

**At a meeting of the HEALTH AND WELL-BEING REVIEW COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2006 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor R. Bainbridge in the Chair

Councillors Blyth, Dixon, Paul Maddison, Richardson, M. Smith, S. Watson and A. Wilson

**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 J. Heron, Leadbitter, W. Stephenson and N. Wright.

**Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2006**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**

Item 5 – Substantial Developments and Variations in NHS Services

Councillors Blyth and Smith declared personal interests as both had a family member 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 – Springwell Pharmacy

Councillors Blyth and Smith declared personal interests as both had a family member employed by the TPCT.

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

#### Item 7 – Consultation – Branch Surgery Closure Springwell Health Centre

Councillors Blyth and Smith declared personal interests as both had a family member employed by the TPCT.

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

#### **Item 4 – 2005/06 Policy Review Employment and Adults with a Physical Disability**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) that provided an opportunity to discuss with Michael Nicol, Employment and Training Manager, progress in delivering the Committee's recommendations following the 2005/06 review of employment and adults with a physical disability.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Nicol presented the report and highlighted from a worklessness pilot being led by Development and regeneration, links to the Health and Well-Being Review Committee recommendations:-

- A Business Case was approved for the pilot providing short term resource (i.e. June 2008) to test the delivery of services that aid economically inactive clients become active (people with physical disabilities were selected as a target group).
- A series of events had been organised focusing on a range of conditions and/or circumstances that affect labour market participation (a Physical Disabilities event is scheduled for February 2007).
- The focus of the event was to integrate:
  - service concepts from feasibility phase (Wellness and Stability; Work and Opportunity and Employer Engagement);
  - recommendations of Committee (Marketing; Continuity; Commissioning/Partnerships; Rehabilitation and Stigma).
- The need to validate resulting ideas with employers and develop activity for delivery early in the next financial year;
- All the ideas generated through the events would form part of the learning report to be submitted to the Northern Way, ONE NorthEast and other key funders of skills and employment activity.

1. RESOLVED that the Committee notes the first progress report following its review into employment and adults with a physical disability.

### **Substantial Developments and Variations in NHS Services**

The Chief Executives of City Hospitals, North East Ambulance Service and Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust submitted a report (copy circulated) to consider an updated list of possible 'substantial developments' and 'substantial variations' identified by local NHS Services.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Maureen Dale, Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust, took Members through the report item by item addressing any questions as necessary.

In relation to 04/02 – Primary Care Centre (PCC) development – Councillor Richardson highlighted the importance of including the Committee in any consultations on the fourth Primary Care Centre.

04/03 – Provision of Out of Hours Service – Given that the last update to the Committee was in November 2005, the Chairman requested that an update on the performance of the service be provided in the Members' bulletin.

04/04 – Suicide Prevention Strategy – Councillor Maddison queried why suicide rates were higher than the regional and national average. Ms. Dale agreed to find out this information and report back to the Committee.

04/11 – (CAMHS) – It was agreed that given progress this change could be deleted from the list.

04/12 – Minor Injuries/Minor Illness – Councillor Richardson suggested that this item could be merged with the Primary Care Centre reports in future once an update had been provided.

In relation to 04/16 – Access to Needle Exchange Services for Drug Users – the Chairman queried where the service was currently operating from given that no site had been found since 2005. Councillor Maddison was able to advise that the Development Control (South) Sub-Committee had agreed the change of use of premises for a Harm Minimisation Centre to Saville Place in the City Centre.

04/18 – Development of Integrated Continence Service – Councillor Richardson commented that the update stated there was 'too much emphasis on containment rather than cure' and questioned what was being done to address this. In response Ms. Dale explained that historically service provision had looked at continence products. There needed to be a greater emphasis on finding the underlying diagnosis and treating it. In certain cases, symptoms were managed where there could be a cure.

In relation to 04/20, Development of Community Mental Health Teams – the Chairman requested that an update be brought back to the Committee when further action and progress has been taken.

04/22 – Burn Care – Mr. Paul Staines, Review Co-ordinator advised that Newcastle City Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee were taking the regional lead on burn care and colleagues in Newcastle would keep the Committee informed of progress.

04/23 – Dental Contract Framework – the Chairman commented on the facilities at Monkwearmouth Health Centre and queried whether a programme was in place for the upgrades due to take place during 2007/8. Ms. Dale confirmed this to be the case. The Chairman also commented that Sunderland was well served with NHS dentistry provision.

05/02 – Expansion of Intermediate Care Drug Treatment Services – In response to a query from the Chairman as to whether work was on track for the tendering process to take place during 06/07, Ms Dale confirmed that it was.

05/06 – Orthodontic Provision – Councillor M. Smith commented on the Committee's continued concern regarding the gross shortage of orthodontic specialists in Sunderland and County Durham resulting in a waiting list of two years. Councillor Smith was aware that a new Steering Group had been established to look at service commissioning and requested that an update from the Chief Executive of City Hospitals be presented to the Committee as soon as possible. The Review Co-ordinator suggested that Members of the Durham Scrutiny Committee be invited to the relevant meeting to hear the report.

06/06 – Access to Drug/Alcohol Services – in response to a question by the Chairman Ms. Dale advised that an approved preferred provider was still to be agreed.

06/08 – Providers of Prescribing Services for Problematic Substance Users – Members agreed that because substance misuse was the focus of a number of references, the following items should be combined into one – 04/16, 04/17, 05/02, 06/06. 06/08.

In relation to 06/09 – Answers Health Information Service – the Chairman raised concerns that there would no longer be a facility for older people to use. Ms. Dale confirmed that work was currently being undertaken with existing clients with the hope of establishing a facility elsewhere in the City Centre. Councillor Richardson queried what consultation was undertaken with users and what their views were. Ms. Dale advised that there had been no consultation to date however one would be carried out with service users in the near future. Members requested that an update on the provision of services for older people should be provided via the Members' update bulletin.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be received and noted;
- (ii) the report be amended accordingly; and
- (iii) NHS Trusts provide reports and update to the Committee where requested.

### **Springwell Pharmacy**

The Divisional Director of Estates, City Hospitals submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek comments from the Committee, as the local health OSC, on proposals for Springwell Community Pharmacy.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. George Hood, Divisional Director of Estates and Facilities, City Hospitals Sunderland, presented the report and provided Members with the background to the proposed sale of the pharmacy and the proposals for its future.

In response to a question from Councillor Smith, Mr. Hood confirmed that the pharmacy would remain open until another buyer was found.

Councillor Richardson queried what modelling had taken place on alternate pharmacies for local people, particularly residents with mobility problems. Mr. Hood advised that other facilities were being looked at, specifically Springwell Health Centre which met Disability Discrimination Act legislation.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Hood for his report.

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and the Committee notes why City Hospitals was required to now look at selling on Springwell Pharmacy

### **Consultation – Branch Surgery Closure, Springwell Health Centre**

Tyne and Wear Contractors Services Agency submitted a report (copy circulated) to consider as the Council's Health OSC, whether the Committee wishes to comment on an application to the Tyne and Wear Contractor Services Agency (TWCSA) to close a branch surgery at Springwell Medical Centre.

Mr. David Britton and Dr. Bhate presented the report. Dr. Bhate indicated that possible closure had been brought to the attention of the Trust by the TPCT as the branch surgery did not meet access requirements.

Members felt that further clarity was needed regarding protocols for consultation which would help to develop and sustain effective procedures resulting in enhanced relationships between all partners in the health sector.

The Committee agreed that a standard set of processes should be developed which could, for example, make a positive impact on the way in which G.P.'s consult. Effective participation and consultation was an essential part of ensuring understanding between sectors and making sure that relevant partners fulfil their strategic role. Any established Code of Good Practice would therefore be shared with colleagues in the Contractor Services Agency area.

Councillor Mary Smith expressed concern that this applicant had not submitted any information on public transport which was a key issue in whether patients could access the main surgery

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be received and noted, with no comments made on the application; and
- (ii) a standard consultation protocol be developed by Sunderland Health and Well-Being Review Committee with the Tyne and Wear Contractor Services Agency area, as the basis of one that could be shared with other local Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

### **Branch Surgery Closure – High Street, Easington Lane**

The Acting Director of Primary Care and Clinical Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) to consider further information requested by Members on an application to close a branch surgery at Easington Lane.

Liz Allan and Carole Turnbull, County Durham PCT, updated the Committee on the additional activity the PCT had undertaken at the request of the Committee. This related to public transport and consultation.

Members were reminded that as a result of the Committee's request for more consultation with patients, over thirty further letters had been received. Moreover, at the request of the Committee the PCT were engaging with NEXUS regarding extending bus services into County Durham.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and the Committee make no further representations on this branch closure.

### **Audit Summary Report : Better Scrutiny**

The City Solicitor submitted a report to provide the Committee with information and a draft Action Plan following a workshop facilitated by the Audit Commission for Members involved in Review Committees.

In relation to Action 1, the Chairman emphasised the positive use of its additional statutory powers the Health and Well-being Review Committee had taken on within its health scrutiny role. The Committee had demonstrated a commitment to addressing public involvement and the development of active communities.

6. RESOLVED that Members endorse and adopt the action plan.

### **Commission for Social Care Inspection – Annual Performance Assessment of Performance**

The Director of Social Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to receive, for information a copy of a report to 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2006 Cabinet.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Graham King, Adult Services, advised the Committee that Adult Services had retained its three star status for 2006/7, a rating it has maintained since the star rating system began several years ago. Mr. King agreed to bring Mr. John Fisher, Head of Adult Care Services to the next Review meeting to give a more detailed appraisal of the CSCI findings and areas of strengths and areas for improvement.

The Chairman congratulated staff on their excellent achievement and Mr. King agreed to pass this message on to colleagues.

7. RESOLVED that the Committee welcomed the pleasing outcomes reported by the Commission for Social Care Inspection.

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

(Signed) R. BAINBRIDGE,  
(Chairman).