

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
MONDAY, 13 JUNE 2005 AT 3.30 P.M.

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Beddows, J. (Chairman)

Alcott, G.	Jones, R.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Mitchell, C.

By Invitation:

Bletcher, J.	Cannock Chase PCT
Martin, Mrs. J.	Patient and Public Involvement Forum

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G.N. Molineux, S.M. Hewitt, M.C. Stretton and County Councillor Mrs. S. Woodward).

Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

Member	Nature of Interest	Type
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Member of Staffordshire Ambulance Trust	Personal
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Community Partnership	Personal

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2005 were approved as a correct record.

2. Issues Arising from Minutes

Hospital Liaison Meetings

Councillor Alcott requested an update with regard to the position on joint Hospital Liaison Meetings.

The Head of Performance Management reported that Mr. David O'Neil of Mid Staffordshire Health Authority was currently on long-term sickness, but she advised that she had been given assurances that the Trust was considering the resurrection of the liaison meetings.

Councillor Beddows reported that he would be meeting with Mr. Andrew Crawshaw on Tuesday and would raise the matter with him.

3. Care in the Community

The Head of Performance Management reported that the draft report on Care in the Community had not been placed on the Agenda for this meeting due to the representatives from Social Services being unable to attend the July meeting, however it had been suggested that the report be forwarded to the Carers Partnership Board for discussion.

4. Work Programme of the Health Select Committee

The Head of Performance Management sought ideas from Members of the Committee with regard to the work programme for 2005/06, and explained that General Practitioners (G.Ps) out of hours had previously been reviewed.

The Chairman, Councillor Beddows reported on problems at Norton Canes Clinic, Norton Canes with regard to patients conversations being heard with their G.Ps, due to the use of portacabins.

Mr. Wassell representing Rugeley Town Council reported on the cost of prescriptions being trebled due to new guidelines set by the Primary Care Trust (PCT) for G.Ps.

Members felt that publicity was a key factor in allowing local people to be informed that the Health Select Committee existed and therefore allowing their views to be heard with regard to public services.

Councillor Alcott suggested that a schedule be produced of topics that could be reviewed by the Committee, taking into account the work of Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee.

The Head of Performance Management suggested that a further presentation be brought to the next meeting by the PCT on the Local Delivery Plan and agreed to a press release being issued before the next meeting.

5. Breast Screening

Members welcomed Mr. Bletcher, Head of Partnerships to the meeting.

Mr. Bletcher explained that a report regarding proposals to meet government requirements to provide women with breast screening up to the age of 70 years has previously been submitted to Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee under S11 of the Health and Care Act 2000, and has also been submitted to the PCT Professional Executive Committee on 6 June 2005 for comments.

Mr. Bletcher explained that a mobile breast-screening unit is currently used in the Cannock Chase area, however under the proposal the unit would not be used due to a number of reasons, one being that the unit would not comply with the Disability Discriminations Act.

It was reported that breast screening is available every 3 years to women over the age of 50 and currently the PCT have failed to screen a percentage of women.

Concerns were raised amongst Members of the Committee that the 'take up' of the service would require monitoring and concern that Cannock Chase Hospital would be able to cope with the capacity of women attending for screening. Mr. Bletcher confirmed that the hospital would cope with the capacity and that monitoring would take place.

Councillor Alcott asked for confirmation as to whether the proposal had been implemented. Mr. Bletcher confirmed that the proposal had been implemented.

Councillor Alcott explained that consultation had taken place through Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee but raised concern that there had been no publicity and consultation on the proposal.

It was agreed that a letter be formulated to Mid Staffordshire Health Authority stating the concerns of the Committee.

6. Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee

It was agreed that Councillor G. Alcott be appointed to serve as Cannock Chase Council's representative to Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee.

7. Update – Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Alcott confirmed that no meeting had been held at the County.

8. Update – Health Centre at Chase Leisure Centre Site

The Head of Performance Management explained that there had been no further progress since the last Committee meeting, however a report had been placed on the Directors Management Team Agenda for discussion on Tuesday.

Councillor Mitchell raised concern that a report regarding the land at the Cannock Stadium has not yet been submitted to the Committee and was previously scheduled for April. The Head of Performance Management would raise this with the Head of Leisure.

9. Closure of Medical Ward at Cannock Chase Hospital

Councillor Alcott referred to a number of press articles and raised concern that a medical ward at Cannock Chase Hospital was closed over the Bank Holiday because of staff shortages.

Councillor Alcott explained that he had contacted the NHS Trust on the Monday after the Bank Holiday to be told that there was not a staff shortage but there were not enough patients to fill the ward, therefore the patients were moved to a different ward.

The Chairman, Councillor Beddows explained that he had spoken to Mr. Andrew Crawshaw who explained that the reason the ward was closed was because there were no operations and a number of staff had telephoned in due to sickness.

Councillor Alcott requested that a letter be forwarded to Mid Staffordshire Health Authority stating the concerns of the Committee.

10. Further Items Raised by the Committee

Reform – Cannock Chase Hospital

Councillor Alcott informed the Select Committee of an additional press item on proposed reforms at Cannock Chase Hospital. Members requested that the Mid Staffordshire Health Authority General Hospitals NHS Trust are asked to consult with the Select Committee on any proposals for change at Cannock Chase Hospital.

Councillor Mitchell suggested that Mr. Andrew Crawshaw provide a detailed written response to the Committee with regard to the reform at Cannock Chase Hospital and other items raised by the Select Committee.

11. Items for Future Meeting

Press Release

The Head of Performance Management advised that in future copies of press releases issued by the PCT will be forwarded to members of the Select Committee.

Foundation Status

Members agreed to receive a presentation on South Staffs Healthcare Trust's application for Foundation Status in September, as part of the formal consultation process. The presentation should be made available to all Members.

12. Action Learning Bid for Funding – Staffordshire County Council

The Head of Performance Management informed the Select Committee of an Action Learning Project bid was being submitted by the County Council. The bid sets out proposals for investigating issues around access to a Healthy Diet in Staffordshire. If the bid is successful, two action learning sets would be set up within the District, targeted at deprived wards to identify what the barriers are to accessing a healthy diet in those areas.

Members supported the bid and acknowledged that if successful, would provide a useful information for health scrutiny.

CHAIRMAN