

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee**
held on Thursday, 1st July, 2010 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor B Silvester (Chairman)
Councillor C Beard (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors C Andrew, D Bebbington, S Bentley, S Furlong, S Jones,
W Livesley, A Martin, A Moran, A Thwaite, C Tomlinson and C Thorley

Substitute

Councillor C Thorley

In Attendance

Councillors B Dykes and R Domleo

Officers

J Weeks – Strategic Director, People

40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Due to Council business apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Baxendale and D Flude

41 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS/PARTY WHIP

None

42 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

43 THE CHESHIRE AND WIRRAL COUNCILS JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2010 be received

44 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

S Dykes, A Kantwell, G Clough and A Cartwright attended the meeting to speak in respect of Age Concerns proposals relating to the future of the day care centres. H Hamilton from the Wishing Well project also attended the meeting to highlight the possibility that some of the day centres could, in the future, be run by Wishing Well.

45 AGE CONCERN CHESHIRE - PROPOSED CLOSURES OF DAY CARE NETWORK

Ken Clemens from Age Concern, Cheshire, attended the meeting to outline the future proposals for day care centres. He highlighted that the trustees, PCT and Local Authority were currently undertaking a review as Age Concern would need to work differently in the future in order to provide the best value for money. This involved mapping out what services are provided and who they are provided to, assessing the possible options and finally developing strategies. Until this review had been completed no change would be made to the day centres.

Mr Clemens felt that the level of public interest was encouraging and that this needed to be taken into consideration by the local authority, when it assess what services are important to the public.

The Committee noted that a decision would not be made on the future of the centres until the review had been completed by April 2011 at the earliest. However Members expressed concern that this important issue had not been brought to their attention earlier.

Members agreed that as this issue was of significant importance to the public a Task and Finish Group comprising of Councillors C Beard, S Jones, C Andrew, D Bebbington, S Bentley and D Flude be established to investigate the wider issues and Cheshire East Councils involvement in further detail.

RESOLVED

That a Task and Finish Group comprising of Councillors C Beard, S Jones, C Andrew, D Bebbington, S Bentley and D Flude be established to review Cheshire East's involvement in Age Concern.

46 NORTH WEST AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Committee received a presentation by Cath Galaska, Director of Services Delivery, Dave Kitchen, Head of Service for Cheshire and Merseyside and Ian Moses, Head of Service Development from the Ambulance Service, on performance and the Quality Account.

The presentation detailed:

- Care Quality Commission Registration
- Actions undertaken in relation to the Quality Account
- Areas for improvement in 2010/2011
- The national standards for categorising emergency calls
- NWAS performance standards to be achieved across the North West
- The Headline performance data for Central and eastern Cheshire PCT
- Service Developments

With regard to category A response times, it was noted that only 67.47% of cases were reached within 8 minutes and that this would be difficult to address without additional resources.

Members commented on the successful First Responders Pilot Project ran in Nantwich and agreed that, where possible, similar arrangement should be implemented in other parts of the Borough.

In answer to a specific question on staff morale, Dave Kitchen responded that when staff are busy, and may be the only available resource in a large geographic footprint, it was possible that they might be frustrated when called out to cases where the cause of the illness or injury was alcohol related.

NWAS community resuscitation officers were eager to engage with local authorities and others to develop a register of defibrillators held in the community, which NWAS would hold alongside its own register of community based defibrillators, that had put in place through the 'defibrillators in public places' scheme. NWAS was not responsible directly for other agencies defibrillators, though it was willing to work with the agencies and give advice in return for the ability to hold a record of that defibrillator.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

47 MID CHESHIRE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST - CLINICAL SERVICES STRATEGY

The Committee received a presentation by Andy Ennis, Director of Service Development at Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on the clinical strategy.

The presentation detailed:

- Mid Cheshire Hospitals vision
- The key challenges
- The key objectives
- The strategic context with regard to the clinical drivers of change
- The political and financial strategic context
- The physical infrastructure
- What services should be provided

With regard to the physical infrastructure, it was reported that, due to funding, it would not now be possible to build a new hospital.

Mr Ennis reported there were three key challenges to local health care.

- Surgical provision
- Moving emergency care into the community
- Obstetric and Paediatric care.

Changes in surgical provision mean that in order to provide a safe service, partnerships with other acute providers would be required which may mean patients would need to travel further for specialised surgery.

For medical services a greater emphasis would be placed in managing patients in the community either preventing admission to hospital or keeping the admission to the minimum. Close partnerships with GP's, Social Services, community providers and the voluntary sector would be required in order for this to progress. A similar picture was emerging for Obstetric care, a move to 24 hr consultant cover would mean not all units would be able to maintain local services. This had the potential to effect the provision of neonatal and paediatric services.

No plans existed for services to change in the immediate future, but work continued to understand the impact of national policies on local service provision.

Members suggested that the possibility of general practitioners undertaking minor operations should be revisited, as this would relieve some of the pressures from hospitals.

RESOLVED

That the possibility of general practitioners undertaking minor operations be revisited with a view to relieving some of the pressures from hospitals.

48 CENTRAL AND EASTERN CHESHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUST - FINANCIAL POSITION AND POSSIBLE NHS CHANGES

F Field, the Director of Governance and Strategic Planning at Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust reported that, last year the PCT was financially challenged but did deliver a balanced budget at the end of March 2010. She highlighted that there would have to be a £1million surplus by the end of the year but there had to be cost reductions to achieve this and difficult decisions have been made. The future remains very challenging especially as locally, non-recurrent savings last year have added to the pressures in 2010/11.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted

49 SWINE FLU UPDATE AND PREPARING FOR FUTURE OUTBREAKS OF PANDEMIC FLU

The Committee received an update on swine flu and the preparations being undertaken for possible future outbreaks of pandemic flu. It was reported that the PCT were continuing the national immunisation campaign which targets pregnant women as well as the usual high risk groups – should swine flu return in the autumn, high risk groups will have better protection. The partnership working had won a leadership award for the Northwest and would now go forward to the national awards.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

50 OBESITY AND DIABETES SCRUTINY REVIEW

Consideration was given to the draft final report of the Obesity and Diabetes Task and Finish Group, which aimed to address the rise in obesity and diabetes and reduce the health and financial impacts of this rise.

With regard to paragraph 5, Members felt that the criteria for receiving school meals was unfair and should be reviewed.

RESOLVED

That:

- a) the report of the Task and Finish Group be welcomed and supported, noting the progress achieved since the original Reviews were undertaken, but that more remains to be done;
- (b) the recommendations of the Group be endorsed, and referred to the relevant Cabinet Members and the Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust for consideration and necessary action, and that they be invited initially to comment on the details of the recommendations;
- (c) the responses of the Cabinet Members and the PCT be considered by the Scrutiny Group in due course;
- (d) the Scrutiny Panel be requested to develop an action plan and to keep progress under review, and to report further on the implementation of the Report's recommendations in 12 – 18 months time.
- (e) that the criteria for receiving free school meals be reviewed
- (f) the Group be thanked for its hard work.

51 CORPORATE PLAN

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Human Resources enclosing for comment the draft Corporate Plan which was due to be considered by Cabinet on 19 July prior to making a recommendation to Council regarding its formal adoption on 22 July 2010.

With regard to the section relating to Contacts and Further Information, it was highlighted that Poynton was included in the index but had been omitted from the map.

With regard to the section 5 – How We Are Performing, reference was made to an increase in swimming as a result of the Council's support of the free swimming scheme. Members highlighted that that scheme had now been withdrawn by the Government but felt that Cheshire East Council should continue with the scheme.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet be informed of the comments highlighted above.

52 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the work programme. It was agreed that the Task and Finish Group set up to look at Age Concern should also scrutinise the Dementia Strategy with a view to investigating the full range of services available and who they are provided by.

With regard to Admiral Nurses, it was noted that they were unable to attend this Committee meeting and therefore the presentation should be deferred until a future meeting.

RESOLVED

That the work programme be approved subject to the amendments highlighted above.

It was noted that as J Weeks was due to retire, this would be his last meeting of the Committee. The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, thanked him for all his hard work.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 12.15 pm

Councillor B Silvester (Chairman)