

**At a meeting of the HEALTH AND WELL-BEING REVIEW COMMITTEE
held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 14th JUNE, 2006 at 5.30 p.m.**

Present:-

Councillor R. Bainbridge in the Chair

Councillors Blyth, J. Heron, Leadbitter, Paul Maddison, Richardson, M. Smith, W. Stephenson, P. Watson, S. Watson, 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 Councillor Dixon, Ms. Carol Harries (City Hospitals) and Darren Lough, Principal Accountant.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 12th April, 2006

In relation to page 3 of the minutes, Mr. Paul Staines, Review Co-ordinator advised the Committee that the Council had retained the 'Double Tick' disability symbol. The symbol is awarded by JobCentre Plus to recognise employers who have agreed to meet five commitments regarding the recruitment, employment, retention and career development of disabled people.

In relation to page 5 of the minutes, Mr. Paul Staines also advised Members that the Community and Cultural Services Directorate had indicated the insurance implications for Council owned sun beds were neutral.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 12th April, 2006 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (Including Whipping Declarations)

Item 5 - The Development of Primary care Centres in Sunderland.

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.

Councillor Blyth declared a personal interest as a family member was employed by the Sunderland TPCT.

Item 6 - Substantial Developments and Variations in NHS Services

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.

Councillor Blyth declared a personal interest as a family member was employed by the Sunderland TPCT.

Item 7 - Policy Development and Review 2006/07 : Topics for Consideration

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.

Councillor Blyth declared a personal interest as a family member was employed by the Sunderland TPCT.

Variation in the Order of Business

At this juncture the Chairman proposed that prior to Item 4 on the agenda, the Committee hear from Mrs. Kathleen Sheriff, member of the public, regarding the reported decision of Sunderland Royal Hospital to withdraw the use of Procaine, a drug used to ease the pain of such conditions as arthritis, fibromyalgia, osteoporosis and other joint and muscle conditions.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Sheriff, a Procaine user, to the Committee and invited her to speak on the issue.

Mrs. Sheriff informed the Committee that she had received considerable benefits since being prescribed Procaine, with very few side effects. She informed the Committee that Procaine had produced positive results that other types of “more predictable” drugs had not achieved. Since commencing treatment, her pain management had greatly improved.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Sheriff for her presentation and agreed to pass her comments on to City Hospitals together with a response from the Health and Well-Being Committee.

2. RESOLVED that a further report on this issue be brought back to the Health and Well-Being Review Committee on 12th July, 2006.

The Health of Sunderland – Work Programme Scene Setting 2006/2007

The Director of Public Health submitted a report (copy circulated) to highlight key issues about the health of the local population to assist Members in the development of the work programme for 2006/07.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman invited Dr. Judy Thomas, Sunderland's Director of Public Health to give her presentation.

Dr. Thomas addressed the Committee. Dr. Thomas discussed the Health profile for Sunderland for 2006. She informed the Committee that local authority health profiles are designed to show the health of people in each local authority area and include comparisons with other similar populations. Alongside other local information these profiles demonstrate where action can be taken to improve people's health and reduce health inequalities.

As a Spearhead local authority the following key points were highlighted for Sunderland:

- **Our Communities** – fewer 15 year olds than the England average achieve at least five good GCSE passes.
- **Young People** – the teenage pregnancy rate is significantly higher than for England.
- **The Way We Live** – significantly higher percentages of adults smoke, binge drink and are obese than the England average; the percentage of people eating '5-a-day' is significantly lower than the England average.

- **How Long We Live** – death rates from heart disease, stroke and from cancer are significantly higher than England rates. In all cases, death rates are falling and the gap is narrowing.
- **Ill Health** – adults are more likely to suffer medical problems when out of work.

In response to a question from Councillor Maddison who queried the correlation between G.C.S.E. achievement and health, Dr. Thomas explained that there appeared to be a significant relationship between self-esteem and academic achievement. Groups who are more likely to suffer from health problems (including risk taking behaviour) tend to be low aspirers.

Councillor Heron queried why the percentage of people on general practice diabetes registers in the area is significantly higher than the England average. Dr. Thomas explained that the indicators used were from G.P. practice data and this may well indicate that G.P's in Sunderland were very successful in recognising and diagnosing this illness.

The Chairman reminded Members that the prevalence of diabetes in Sunderland was a topic for consideration for the Committee in 2006/07.

In response to a question from Councillor Stephenson regarding unemployment and health inequality, Dr. Thomas advised that employment plays a fundamental role in society, it is significant in providing purpose, income, social support, structure and a means of participating in life. People who are denied this experience have a higher risk of presenting with mental health problems.

Councillor Stephenson was keen to determine how such people would link into the new care workers' system. Dr. Thomas explained that the model for delivering services for these people was based on a pyramid structure with the expert medical professional at the top providing supervision and training. Tier two would involve practice nurses, or practitioners who have undertaken training in the relevant field. At the bottom of the pyramid would be those health care professionals or volunteers with general knowledge and skills to produce and disseminate guidance. This would ensure a co-ordinated approach to referral pathways, allowing people to be signposted to the correct place. Consistency and access were considered paramount.

Councillor Stephenson welcomed the news that Sunderland's health inequality gap was narrowing in areas such as deaths from heart disease. However Councillor Stephenson asked how Sunderland compared to similar socio-economic groups. In response, Dr. Thomas informed Members that the purpose of the spearhead initiative was to identify areas and groups with more severe health problems. The Department of Health used to group variations in health status in socio economic terms with other similar areas. Community health profiles now tend to be compared to the average for England as a whole.

In response to a question from Councillor Wright regarding the statement that men's health appeared to be particularly effected by worklessness, Dr. Thomas confirmed that men are more likely than women to experience long term unemployment which may result in them having more severe health problems as a result. The Director of Public Health confirmed that her colleague Maria Taubman was involved with research around the issue of unemployment and health problems within the male population, Dr. Thomas would ascertain whether Ms. Taubman had any available information to share with the Committee.

In conclusion it was acknowledged that partnership working and local community involvement was very important in tackling health inequalities if interventions are to have a long-term and sustainable impact. The causes, risk factors and differences in health status are inherently complex, in areas such as employment and disability, Sunderland would need to establish a mainstream co-ordinated response to problem issues.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be received and noted;
- (ii) Any available information from Maria Taubman regarding ill health and unemployment be disseminated to the Committee for information.

The Development of Primary Care Centres in Sunderland

The Chief Executive Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust submitted a report (copy circulated) for comment from the Health Scrutiny Committee on a 'Strategic Outline Case' for a third Primary Care Centre (PCC) at Washington.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman invited Mr. David Hall, Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust, to give his presentation.

Mr. Hall addressed the Committee. Mr. Hall informed the Committee of the proposals for Washington. These suggest the inclusion of locality based services - such as GPs, minor injuries unit, outreach outpatient services and diagnostics and intermediate level services to provide a hybrid model of care based on local need. A list of planned services would take into account local priorities identified by City Hospital and recommendations from the White Paper '*Our Health, Our Care, Our Say*' on six specialities leading the way in developments of models of care to be provided in a primary care setting. It was noted that some of the identified specialities are already being delivered from PCCs in Sunderland, i.e. Dermatology.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed location of the PCC in Washington. While acknowledging that Washington and Coalfield were a long way from City Hospitals and this type of Centre would immensely benefit the

area, concerns were expressed regarding the ease of access for patients using public transport from other 'catchment' areas in the west of the City, notably coalfields.

In response to a query from Councillor Heron regarding a preferred site, Mr. Hall informed the Committee that at this stage the favoured option was for a new build near to The Galleries. The development of the existing health centre site was proving problematic.

In response to a question from Councillor Heron regarding the problems of an effective public transport network after 6.00 p.m. into the area, Mr. Hall advised that the TPCT were looking into non-urgent ambulance facilities for the area. Mr. Hall was acutely aware that the west was a very large geographical area to service and it was, therefore, vital that local public transport links be investigated.

Other Members also expressed concerns regarding the accessibility of the site at Washington.

In response to a comment from Councillor Wright, Mr. Hall confirmed that the TPCT were keen to get value for money. The PCC would differ from the existing health Centre in Washington in that it would provide walk-in, extended hours minor accident and emergency services for people with minor injuries and ailments, alongside planned chronic disease management services for people with diabetes, heart disease and similar long term conditions. To effectively deliver these services a PCC needs a critical mass of population such as Washington.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Hall for his presentation.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be received and noted;
- (ii) proposals and Members' comments will be shared with the Coalfields and Washington Area Committees.

Substantial Developments and Variations in NHS Services

The Chief Executives of Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust, City Hospitals Foundation, Northumberland, Tyne and wear Trust and North East Ambulance Services issued a joint report (copy circulated) to consider a response to a list of possible 'substantial developments' and 'substantial variations' in local NHS services.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Maureen Dale, Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust, took the Committee through each possible change in turn.

In relation to 04/02 and 04/03 - *Primary Care Centre (PCC) development*, the Committee had been updated on this issue at item 5 of the agenda by Mr. David Hall.

04/04 *"Suicide Prevention Strategy"* – currently being implemented. Specialists will be in place July 2006.

04/11 *"CAMHS"* – Community CAMHS Service established and implemented as of November 2005.

04/12 *"Minor Injuries/Minor Illness"* – In the process of being wound down, services to relocate to Bunny Hill in June 2006.

04/13 inc. 04/14 and 04/15 *"Development of local intensive care Support Service for people with learning disabilities who are currently residing both within and out of the City"* – 'future proofing' is now underway.

04/16 *"Access to Needle Exchange Services for Drug Users"* – a new service has been commissioned to provide, co-ordinate and expand provision. Members were advised that city centre accommodation is being sought in Norfolk Street. It was not deemed necessary to provide this service in an out of hours capacity.

04/17 *"Enable stable drug users to access their own G.P for maintenance prescribing"* – progressing with improved access for all.

04/18 – *"development of Integrated Continence Service"* – Members were advised that the initial contract for current home delivery had been extended to ensure as little disruption as possible to services.

04/19 *"Development of Intermediate Care Services in People's own homes"* – The Committee was informed that even if the bid is not successful it was hoped that the Independent Living Team would still progress the pilot.

04/20 *"Development of Community Mental Health Team"* – Service Plan currently being developed.

04/21 *"Neuro Rehab service improvements"* - Review of Provision of Services is underway.

04/22 *"Burn Care"* – This is being taken forward on a consortium basis led by Newcastle OSC. Ms. Jane Hedley, Senior Solicitor, sought clarification on whether the Centre for Children should read as being situated in Manchester not Middlesbrough. Ms. Dale agreed to confirm this.

04/25 *"Choose and Book"* – Sunderland Health Community was progressing well. Ms. Dale confirmed that it is being rolled out across the City and is being monitored locally and nationally. At the current time there are no financial implications in people requesting appointments in other areas. Members

were also informed that a review would be taking place on the support available to patients who may want to discuss options with a member of staff before making a decision. The Patient Advice and Liaison Service were being monitored to determine how many calls relate to this query.

05/05 *"Orthodontic Provision"* – under review.

06/01 *"Practice Based Commissioning"* – GPs will have the option to work alone.

06/04 *"ME/CFS Service development"* – Ms. Dale agreed to forward the Committee dates of a future seminar when known.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report be received and noted.
- (ii) Ms. Maureen Dale to confirm the location for the Centre for Children.
- (iii) Ms. Maureen Dale to confirm the dates of a future seminar on ME/CFS.

Policy Development and Review 2006/07: Topics for Consideration

The City Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) to consider a possible study topic for Policy Development and Review to be incorporated into the Committee's overall work programme.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Paul Staines, Review Co-ordinator set out three topic areas:

Topic 1 : Food Deserts

It is possible in all City Neighbourhoods to buy healthy and affordable fruit and vegetables?

Topic 2 : Diabetes

What is the prevalence locally and how can people be supported better in terms of self care?

Topic 3 : Health at Work

How is occupational health provided across the City and is there consistent standards of access.

Members having discussed the proposals, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Topic 2 Diabetes, be the topic of the Committee's main policy development and review for 2006/07;
- (ii) Topic 1, be pursued by Officers and brought back to the Committee for consideration;
- (iii) Topic 3 "Health at Work", to be considered by the Review Committee if time allows within the Work Programme.

Annual Work Programme 2006/07

The City Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) to determine a work programme for 2006/07.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Paul Staines, Review Co-ordinator, advised Members that, if necessary, the Work Programme would be amended to reflect the Committee's chosen policy topic and other reports requested by Members.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the work programme for 2006/07 be approved and submitted to the Policy and Co-ordination Review Committee;
- (ii) Councillor Leadbitter (and one other volunteer) share responsibility for feeding back on issues discussed at local NHS Board meetings;
- (iii) the City Solicitor be authorised in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee to organise a programme to organise a programme of visits in the City to health/social care/voluntary sector facilities to assist in the effective delivery of the 2006/07 work programme;
- (iv) two Members of the Committee contact the Review Co-ordinator to meet with officers to develop a new approach to performance monitoring reports (if no volunteers were forthcoming, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would meet to determine the format);
- (v) the Committee agree that Councillor W. Stephenson attend the National Ambulance Service Conference on 30th June, 2006; and
- (vi) the work programme be revised to include a report on the withdrawal of Procaine at Sunderland Royal Hospital.

Overview and Scrutiny in Sunderland – Draft Handbook 2006/07

The City Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek Member endorsement of a revised Scrutiny Handbook.

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Committee support the 2006/07 Handbook;
- (ii) the Committee support the use of all six Review Committees' budgets – in equal portion – to publish the Handbook for circulation.

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

(Signed) R. Bainbridge,
Chairman.