

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND OLDER PEOPLE POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 25 MARCH, 2010 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Molineux, G.N. (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

Ball, G.D.	Jones, R.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Mitchell, C.

21. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors A. F. Bernard, R. Easton and Ms. W. Yates.

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

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Mitchell, C.	Daughter works at the Cannock Chase Wellbeing Centre	Personal

23. Minutes

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 January 2010. Concern was raised that concessionary travel as noted in the Minutes was not included on the agenda for today's meeting and it was requested that it should be included for the next meeting of the Committee. It was also requested that a copy of the letter sent out to concessionary travel service users informing them of the current situation be included with the agenda.

AGREED:

- (A) That an item with respect to concessionary travel be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee, together with a copy of the letter sent out to services users informing them of the current situation.
- (B) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed.

24. 2009-10 Quarter 3 Performance and Finance Report

The Committee expressed concern that they did not have evidence to support the actions taken to address indicators. The Head of Environmental Health explained that the Committee could request information on individual indicators with which they may have concerns and details on what actions had been taken by Cannock Chase Council would be provided to them.

It was requested that information be provided with respect to indicator N121 – Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75 – and how the figures were arrived at. The Head of Environmental Health explained that he would liaise with Jonathan Bletcher from the PCT with respect to this matter and report back to a future meeting. Information was also requested on NI155 with respect to the number of affordable homes delivered (gross). It was, however, explained that this may be a more relevant matter for the Housing Policy Development Committee to consider. At the meeting of that Committee held on 24 March consideration had been given to homelessness and young people and they had requested that an update on the Elizabeth Road site be provided to them at their next meeting.

The Head of Environmental Health reported that at 2009-10 quarter 3 the position was as follows:-

2 indicators rated as red -	time taken to process Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit – NI181
1 indicator rated as amber	Adult participation in sport NI8 the redevelopment of the Elizabeth Road site and the funding shortfall as a result of the condition of the housing market and the unavailability of S106 monies from the sale of the stadium site.
56 indicators rated as green	- net increase of one
3 indicators with no rating	- data not available

Members considered that participation in sport may have been affected by the recession and the prolonged winter weather conditions recently experienced.

Information was circulated at the meeting relating to the time it had taken to process new and changes to Housing/Council Tax Benefits during the months from April 2009 to February 2010. It was explained that for the first few months of the financial year it had taken in the region of 33 days for claims to be processed, however currently it had fallen to approximately 8 days. Therefore at February 2010 the figures for the overall performance for the year stood at 21.81 days and as the target figure was 14 days, it was above target. The Committee requested that information on NI181 be presented to them at each meeting, together with the number of claims processed each month and an explanation as to what the position was. It was also requested that the Local Taxation and Benefits Manager attend a future meeting of the Committee to provide details on the claims process.

Councillor C. Mitchell informed the Committee that, amongst other matters, Cannock Chase Wellbeing Centre helped support those experiencing minor mental health

problems. Patients could be assessed by Therapists and help provided to endeavour to prevent symptoms escalating.

The Committee was concerned that the changes being made to Social Care and Health would have an impact on Cannock Chase, particularly the effect on workloads caused by the reduction in Directors.

It was requested that items be included on the agenda for future meetings on how matters that the Committee had previously considered, were progressing, i.e. communal alarms.

AGREED:

That:-

- (A) The performance outturn for Quarter 3 as detailed at Annex 1 be noted;
- (B) The exception reports, as detailed at Annex 2, which describes the actions taken and actions proposed to be taken by Lead Officers for any action or performance indicator classified as Red or Amber, be noted;
- (C) The financial outturn for Quarter 3 as detailed at Annex 3, be noted.
- (D) That information be provided monthly with respect to Housing/Council Benefit claims, together with the number being processed and an explanation as to what the position was.
- (E) The Local Taxation and Benefits Manager be invited attend a future meeting of the Committee to provide details on the claims process
- (F) The Committee continues to monitor how issues previously considered by them were progressing, i.e. communal alarms.

25. Recruitment of Vacant Posts

Information was circulated with respect to the effect of recruiting temporary staff in improving processing time for Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit.

AGREED:

That the information relating to the recruitment of temporary staff to improve the processing time for Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit be noted.

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN