

**At a meeting of the HEALTH AND WELL-BEING REVIEW COMMITTEE
held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 12th July, 2006 at 5.30 p.m.**

Present:-

Councillor R. Bainbridge in the Chair

Councillors Dixon, J. Heron, Leadbitter, Paul Maddison, Richardson,
M. Smith, W. Stephenson, S. Watson and Wilson.

Also Present:-

Councillors Blackburn and Tate (Observing)

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 Blyth, N. Wright, Mr. M. Clarke (Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust) and Ms C. Harries (City Hospitals Foundation NHS Trust).

Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th June, 2006

In relation to page 5 of the minutes Mr. Paul Staines, Review Co-ordinator, advised the Committee that he had contacted the STPCT, chasing the information on male ill health and unemployment and was awaiting a response.

In response to a query from page 7 of the minutes (04/22 Burn Care), Mr. Staines advised that Newcastle City's Health Scrutiny Committee was keeping the region informed of progress on the national review of "Burn Care". Mr. Staines assured the Committee that he would keep them up to date using the Members' information bulletin he produced.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 14th June, 2006 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Variation in Order of Business

At this juncture the Chairman proposed that the Committee hear Item 4 – Procaine Treatment as Item 6, to allow members of the public who had expressed an interest in the item, to attend the meeting.

Declarations of Interest (Including Whipping Declarations)

Item 4 - Adult Services Commissioning Strategy (Vulnerable Adults)
2006/07 – 2007/08 in Collaboration with Sunderland TPCT

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

Item 5 - Policy Development and Review – Diabetes – Scope and Background Information

Councillors M. Smith, Watson and Richardson declared personal interests in the report as having family members involved with Sunderland TPCT.

Item 6 - Procaine Treatment

Councillor M. Smith declared a personal interest in the item as a family member was employed by City Hospitals.

Adult Services Commissioning Strategy (Vulnerable Adults) 2006/7 – 2007/8 in Collaboration with Sunderland TPCT

The Deputy Chief Executive (Adult Services) submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented Members with the first Adult Services Commissioning Strategy (Vulnerable Adults) 2006/07 – 2007/08 produced in collaboration with Sunderland PCT.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Debbie Burnicle, Head of Partnership Development, advised the Committee of the purpose of the Strategy and how areas for future development had been brought out during the consultation and feedback process; including from providers and users.

Ms. Burnicle informed Members that this was very much a ‘working’ document which would change and adapt as new developments arose. She advised the Committee that the Strategy would be submitted to Cabinet as an appendix to the White Paper report they were expected to receive.

Councillor Richardson asked why the commissioning strategy was not joint with the TPCT as some other Councils had moved to the next stage and had joint services. He was advised that this was down to this area being at different levels within the differing groups. Ms. Burnicle informed the Committee that where areas of overlap had been identified joint services had been established and had performed well, e.g. Mental Health Integrated Services and Care of Older People, but with Adult Services Advanced Care there were areas of overlap and further work needed to be undertaken to ensure processes worked in-line together before providing a joint service.

In response to a query from Councillor Heron regarding commissioning intentions and key milestones, Ms. Burnicle advised that intentions were set out at the beginning of the strategy and had detailed links to further documents and plans, such as the Business Plan, which contained indicators of achievement, workforce and resources information.

Councillor M. Smith sought details of what the service was expected to look like in 10 years time and was informed that the focus would be on acute need, signposting to mainstream community based services for all to access, and offering specific help on issues in sectors where it had been identified there was a need.

Councillor Watson raised concerns over communities and facilities being ready and prepared to service residents' needs in the future in a commissioning focussed environment. Ms. Burnicle informed Members that a lot of services were currently being provided which were not seen as a social service function and that issues also included accessing the services and helping them to grow and develop to allow more people use of them.

A discussion ensued regarding the Direct Payments scheme where Ms. Burnicle clarified issues that Members had regarding the employment of Personal Assistant's and future developments of the scheme. She advised that some areas were forming co-operatives to help control the services needed by a number of clients and that changes would be identified with the key worker when the individual was reassessed. Ms. Burnicle informed Members that each individual would have a regular 6-12 week review, where any changes to provision of Direct Payments would be recognised and implemented. Clarification would be sought and information provided. 'Individualise Budget' pilots were also taking place – the nearest being in Gateshead.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Burnicle for the in depth report and informed the Committee that any further questions could be directed through the Review Co-ordinator for a response.

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Policy Development and Review – Diabetes – Scope and Background Information

The City Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) asking Members to determine a detailed terms of reference for the review. Background information on Diabetes in relation to National Policy, incidences in the City and the changing arrangements for health management of the problem was also set out.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

To assist the review Mr. Staines, asked Members to consider three areas. These were:-

- the setting up of a focus group which could be either staff or community focussed;
- the agreement of a date in January to hold an evidence gathering event from witnesses; and
- how to best engage Members of the public, making them aware of the review and seeking their involvement.

Members discussed the dates for the witness day in January 2007, which had been previously circulated by Mr. Staines and felt that the 26th January, 2007 would be the date which allowed most Members to attend.

The Chairman informed Members of a news item regarding a 21 year old, with diabetes, from Sunderland who had completed the 2005 Triathlon World Championships in Honolulu, Hawaii. He advised that the Review Co-ordinator was going to contact the gentleman and invite him to give his perspective as part of the review.

Councillor Heron stated that Type 2 Diabetes was a major problem and on the increase and therefore a relevant review topic. Mr. Staines advised that intervention and raising awareness through the Council and its Partners to promote the message of Healthy Living would help in having a greater impact.

Members queried if there was any evidence of Diabetes being hereditary, and although there was a general consensus that Type 2 was more likely to be linked to an unhealthy lifestyle, Mr. Staines advised he would investigate this and the other aspects raised during discussion, which would help to set some questions for the witnesses attending in January.

Having given full consideration to the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the baseline information be received and noted;

- (ii) that the 26th January, 2007 be agreed as the date for part 1 of the Expert Jury (evidence gathering day); and
- (iii) that the information on the national Expert Patient Programme, included in the work programme, be delivered as part of the review rather than a separate report.

Procaine Treatment

The Director of Corporate Affairs, City Hospitals Sunderland, submitted a report (copy circulated) which gave Members details of current Procaine Treatment offered by a consultant at City Hospitals Sunderland (CHS) and its future plans.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Brent Kilmurray, Director of Strategy and Service Development, presented the report to the Committee informing them that the treatment was likely to continue being prescribed after Dr. Terry Daymond, Consultant Rheumatologist at CHS, retired in February 2007.

He advised that Dr Daymond's position would be filled but that it would be unlikely the new consultant would offer the treatment, as it had been one of Dr. Daymond's specialist interests. He assured the Committee treatment was not being withdrawn due to finances, as the provision was fully funded and these funds would cease in line with the treatment ending. Decisions were made by clinicians as to care to be prescribed.

Mr. Kilmurray informed Members that each patient was being reviewed to ensure that they continued to receive quality care during the transitional period. Alternatives were being offered including: referral to another Consultant, the Chronic Pain Clinic or back to the GP for an assessment of physiotherapy/occupational health treatments.

Members raised concerns over the treatment being stopped if there were 207 patients currently choosing procaine and how they would be cared for in the lead up to and after the provision stopping. Mr. Kilmurray advised that Consultant decision were heavily based on clinical and scientific evidence and that over the last 20 years a number of more beneficial treatments had been developed, meaning the phasing out of Procaine.

Councillor Maddison asked if the City Hospitals were aware of any other physicians due to retire, which would result in a specialist treatment being changed in the future and was informed that most interests were shared by two or more doctors now which should stop the similar public concerns occurring again.

The Chair advised that given patient and carer interests involved, this issue would best be reviewed and monitored by the City Hospital's PPI Forum with

any information fed back to Members of the Committee. Mr. Staines informed the Committee that any update or further intentions with regard to the treatment would be included in the information bulletin Members received.

Following discussion of the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be received and noted;
- (ii) that CHS PPI Forum be invited to consider this issue; and
- (iii) the Review Co-ordinator provide Members with future updates as part of their news bulletin.

Conference Feedback Report – AMBEX 2006

The City Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated), which provided the Committee with feedback from Councillor Stephenson (copy circulated) who had attended the annual conference of the Ambulance Services Association, AMBEX 2006, on behalf of the Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Stephenson updated Members on the content of the conference. He had chosen as his main focus, three main areas:-

- Technology and Healthcare – the ambulance radio replacement programme;
- National Stoke Strategy; and
- the Ministerial Address.

The Councillor informed Members it had been a very interesting conference, although some parts had been quite technical and would require specific knowledge of the subject but overall he felt it would be of value to send a Member to future conferences.

Having discussed the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) R. BAINBRIDGE,
(Chairman).