

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY 7 OCTOBER, 2013 AT 4.00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**PART 1**

PRESENT:  
Councillors

Freeman, Miss. M. (Chairman)  
Todd, R. (Vice-Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Jones, R.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Pearson, A.
Gamble, B.	Rowley, J.

**10. Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. A. Allt.

**11. 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.

**12. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 05 August be approved as a correct record and signed.

**13. Learning Disability Day Opportunities for Staffordshire – Consultation**

*The District Commissioning Lead for Cannock Chase was in attendance for this item.*

The District Commissioning Lead advised Members of a consultation which was currently being undertaken by Staffordshire County Council in respect of day opportunities in Staffordshire for people with learning disabilities, explaining that the consultation launched on 19 August and contained three different options for consideration:

- Option 1 – No changes to current service provision.
- Option 2 – All services to be provided by third/private sector. Each

current user would be assessed to determine which new service would best suit their needs.

- Option 3 – Some services to be retained, other services outsourced. Specialist staff would continue to support those people with complex needs, and those who were considered to have low or moderate needs would have their support outsourced (this was the County Council's preferred option).

The District Commissioning Lead then explained initial discussions had taken place with users and carers at Chase Day Services prior to the consultation opening, and these had since been followed up with workshops facilitated by the Carers Association for South Staffordshire.

It was then reported that a series drop-in of 'market place' events were going to be held across the County (one in each borough/district), where third/private sector groups and independent providers would be in attendance to provide users and carers with information about what opportunities and services they could access. The event for Cannock District was scheduled to take place on 16 October at Keys Park Conference Centre in Hednesford from 10:00am till 3:00pm.

Members then raised a number of general comments and questions about the consultation:

1. Depending on which option was agreed, care provision in future could be ropery, closure of services was not considered to be 'moving forward'.
2. In respect of option 3, what would happen to someone who was assessed as having only low or moderate needs, but then suffered a rapid deterioration in their health?
3. Concern in this exercise over the vested interest of each group – current providers, future providers, users and carers. Don't know yet who is out there who could provide sustainable services at an affordable price.
4. There was a need to ensure carers and users would be well supported, as it was normally the case that those who were more vocal would receive support first.

The District Commissioning Lead provided the following responses:

1. Still only in the consultation phase, no decisions had yet been taken on which option to select. Concerns had been raised by carers about the small number and type of independent providers within the county, hence the market place events to try and reassure carers.
2. Those individuals who were assessed as having low or moderate needs may be cared for by independent providers, but if their condition was to deteriorate, they would be reassessed.
3. Purpose of the 'market place' events was to allow interested groups to meet with potential providers and better understand the range of services which could be delivered.
4. People in the District who were considered to be 'hidden' from the current services offered (i.e. those who were already well looked after at

home), still required support, so it was important to raise awareness amongst this group of what was available.

Members then raised concerns about the timing of consultation, commenting that it had happened too quickly and commenced at the wrong time of year, that it had been poorly advertised, and information provided about the proposals too vague.

The District Commissioning Lead replied that the consultation had started on 19 August and would be running until November\*. Carers and users had been given prior notice that the consultation would be conducted, and other potential options have already been mapped out.

A Member then queried if the consultation was isolated to Staffordshire, or if similar consultations had taken place elsewhere?

The District Commissioning Lead replied that it had happened elsewhere, and the County Council had looked into the impact on those areas concerned.

Members then raised concerns about whether or not assessments of needs were undertaken properly, and who was in place to monitor the work of the assessors.

The District Commissioning Lead responded that the professional assessments were undertaken by social work teams who were led by the County Council's Independent Futures team. In respect of monitoring, a case management system was in place so that cases had to be discussed and signed off by a relevant manager before completion. Furthermore, reviews were conducted on an annual basis or as requested.

Following this, Members raised that depending on which option was chosen, hundreds of people would have to be assessed, so were concerned as to how this would be managed, as they received regular complaints about there being backlogs in the process.

The District Commissioning Lead replied that the process would be no different to the present arrangements, with reviews being conducted on an on-going basis, with those who were considered to be priority cases being assessed first.

Members then queried how many current users were registered with Cannock Day Services.

The District Commissioning Lead replied that there were currently 89 registered, coming from both Cannock and South Staffordshire districts.

The District Commissioning Lead then advised Members she could provide them with information on need, service provision, staff numbers and proposals regarding reviews if needed, to enable them to be better informed about the consultation.

Members agreed that they wished to receive this information, and requested that an additional meeting of the Committee be held before the close of the consultation period, in order to properly consider the information.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Members' strong concerns about the consultation process noted.
- (B) An additional meeting of the Committee be held before the close of the consultation to allow Members to properly consider any relevant paperwork and respond to the consultation accordingly.

*\*Since the closure of this meeting,, the District Commissioning Lead has advised that the consultation is scheduled to finish on Monday 11 November.*

#### **14. District Health Profile and Draft District Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

*The District Public Health Development Officer was in attendance for this item.*

Members received a presentation from the District Public Health Development Officer and considered the District Health Profile and Draft District Health and Wellbeing Strategy (Items 5.1 – 5.5 and 6.1 – 6.19 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The presentation focussed on a number of key aspects from the Health Profile and Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

- Health Profile
  - 3,500 children classed as living in poverty
  - Lowest life expectancy for both males and females out of all Staffordshire
  - Men in deprived wards lived 6.7 years less than those in least deprived
  - Worse than England average for:
    - Adult and childhood obesity
    - Proportion of healthy eating adults
    - Breast feeding
    - Alcohol specific hospital stays in the under 18s
    - Teenage pregnancy rates
    - GCSE attainment
  - Early deaths from heart disease and stroke had fallen over the past decade
  - Significantly better than England average for:
    - Deprivation
    - Proportion of children in poverty
    - New cases of TB
    - Excess winter deaths
    - Road injuries and deaths

- Health challenges:
  - High levels of health inequality
  - Significant growth of people aged over 65, and in particular over 75
  - High levels of long term conditions in 9 out 15 District Wards
  - Alcohol related harm from hazardous and harmful drinking in the under 18s
  - High rates of teenage pregnancies in some wards
  - Adult obesity
  - Childhood obesity (reception age and Year 6)
  - High prevalence of smoking
  - Reducing the number of early deaths from cancer.
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
  - Strategy had been developed for the period 2013-2018
  - A partnership approach was taken to develop the strategy, with priorities being identified by a number of different health partners
  - Each locality within the District had its own health challenges, so the strategy aimed to identify where particular challenges had arisen
  - The strategy set out five specific goals to improve health and wellbeing in the District:
    - Reduce health inequalities through targeted interventions
    - Enable people to live independent lives
    - Empower people to make healthy life choices
    - Improve quality of life for vulnerable people
    - Improve communication and access to help, information and support.

Members raised concern with the reported 3,500 children in the District living in poverty and queried what can be done to remove them from this situation.

The District Public Health Development Officer responded that although this figure was better than the national average, it was still 3,500 children too many, and had a direct impact upon other areas such as teenage pregnancies. Removing them from poverty was a difficult challenge, especially in the current climate of unemployment and economic uncertainty.

The Head of Environmental Health informed Members that Staffordshire County Council had been undertaking an intensive support project with approximately 250 families within the District whose children were considered to live in poverty.

Referring to the District Health Profile, Members raised concern over the long-term and ongoing issues of children and young people in relation to obesity, underage drinking and teenage pregnancies, and wanted to know how they were being tackled.

The District Public Health Improvement Officer responded that the Council and

Staffordshire Public Health (SPH) recognised that these problems had to be dealt with, but was not aware if SPH had yet undertaken any relevant commissioning work.

Members then commented on the need to break the problems of unhealthy eating, and were pleased to see it highlighted as a priority area of health improvement.

Members further commented that the Health Profile didn't give an accurate picture of what was happening across the District, as positive changes were not being promoted widely enough, such as increased usage of the Chase Leisure Centre and people generally living a more active and healthy lifestyle compared to a decade ago, although this was balanced out by the fact there were now less activities and opportunities being provided for free than used to be.

The District Public Health Development Officer noted there was a need to make best use of the assets available across the District to promote an active and healthy lifestyle.

The Head of Environmental Health reported that in respect of underage drinking, Staffordshire Police and the County Council's Trading Standards Team had recently undertaken a number of test purchases at licensed premises across the County, and were surprised by the high number of premises which failed the test.

Members raised that in areas where supermarkets and off-licences had removed high alcohol percentage ciders and lagers from sale, there had been a reduction in drunkenness particularly with young people, and that it would be worthwhile making contact with those areas to find out how agreement was reached to remove the items from sale, and what impact this change had, for both the stockists and the purchasers.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation, District Health Profile and Draft District Health and Wellbeing Strategy be noted.

## **15. Work Programme Update**

The Head of Environmental Health advised that he was awaiting updates for two items to be considered at the December meeting of the Committee, and that the District Commissioning Lead would provide an update on the Langbourn development at the March 2014 meeting, rather than December 2013 as originally planned.

**16. Date of Next Meeting**

Members noted the date of the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 17 December 2013.

The date of the additional meeting would be announced to Members in due course.

The meeting closed at 5:30pm

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CHAIRMAN