

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2005 AT 2.00 P.M.

IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Beddows, J. (Chairman)

Alcott, G.
Jones, R.

Mitchell, C.
Williams, A.

By Invitation: Mr. J-P. Parsons – Chief Executive, Cannock Chase PCT
Mr. B. Lee – Staff Officer PR, Staffordshire Ambulance Service
Mrs. S. Woodward – Staffordshire County Council Representative
R. Wilson – Patient and Public Involvement Forum

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G.N. Molineux, Mrs. M.A. Davis, S.M. Hewitt and Mrs. A.F. Bernard. Apologies were also received from J. Bletcher, Cannock Chase Primary Care Trust).

Prior to commencement of the meeting County Councillor Sue Woodward reported to Members that she would no longer be involved with the County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee and therefore she would not be attending the Council's Health Select Committee. Her new role would be as the County's Cabinet Leader for Social Care and Health.

Members thanked County Councillor Sue Woodward for her support during the time she has been a Member on the Health Select Committee.

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

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Beddows, J.	Involved with Development of the Norton Canes Clinic	Personal

43. Cannock Chase Primary Care Trust

Members welcomed Mr. Jean-Pierre Parsons, Chief Executive of Cannock Chase Primary Care Trust.

Mr. Parsons reported that discussions had recently taken place between both the Strategic Health Authority and Primary Care Trusts in Staffordshire regarding the proposed merge of PCT's. Following the discussion a number of points were raised in relation to the reduction of PCT's, the future of the NHS, commissioning, and services provided by PCT's.

Mr. Parsons explained that should the proposals be accepted then the current 6 PCT's for Staffordshire would merge to become one, which would serve the whole County.

He explained that the outcome from the Secretary of State was expected the end of November 2005 and would confirm the Department of Health's decision. Following this consideration, any proposals for changes to PCT boundaries would then go out for a three-month statutory consultation to all local stakeholders and staff. The consultation would begin early December 2005, with implementation in April 2006.

Councillor Alcott raised a number of concerns, indicating that services currently provided by the PCT should be retained if the merge is agreed, and also queried the services currently provided by the PCT.

Mr. Parsons responded and stated that the PCT had provided a number of provisions including the following: -

- Modern practices
- New GP's
- New surgeries
- Surgeries for vulnerable groups
- Female GP's for Rugeley
- Opening of the Hednesford surgery
- Plans for the Cannock development
- Recruitment of new dentists

Mr. Parsons reported that Cannock Chase PCT was the first to provide services of a Community Paramedic Team to Staffordshire that would enable people to be treated for certain conditions in their own home. He also reported on the development of a primary care team, which meant that fewer people would now have to travel to Stafford.

Councillor Mitchell raised a number of questions for discussion, which included the following:-

- GP's reactions to the proposed new arrangements
- Proposed sizes of PCT's for Stoke, Staffordshire and Telford

Mr. Parsons reported that a number of GP's are quite apprehensive and have raised some concerns. With regard to the proposed sizes of PCT's, Mr. Parsons reported that the size was based on where people live and work. He explained that the PCT currently serve a population of 130,000 and by the end of the decade the figure was estimated to be 140,000 due to the population rising.

Members discussed issues surrounding the PCT's budgets, working relationships with the PCT and locality focus.

44. Staffordshire Ambulance Service

Members welcomed Mr. Bob Lee, Staff Officer PR of Staffordshire Ambulance Trust.

Mr. Lee explained that the Ambulance Trust first discovered proposals regarding merging with the West Midlands approximately 18 months ago. He explained that there was a proposal to reduce the number of Ambulance Trusts and that public consultation was announced on the Government's website in August 2005. In September 2005 at the Ambulance Trust's Annual General Meeting the Chief Executive announced the proposed changes to the current structure, based on issues such as making the Trust more cost effective, more responsive to emergency calls and a cut in management costs.

Mr. Lee explained that following the Board's consultation in September 2005, it was agreed that should the re-organisation take place there would be one regional control and services would be maintained. He explained that there were now reservations as to whether the current levels of service would actually be maintained under the new arrangements.

Mr. Lee reported that there were a number of issues he wanted to bring to everyone's attention, first, that under Clinical Governance arrangements proposed for 1 April 2006 every 'Lucas' device must be taken off every vehicle, or, provided to every other Trust. Each 'Lucas' device costs £6,500.

He explained that if the Trust adheres to Clinical Governance standards, it would be inevitable that lives will be lost.

There was a consensus between Members that the full support of the Health Select Committee should be given to the Ambulance Trust to keep the current services.

CHAIRMAN