

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER, 2010 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Davis, Mrs. M.A. (Chairman)
Adamson, G. (Vice-Chairman)

Ansell, Mrs. P.A. Bernard, Mrs. A.F.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.

By invitation: Mr. S. Rees, District Director (Cannock Chase and South Staffs), Social
Care and Health

17. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J. Rowley.

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

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Nature of Interest</u> | <u>Type</u> |
|--------------------|---|-------------|
| Davis, Mrs. M.A. | Member of Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust | Personal |
| Davis, Mrs. M.A. | Member of South Staffs Healthcare NHS Trust | Personal |
| Bernard, Mrs. A.F. | Member of South Staffs Healthcare NHS Trust | Personal |
| Bernard, Mrs. A.F. | Member of Birmingham Children's Hospital | Personal |
| Adamson, G. | Member of Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust | Personal |
| Adamson, G. | Member of Mid Staffs Cancer User Forum | Personal |
| Adamson, G. | Volunteer with Age Concern | Personal |

19. Minutes

Arising from consideration of the Minutes the Chairman referred to Minute 12 and advised that at the last meeting she had requested that Councillor Adamson produce a document to be forwarded to Staffordshire County Council, which detailed the experiences whether

personal or from another person in relation to psychology services. The Chairman advised that nothing in respect of this had been received from Members, and stated that at the last Health Scrutiny Committee at Staffordshire County Council concern had been raised about the provision of the service.

Councillor Adamson reported that he had forwarded correspondence to Mr. Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health. He also commented that people who were using the service that were not satisfied may not make a complaint about the service being received due to their emotional state at that time.

Mr Shilvock advised the Committee that he had spoken with Ms. Garner at Staffordshire County Council who had forwarded the correspondence to the Primary Care Trust (PCT). He advised that the PCT had requested that any individual cases be referred to them.

Councillor Adamson also reported that he had attended the Cancer Linkgroup and it had been noted that the PCT were in doubt as to where the contract was, and what they were paying for in respect of the provision of psychology services.

The Chairman reported that the Head of Environmental Health had contacted the Local Involvement Network (LINK) with regard to seeking the appointment of an Independent Co-opted member; however the Council had still not received any information from LINK and therefore this was still ongoing.

She also advised Members that Mr Poyner, Chief Executive of South Staffs PCT was currently on secondment and undertaking project work relating to other local PCT's.

The Chairman referred to Minute 15 and was of the opinion that Community Forums should be used as an avenue for people to raise concerns and complaints regarding health related issues. It was felt by Members that this should be a standing item with representation from the PCT, although the Council would first need to ensure that the PCT would send a representative to each Community Forum.

The Chairman referred to the Environmental Health Enforcement Policy and the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. She was keen for Members to receive the Policy at the next meeting in November and the Strategy at a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September, 2010 be approved as a correct record.
- (B) That Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee be provided with an update regarding the information received concerning the contract for the provision of psychology services.
- (C) That a request be made to Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee to consider inviting a representative from the PCT to discuss the situation.
- (D) That the Health Scrutiny Committee be provided with an update in due course.

- (E) That the Committee requests that each Community Forum have a standing item relating to health.
- (F) That the Council liaise with the PCT to establish whether or not they would send a representative to each Community Forum to take questions from the public regarding health related issues.
- (G) That the Environmental Health Licensing Policy be received at the next Health Scrutiny Committee on 29 November, 2010.
- (H) That the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy be received at a future meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

20. Items Arising from Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee held on 8 October, 2010

Coton House, Stafford

The Chairman reported that Councillor J. Rowley had attended the last meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee at Staffordshire County Council and would not be able to provide a comprehensive update.

However, she advised Members that there was a proposal to close Coton House, Stafford and transfer the existing patients to Shrewsbury. The Chairman advised Members that her concern was the distance for patients to travel to use the facility in Shrewsbury, and stated that her concern had been aired at the meeting.

Falls Service

The Chairman reported that there was a proposal to change the 'falls service' which was currently operated within the Davy Unit at Cannock Chase Hospital and Bradbury House Day Hospital. Proposals included introducing more help from GP Practices, a proper referrals system and a care programme.

She indicated that the service may be provided at St Luke's Church Hall, Cannock and Rising Brook Baptist Church, Stafford. The service would be open to all adults registered with a GP and 15 places would be available.

The Chairman advised Members that she had made a request that if the service was changed that it be reviewed after 6 months with input from both patients and carers and she was hopeful that the comments had been received by the County.

Members discussed the proposal and were of the opinion that the Davy Unit was very popular.

The Chairman then agreed to take Item 6 on the Agenda.

21. Cannock Health Centre - Update

The Chairman referred to recent media coverage and advised Members that a number of GP's were happy to remain in their practices and did not wish to move into the new proposed facility.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that he had recently contacted the PCT. They had replied that their position had not changed and that further discussions would be held regarding the proposal at the PCT Confidential Board meeting In October. Therefore, he would provide Members with an update at the next meeting in November.

Members discussed this and were of the opinion that a new facility would be built due to the shortage of GP's and practices that required modernisation.

RESOLVED:

That an invite be extended to a representative from the PCT to attend the next meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee on 29 November, 2010.

22. Presentation – Social Care and Health

The Chairman welcomed Stuart Rees, District Director (Cannock Chase and South Staffs), Social Care and Health, Angela Schulp, Service Delivery Leader, Mike Davies, Adult Care Manager – Enablement and Sandra Ashforth, Practice Lead – Enablement to the meeting.

Mr. Rees provided an overview to the Committee on hospital discharges and highlighted the need for closer working with GPs and Primary Health Care colleagues. He commented on the diversion from acute admission and long term care using intermediate care beds, assistive technology and better management of A&E attendance.

He provided information regarding the Cannock Chase Enablement Team and what their purpose was and the team practice which sat within the County Social Care and Health Enablement Policy.

The Team dealt with hospital referrals from Stafford General Hospital, Cannock Chase Hospital, New Cross Hospital and reablement referrals from people in the community.

Mr. Rees then provided information on the Community Care (Delayed Discharge) Act 2003 and reported on outcomes of assessment, safeguarding and other issues which included winter pressures, medication delays and eligibility criteria.

Members of the Committee were then afforded the opportunity to ask questions.

A Member referred to the presentation and the Section 5 Notification where a penalty would be issued to the Local Authority where a discharge was needed, and was keen to know more about this. Mr. Davies, Adult Care Manager stated on occasions a patient could be assessed as being fit to discharge but could then be re-admitted. He advised that the system was complicated and that there was only a small percentage where a penalty was incurred.

Members were keen to know how long a key worker was expected to stay in contact with a patient. Mr. Rees stated that a patient would be assessed on their risk and if they were

classed as high risk they would be assigned a key worker who had only a casework load of 30 patients. A person assessed as being lower risk would be assigned a key worker who had a casework load of around 100 patients given the lower contact the patient would need with the key worker.

A Member asked what arrangements were in place for patients being provided with specific contact numbers should they need to speak with a key worker or any other person who may have dealt with them. Mr. Rees advised that GPs would have contact details for key workers, although members of the team would hold various details for patients.

Members discussed the presentation and commented that it was difficult to establish the problems that existed with older people especially with the medication they were taking. Mr. Davies commented that quite often the medication colours could cause confusion and the use of pill dispensers were useful as they could be filled by a pharmacist who would then be able to tell if the medication had been taken correctly.

The Chairman was keen to know if any extra care places would be made available for the elderly. Mr. Rees advised that Vine Court, Bridgtown was due to open and a facility in Essington was due to open in April, 2011.

The Chairman then referred to the proposal to change the 'falls service' which was currently dealt with by the Davy Unit at Cannock and Bradbury House Day Hospital. It was proposed that the service could be provided at St Luke's Church Hall, Cannock and Rising Brook Baptist Church, Stafford.

Mr. Rees advised the Committee that he was not aware of this proposal although consideration was being given to a business continuity plan in the event that the Davy Unit's current patients had to relocate.

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.).