Money Self Assessment

Councillor M. Smith declared a personal interest in the report as a family member was employed by the TPCT.

Councillor Watson declared a personal interest in the report as a family member was on the Board of the TPCT.

The Development of Primary Care Centres in Sunderland

The Chief Executive of Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust submitted a report (copy circulated) to appraise the Committee of progress made to date in the development of Primary Care Centres in Sunderland and in particular the third Primary Care Centre (PCC) at Washington.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman invited Mr. David Hall (TPCT) to give his presentation.

Mr. Hall addressed the Committee.

Mr. Hall gave a detailed update on the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the new PCC in Washington which had been considered and approved by the TPCT Board at its meeting on 27th September, 2006.

In July 2006 new guidance was published describing how the Government would realise its vision for the future of increasing the proportion of healthcare provided

locally in the community. £750 million capital would be made available over the next five years (£150 million per annum) for the development of community hospitals and services.

The funding model proposed supported the development of a stand alone PCC next to the leisure centre on Council land at the Galleries. The TPCT was working with its local partners in exploring options for the fourth Centre, including consideration of submitting a bid for capital investment from the Community Hospitals Programme.

Several Members of the Committee highlighted the difficulty that many people living in the Hetton and Houghton area would have in accessing the services provided at the PCC in Washington, due to the lack of public transport services available.

Councillor Heron stated that the Coalfields area had the lowest numbers of car ownership in Sunderland. People living in the Hetton and Houghton area had existing difficulty in getting to hospital appointments in Sunderland due to the limited public transport services, this would prove equally true of a facility in Washington.

Mr. Hall advised that the TPCT had undertaken a travel audit in the catchment area, and this had not revealed a lack of private car ownership in the Coalfields.

In response to a comment from Councillor Wright regarding transport issues, Mr. Hall recognised that it was important to keep any changes in public transport links in mind. He advised that people with mobility problems could book patient transport vehicles, although it was acknowledged that as this system was appointment based it would not be suitable for 'walk in' patients.

Councillor Stephenson commented that public transportation within the Washington area itself was very poor, outlying villages in Washington often required the use of two buses to reach the Galleries.

2. RESOLVED that the Committee support proposals set out in the Outline Business Case for Washington Primary Care Centre, note the ongoing work for the fourth PCC and the commitment of the TPCT to keep Members informed of delivery.

Corporate Wellness Pilot

The Director of Community and Cultural Services, the Director of Development and Regeneration and the Deputy Chief Executive submitted a joint report (copy circulated) to highlight positive outcomes from the recent Corporate Wellness Pilot, including lessons learned for developing Wellness and occupational health for employees both within the City Council and for businesses Citywide.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Dave Rippon, Employee Development Manager, Corporate Services and Hilary Phillips, Support Services Manager, Development and Regeneration addressed the Committee. The presentation highlighted the details of the Wellness pilot that focused on determining what interventions worked to increase physical activity and

awareness of health for an individual and their family. Thirty volunteers were involved from the Development and Regeneration Directorate.

Members commended the initiative and were pleased to see the positive impact the pilot had made on employees' health and well-being.

Members were advised that as part of the pending visit to the Bunny Hill Centre, Councillor participation in the Wellness scheme would be pursued.

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Reference from Cabinet – Comprehensive Performance Assessment – Value for Money Self Assessment

The City Treasurer and the City Solicitor submitted a joint report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an opportunity to comment on how the Council was seeking to provide value for money for local citizens.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Alan Catherall, Finance Manager and Graham King presented the report and highlighted relevant areas relating to the Health and Well-Being Review Committee.

Councillor Stephenson requested that a more concise document be produced that is specific to the Committee and which reflects spend versus value for money. Mr King advised that a sibling document to the Cabinet report showing data averages had been produced by Adult Services and he agreed to circulate it for Members information.

Councillor N. Wright commented that Learning Disabilities expenditure for adults was in the lower quartile and asked if financial plans were needed to increase spending. Mr. Graham King, Head of Performance and Development, Adult Services, advised that the Directorate was in the process of setting its budgets and accordingly would need to reflect this growing area within the limits of the resources available.

Councillor Leadbitter queried whether, in view of an increasingly ageing population, there would be a reflection of this in financial plans of the future. Value for Money was achieved by more sharing of facilities and costs. Mr. King informed the Committee that it was the intention of the Council to help people live in their own homes rather than residential care and give quality practical support to help them remain independent thereby reducing the need for more expensive care services. There may however, be short term 'bridging' injections of money.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted that a synopsis be prepared for Cabinet by the Policy and Co-ordination Review Committee.

Day Opportunities – Improving Outcomes for Vulnerable Adults

The Acting Director of Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) for information from 8th November, 2006 Cabinet.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Wright sought clarification as to whether it was acceptable to ask questions on a report for information. The Chairman responded that any item tabled on the agenda was open to discussion.

Councillor Wright queried whether assessments for adult care would continue to be carried out by social workers. Mr. King advised that the provision of social care services would always require a trained and skilled workforce and there were no plans to outsource fieldworkers. Assessments were not carried out for a particular service, an individual was assessed for a particular need.

In response to a query from Councillor Wright regarding the number of people using direct payments, Mr. King advised that there were over 500 service users with varying packages of care. Sunderland does have a significant uptake of direct payments compared to the national average and Mr. King agreed to ascertain what proportion of people were users of direct payments in the City.

Councillor Wright asked what level of services would be provided at the proposed new build Disability Day Care Centre at Nookside. Ms. Debbie Burnicle, Sunderland TPCT confirmed that intensive support would be provided at the Centre for people with more complex needs. Mr. Graham King agreed to find out about the proposed layout and whether it would comprise of one single unit.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

At this juncture, Jane Hedley, Legal Advisor notified Members of a seminar due to take place on Thursday, 30th November regarding the recent public consultation on the Public Health Information and Intelligence Strategy, Informing Healthier Choices – Better Informed, Better Health.

6. RESOLVED that Councillor W. Stephenson attend the seminar.

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

(Signed) R. BAINBRIDGE,
Chairman.