

At a meeting of the HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 21ST APRIL, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Walker in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Leadbitter, Shattock, M. Smith and Snowdon.

Also in Attendance:-

Nonnie Crawford	- Director of Public Health
Carol Harries	- City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
Claire Harrison	- Sunderland City Council
Nigel Cummings	- Sunderland City Council
Sharon Lowes	- Sunderland City Council
Steve Wilkinson	- Local Involvement Network
Liz Allen	- Sunderland TPCT
Julie Whitehouse	

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors A. Hall, Paul Maddison and Old.

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 22nd February, 2010 and of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 10th March, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 22nd February and 10th March, 2010 be confirmed and signed as correct records subject to the following amendments in respect of the meeting held on 22nd February:-

- i) Page 1, Attendance – 'Yvonne Crawford' be amended to read 'Nonnie Crawford'.
- ii) Page 1, Attendance – Ann Dingwall's job title be amended to read 'Assistant Commissioning Manager'.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Response from the Secretary of State regarding Church View Medical Practice

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on the response received from the Secretary of State for Health and the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) with regard to issues raised by the Committee in respect of the Church View Medical Practice Care Pilot and the rules surrounding exemptions for such pilot schemes.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Martin Barry, Senior Solicitor, was present to provide Members with an explanation of the responses and address any questions.

Councillor Shattock welcomed the report and thanked Mr. Barry for his efforts in seeking to clarify the issues. She referred to item 5 on the final page of Dr. Barrett's letter and welcomed the opportunity that the revision would give to provide clear definitions of 'substantial change' and 'pilot schemes'. She welcomed the acknowledgement of 'the benefits of the early involvement of local people in developing proposals'. She believed the Committee was now 'at a better place' but stated that it would not have become aware of the issue had Dr. Ford not written to the Chairman. It was therefore important that the Committee were notified in advance of proposals so it could keep a pace of developments.

Ms. Allen reassured the Committee that she met with Mr. Cummings on a quarterly basis to provide a heads up on future developments and spoke to him weekly. She advised that the issue had been a genuine misunderstanding and the Primary Care Trust had honestly believed that the proposals were subject to the pilot scheme exemptions.

In response to a further enquiry from Councillor Shattock, Ms. Harries confirmed that she would speak to her colleagues from the Primary Care Trust to ensure that updates on the pilot were submitted to the Committee.

In conclusion the Chairman stated that the issue had been a learning curve for all. There had been a grey area regarding interpretation and a genuine misunderstanding. No-one was casting any blame.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Barry for his attendance, it was :-

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Sunderland Local Involvement Network

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which introduced Steve Wilkinson of the Local Involvement Network (LINK) who was attending to provide Members with a Powerpoint presentation detailing the activities undertaken by LINK and how they complimented the work of the Council and the Scrutiny function.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Wilkinson informed Members of the LINK's vision, intentions, aims and expectations, its model of operation and activities to date.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Fletcher, Sharon Lowes, Strategic Commissioning Manager, advised that there was an overall standardised system with regard to the monitoring of Home Care Services which she could circulate to Members. Work was ongoing with Mr. Wilkinson to develop quality standards for home care and how they were monitored. The intention had been to go out to contract with 10 providers in August, however, this had been put on hold until the quality standards were in place. The new contracts would be based on geographical areas (to prevent carers rushing between jobs), would be quality driven, outcome driven and locality driven.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Shattock, Ms. Lowes advised that funding was ring fenced from the Department of Health for the host organisation to develop and co-ordinate LINK activities. There had been a restricted tendering process through which Age Concern had won the host contract. Within the contract the role of Age Concern was to facilitate and support what the LINK members wanted for Sunderland.

Councillor Shattock asked if LINK had the teeth to make changes. Mr. Wilkinson advised that Members could make recommendations for change and the Health Commissioner would have 20 days in which to respond.

With regard to missed appointments, Mr. Wilkinson advised that this had been looked at. In some areas the attrition rate was 0%, in others it was as high as 35%. A lot hinged upon the social make up of the area and the behaviour of the practice concerned. A common aspect of the zero rated areas was that practices called patients with a reminder.

In response to an enquiry from the Chairman, Mr. Wilkinson advised that LINK had 14 active members and a small management group.

The Chairman, having thanked Mr. Wilkinson for his presentation and the work undertaken by LINK in helping to reduce health inequalities, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the presentation be received and noted.

Performance Report Quarter 3 (April - December 2009)

The Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with a performance update, including:-

- progress in relation to the LAA targets and other national indicators;
- progress in relation to the Home Care Provision and Dementia Care Policy Review Recommendations;
- results of the annual budget consultation which took place during October/ November 2009.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman having welcomed the clarity and user friendly nature of the Policy Review Recommendations Progress Report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Laws Governing Powered Mobility Scooters and Powered Wheelchairs

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the opportunity to contribute to the consultation taking place in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Members having collectively completed the consultation response form, Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, advised that he would draft up the response and circulate it to Members for their final approval prior to submission to the Department for Transport by the closing date of 28th May, 2010.

5. RESOLVED that the completed consultation response form be circulated to Members for approval prior to submission to the Department for Transport by the closing date of 28th May, 2010.

Annual Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Annual Report for approval as part of the overall Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10 for submission to Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that approval be given to the Annual Report for inclusion in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10.

Policy and Development Review 2009/10: Draft Final Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the final draft report from the evidence gathered in relation to the Committee's Policy Review on Health Inequalities.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report which detailed the evidence, research and conclusions drawn throughout the review process and recommendations arising from the evidence gathering.

Councillor Snowdon thanked Mr. Cummings, Ms. Crawford, Mr. Wilkinson and Ms. Lowes for their hard work in delivering the Review. Councillor Shattock added her thanks to all concerned. She believed the conclusions and recommendations to be excellent and a reflection of the hard work undertaken. She felt that the recommendations would set the bar high. In particular, she welcomed the links with the Area Committees and the development of a health inequalities toolkit for Sunderland.

Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, advised that the Policy Review Recommendations would be reported to Cabinet in June and an Action Plan formulated. He offered special thanks to Nicola Morrow and Nonnie Crawford who had acted as a great critical friend.

7. RESOLVED that the draft final report of the Committee's Policy Development and Review into Health Inequalities be approved for presentation to Cabinet at its June 2010 meeting.

Work Programme 200/10

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to consider the current Work Programme for 2009/10 Council Year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Claire Harrison, Acting Scrutiny Officer, presented the report and advised that the items in respect of the City Hospitals Clinical Governance Report and MR Reprovision would be carried forward onto the Work Programme of the new municipal year.

8. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st May – 31st August 2010

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period

1st May – 31st August which related to the Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Claire Harrison, Acting Scrutiny Officer, presented the report. In response to an enquiry from Councillor Snowdon, Nigel Cummings advised that the Foodlaw report would be submitted to June's meeting.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Shattock, Ms. Lowes advised that she would provide her with the Cabinet reports relating to the last six items detailed on the Forward Plan.

9. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their support and contributions to the work of the Committee over the previous twelve months.

(Signed) P. WALKER,
Chairman.