

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 10 AUGUST, 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.
Beddows, J.

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

By invitation: Ms. Marilyn Owens, Macmillan Consultant Clinical Psychologist
Psychology and Bereavement Manager, Greater Midlands Cancer
Network

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B. Williams and J. Rowley.

2. 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>
Beddows, J.	Member of Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust	Personal
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

3. Notes

The Chairman referred to the Notes and the discussion that had previously taken place with regard to psychology services for cancer patients. In her view she felt the discussion was

more positive and that there would be some allowance for this year from the budget. She also stated that a case could be made for additional funding in an area.

RESOLVED:

That the Notes of the meeting held on 19 April, 2010 were received as a correct record.

4. Psychology Services for Cancer Patients

A Member of the Committee referred to the information previously circulated in respect of the Greater Midlands Cancer Network and commented on the gap level between various Primary Care Trusts in respect of psychology provision. He pointed out that patients in the local area were still not receiving the level of psychological support needed in comparison to other areas such as Walsall.

Members were keen to know if a report could be produced on behalf of the Committee and escalated to Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee with the committees view on the need for more psychological support in the local area. The Chairman agreed that this would be beneficial and could even form part of the County's work programme as other District Councils had expressed an interest in this subject at a recent work planning meeting..

The Chairman then welcomed Ms. Marilyn Owens, Macmillan Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Psychology and Bereavement Manager, Greater Midlands Cancer Network to the meeting and advised her of the Committee's decision to escalate a report to Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee, and asked if she would work with the Committee on this. Ms. Owens stated that she would be happy to support the Committee.

Ms. Owens advised the Committee that she had consulted on the service specification for the whole of the cancer network which included Staffordshire, Shropshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley which would be completed by the end of August. The report would be presented to the Network Board in September and would provide a clear specification of how the service should look to make it compliant. Failure to implement the guidance would lead to failing to meet the requirements of the Psychological Support Measures at peer review.

Mr. S. Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health referred to the report and was keen to know if there had been any indication from the commissioners to any problems. Ms. Owens stated that she was not familiar with the commissioners although at previous meetings the problem with the provision of psychology services had been noted.

The Chairman referred to the undertaking of commissioning by South Staffs PCT and the service being provided by South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Trust, and was keen to know who reviewed this as there was some uncertainty raised by the Committee. Ms. Owens advised the Committee that it was not unusual for 2 Primary Care Trust's to commission a service.

A discussion took place between Committee Members and Ms. Owens and it was thought that funding was to become available for the provision of a further post for North Staffs/Stoke On Trent. It was also discussed that both patients and members of the family would benefit

from the service provided although most of the support was provided by Clinical Nurse Specialists.

A Member referred to the additional information and raised concern that those patients classed as Level 3 were not receiving adequate services. The Member pointed out that there was no service available in Mid Staffs Hospital such as help and advice with claiming benefits etc and reported that a commitment would not be given by the hospital to McMillan when they were approached.

RESOLVED:

That a report be escalated to Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee to be considered at their meeting on 9 September, 2010 concerning the gap in the provision of psychological services for cancer patients in the area

5. Appointment of Representative to Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee

Consideration was given to the appointment of the Council's representative to Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee for the 2010-11 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs. M.A. Davis be appointed as the Council's representative to Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee for the 2010-11 Municipal Year.

6. Independent Co-opted Member from the Local Involvement Network (LINK)

The Chairman reported that the Council were still awaiting confirmation in respect of the LINK representative.

7. Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee Code of Joint Working Arrangements - Health

Consideration was given to the Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee Code of Joint Working Arrangements – Health (Enclosure 6.1 – 6.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Chairman reported that there were no changes made to the Code of Joint Working Arrangements. Although, she advised that the County Council had been scrutinised in relation to the ongoing enquiry regarding Mid Staffs Hospital. She advised that a report had been produced by the Health Scrutiny Committee which clearly stated that the County Council were not aware of the extent of complaints being made.

RESOLVED:

That the Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee Code of Joint Working Arrangements – Health, be adopted.

8. Items Arising from Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee held on

9 August, 2010

2010-13 Vision – document produced by the County in conjunction with North/South Staffs PCT

The Chairman reported on a special meeting held on 30 July, 2010 and circulated a document which had been produced by the County Council in conjunction with North/South Staffs PCT which detailed their vision for 2010-13. She advised that the presentation of the document would be re-considered and further comments had been received on the document, therefore it would be re-drafted.

Members of the Committee discussed then discussed the content of the document.

MIND Stafford/Chase Emotional Wellbeing

The Chairman then reported on the meeting held on 9 August, 2010 and advised the Committee that there was a proposal by the PCT to end the current contract with MIND Stafford. She explained that the organisation ran drop in sessions for people experiencing mental or emotional distress and the aim of the organisation was to help individuals interact with other groups although this was not being achieved.

She reported that Chase Emotional Wellbeing was very successful and the PCT felt that the funding would be best spent on this organisation, although both organisations would be considered in respect of the provision of mental health services. The PCT had stated that they had consulted about the proposal although it appeared that a number of Members on the Committee were not aware of it and consultation had only lasted 1 month. She advised Members that Mr. Geraint Griffiths of the PCT had therefore agreed to extend the consultation for a further 6 weeks to include an article in the press.

The Chairman advised that the PCT would inform the County's Health Scrutiny Committee on what their intentions were concerning the funding.

Passenger Transport Ambulances

The Chairman reported on a tender for a new contract for picking up patients to take to hospital and taking outpatients back home. She advised that the PCT were intending on setting out a specification different to the current one where appointments were currently made using a variety of ways.

Concern was raised that when people went into hospital as an emergency who had then been discharged within a few hours would have to make their own arrangements to get home which could be night time. The PCT had therefore been asked to include something in the contract in respect of an out of hour's service for those people.

She advised that if a new company was to win the contract discussions would take place to see if the staff currently employed by the existing company who had gained both skills and knowledge could be transferred through (Transfer of Undertakings, Protection of Employment) TUPE.

9. Determination of the Work Programme

Consideration was given to the Committee's work programme for 2010-11.

Arising from consideration of the work programme Members discussed services available in hospitals where patients could seek advice in respect of the type of benefits they could receive. The Chairman agreed that she would look into this.

The following was considered as part of the work programme and for future meetings of the Health Scrutiny Committee:-

- Equity and excellence – Liberating the NHS White Paper – The Chairman advised that a special meeting at the County Council would be taking place to discuss this, however it was agreed that this form part of the Agenda for the next meeting on 13 September, 2010 and that the document be distributed to all Members on the Committee.
- Care following discharge from hospital, including the needs of carers – It was agreed that this would also form part of the Agenda for the next meeting. The Chairman requested that an invite be extended to Mid Staffs/Health and Social Care and a representative from the Carers Association to attend the meeting.
- A request was made to extend an invite to a representative from the PCT and Karen Bourne from Mid Staffs Hospital.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the work programme of the Scrutiny Committee for 2010-11, be agreed.
- (B) That Equity and excellence – Liberating the NHS White Paper form part of the Agenda for the next meeting on 13 September, 2010
- (C) That Care following discharge from hospital, including the needs of carers form part of the Agenda for the next meeting on 13 September, 2010, and that an invitation be extended to Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust, and Staffs County Council Social Care & Health and a representative from the Carers Association to attend the meeting.
- (D) That an invitation be extended to a representative from South Staffs PCT and Karen Bourne from Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust to attend the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN

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

