

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MONDAY 8 OCTOBER, 2012 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Freeman, Miss. M. (Chairman)

Gamble, B. (Vice-Chairman)

Allt, Mrs. A.

Jones, R.

Davis, Mrs. M.A.

Todd, R.

9. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Bennett and Mrs. A.F. Bernard.

10. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No declarations of interests in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members Interests were made.

11. Minutes

Councillor Mrs. M.A. Davis referred to Pg 2 Health and Social Care and asked that Ms. Schulp, District Commissioning Lead for Health and Social Care be invited to future meetings in order that the Committee could receive updates.

Members then discussed this item and concern was expressed with regard to issues around the time carers spent with patients and the need for continuity of services.

Mr. Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health reported that Ms. Schulp had been invited to the next meeting as she was unavailable to attend this meeting.

Councillor Mrs. M.A. Davis referred to Pg 3 and reported that Dr. Berryman would now be using the Davy Unit for his surgery for the next 18 months. She stated that work was beginning to take place on the building and a planning application had been submitted today.

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 August, 2012 be approved as a correct record.

12. Presentation – Dementia Care

The Head of Environmental Health advised that a copy of the presentation was requested at the last meeting which had recently been given to the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor R. Jones asked if any information was available on the different levels of dementia and if there was a breakdown on the level of care and help required. In response to this Councillor Mrs. M.A. Davis referred to the Memory Clinics and asked what the usage was.

The Head of Environmental Health reported that he would liaise with Ms. Schulp and provide information to Members.

AGREED:

That the Head of Environmental Health liaise with Ms. Schulp regarding the current diagnosis rates and figures for the usage of the Memory Clinics, and to advise Members of the Committee on the information received.

13. Briefing Note and Presentation

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Housing (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.3 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Mr. I. Tennant, Head of Housing presented the briefing note and explained that contracts with the Council held for fixed and dispersed alarms although they had both expired on 31 July, 2012. The County Council agreed to extend the contracts to July, 2013, however beyond this date future funding of the service was uncertain.

He advised Members of the Committee that it was understood that a County Council consultation exercise would commence by the end of the year with and it was likely that a reduced service would be proposed. He stated that the Council would need to respond to these proposals and that he would report back to the Committee when the consultation document was issued.

The Head of Housing responded to Members questions and provided information on the difference between fixed and dispersed alarms and commented that dispersed alarms were easier to repair as fixed alarms were generally connected from one property to another. He also advised that tenants in receipt of housing benefit or those that would meet the 'fairer charging criteria' were not currently required to pay towards the

service, but tenants who did not meet the criteria would be required to pay.

The Chairman referred to the “fairer charging criteria” and commented that changes to the service could make it difficult for those that needed to access it.

Councillor Mrs. M.A. Davis reported that the community alarms service was provided directly by the Council and was well used. The Council also used its surplus capacity to provide alarm services to organisations and individuals within Staffordshire and other parts of the Country.

Members then discussed the use of other aids that were available for carers to use such as alarms and monitors which helped improve the quality of life for those being cared for.

The Head of Housing reported that Mr. Jim Ellam, Staffordshire County Council had been invited to make a presentation to the Housing Policy Development Committee on Assistive Technology. However, in view of the County Council’s forthcoming consultation on the future of the community alarms service, the Chairman of the Housing Policy Development Committee proposed that Mr. Ellam should be invited to present the County Council’s community alarm proposals to the Health and Wellbeing Policy Development Committee with Members of the Housing Policy Development Committee being invited to attend for this item.

The Head of Environmental Health advised Members of the Committee that it was important for the views of the Committee in conjunction with the Housing Policy Development Committee to be feed into the consultation. He also indicated that a normal consultation period would last around 12 weeks, however it was possible that this one may last between 4 or 6 weeks.

AGREED:

- (A) That Jim Ellam be invited to attend a future meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Policy Development Committee to present the County Council’s consultation proposals for future community alarm services.
- (B) That Members of the Housing Policy Development Committee be invited to attend the meeting.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 4.40 p.m.