

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 22 JULY 2014, AT 4:00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Gamble, B. (Chairman)
Freeman, Miss. M. (Vice-Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Preece, J.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.

By invitation: Davies, Mrs. M.A. – Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Also present: Parsons, Mrs. H. – Healthwatch (Staffordshire)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R. Jones and Councillor Mrs. C. Mitchell (Staffordshire County Council Representative).

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members

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

3. Minutes

A Member referred to page 29 and the presentation given by Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership Trust in respect of the closure of the specialist rehabilitation unit at Littleton Ward in Cannock Chase Hospital and was of the opinion that it was unlikely that the unit would re-open despite concerns being raised.

Members discussed this matter and it appeared that statistical information had been requested a number of months ago and still nothing had been received. Therefore, Members requested that the Chief Officer of Stafford and Surrounds/Cannock Chase CCGs be asked to attend a future meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

AGREED:

- (A) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April, 2014 be approved as a correct record.
- (B) That an invite be extended to the Chief Officer of Stafford & Surrounds / Cannock Chase CCG's to attend a future meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

4. Appointment of Representative to Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

RESOLVED:

That Councillor B. Gamble was confirmed as this Council's representative to Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee for the 2014-15 Municipal Year.

Mr. S. Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health informed the Committee that Staffordshire County Council had recently changed its Code of Joint Working, therefore the appointment of Representative to Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee would always now be the Health Scrutiny Chairman.

5. Confirmation of the Nominated Member from Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs. C. Mitchell was confirmed as Staffordshire County Council's representative to the Council's Health Scrutiny Committee for the 2014-15 Municipal Year.

6. Appointment of Independent Co-Opted Member

RESOLVED:

That Mrs. H. Parsons of Healthwatch Staffordshire be appointed as the Independent Co-opted Member to the Health Scrutiny Committee for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

7. Update on Healthier Staffordshire Select Committee Meetings

Consideration was given to the Digest summarising the proceedings of meetings held on 28 April, 9 June and 1 July, 2014 (Item 7.1 – 7.4).

The Chairman referred to the Digest for 28 April, 2014 and reported that the operational plan had been received by the Committee; however they were unhappy with the proposal which had been put forward particularly with regard to the Littleton Ward and Minor Injuries Unit at Cannock Chase Hospital.

He reported that a workshop had been organised following this for Thursday 24 July, 2014 for the Healthier Staffordshire Select Committee only to meet with GPs to discuss and explore different proposals.

RESOLVED:

That the Digests for 28 April, 9 June and 1 July, 2014 be noted.

8. Update on the Review of the Provision of Disabled Facilities Grants in the District

Consideration was given to the update Report of the Head of Environmental Health (Item 8.1 – 8.2 plus background papers).

The Head of Environmental Health reported that the budget for 2014/15 would be adequate to cover expenditure; however there was some concern with regard to Independent Futures maintaining an adequate level of Occupational Therapists to ensure that a backlog of children's cases did not grow again.

He reported that a new Home Improvement Agency (HIA) provider, Revival, was due to commence on 1 July, 2014. However the County Council withdrew the Supporting People element of funding from the contract. The existing HIA provider, Metropolitan, would continue under a 3 month extension of their contract to allow time for a solution to be found.

Members discussed funding of disabled adaptations and asked about future funding. The Head of Environmental Health advised that the Government capital grant had increased slightly and was paid directly this year; however next year it would be paid into the Better Care Fund through the County Council, but with a requirement for it to be paid back. However, future year's payments were uncertain at this time.

Concern was expressed that there were members of the community with complex needs where referral to an Occupational Therapist for disabled adaptations was required within a certain timescale. It was noted that this problem was not just within the Cannock Chase area but also Countywide. In response to this, the Head of Environmental Health advised that Metropolitan would continue their work for 3 months pending a long-term solution being found.

Following concerns raised by Members, the Chairman was keen to see if there was anything that the Committee could do with regard to contacting organisations concerning the shortage of Occupational Therapists.

The Head of Environmental Health reported that as an interim measure, correspondence could be drafted/forwarded to Independent Futures concerning the shortage of Occupational Therapists, correspondence to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Department of Health.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Briefing Note be noted.
- (B) That correspondence be forwarded to Independent Futures, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Department of Health concerning the shortage of Occupational Therapists and other matters.
- (C) That this item form part of the next Agenda for the Health Scrutiny Committee.

9. Formulation of the Work Programme

Consideration was given to draft Work Programme for 2014-15 (Item 9).

The Head of Environmental Health reported on the draft Work Programme.

Cannock Chase Hospital Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) – information on future service provision from Cannock Chase CCG.

Concern was expressed with the timing for the consultation period given that Members at the County recommended a 12 week Public Consultation period on the closure of the Minor Injuries Unit, however this could be shorter. It was therefore proposed to change the date of the next Health Scrutiny Committee.

Cannock Chase Hospital – proposals for future services following the transfer to the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust. Representative from RWH NHS Trust to be invited.

Members of the Committee concurred that an invite should be extended to the Chief Executive or a representative to attend, and that a visit should be arranged for Members of the Committee to view the facility at the Minor Injuries Unit, Cannock.

Dementia Friendly Communities

The Head of Environmental Health reported that Hednesford had been chosen as the first area for work to be undertaken with regard to Dementia Friendly Communities.

The Chairman reported that 1 October, 2014 was 'Older Peoples Day' and would include dementia awareness training.

Further items for the Work Programme.

It was reported that a number of visits were still to be arranged including a visit to the Minor Injuries Unit, Cannock, NHS 111 Service and the Extra Care facility at Madeley, Telford.

Members also asked that Jo Cowcher, Area Manager (Cannock Chase) from Staffordshire and Stoke On Trent Partnership Trust be invited to a future meeting to provide a further update.

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting concluded at 4.55 p.m.).