

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

TUESDAY, 26 APRIL 2005 AT 3.30 P.M.

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Bernard, Mrs. A.F. (Chairman)

Williams, A. (Vice-Chairman)

Davis, Mrs. M.A. Jones, R.

Hewitt, S.M. Mitchell, C.

By invitation: Mr. J. Bletcher - Cannock Chase PCT
Mrs. J. Martin - Patient and Public Involvement Forum
Mrs. M. Rogerson - Cannock Chase PCT
Mrs. H. Tranter - Carers' Association Southern Staffordshire
Mr. I. Milne - Carer
Mrs. E. Pugh - Carer

(An apology for absence was received from County Councillor D.J. Davis).

44. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2005 were approved as a correct record.

45. DISCUSSION WITH CARERS FROM CARERS ASSOCIATION SOUTHERN STAFFORDSHIRE

Carers from Carers Association Southern Staffordshire (CASS) discussed with the Select Committee the difficulties they experience whilst caring for those in need. In particular, they indicated that there was very little support available for Carers in terms of funding and allowing them time off from caring. However, it was recognised that the work currently being undertaken by the Carers Association (CASS) was assisting.

The Select Committee recognised that although there were a number of organisations providing support for Carers, there was very little in the way that services were co-ordinated in order that Carers can access services easily.

Marion Rogerson of the PCT indicated that it was anticipated that the construction of the new Health Centre in Hednesford would help to be a central point for information for Carers. It was recognised, however, the difficulty that Carers have in finding the time to spend getting appropriate information.

Jonathan Bletcher of the PCT indicated that the PCT were looking to combine the Health, CAVES and CVS directories in order to make information about services more accessible. He indicated that a review of the Carers Strategy was currently being undertaken and that arrangements would be made for the views of the Select Committee to be fed into the review.

46. MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVISION

The Select Committee noted a report from Marion Rogerson of the PCT on the provision of Mental Health Care in the district. It was reported that the PCT were currently developing a strategy for Mental Health. As part of the process, a development forum was established consisting of representatives from Social Services, Carers Association and MIND. The forum was currently working to a vision and framework strategy for future improvements and a plan of action.

A document outlining the key challenges facing the Mental Health Service was circulated at the meeting.

47. COUNTY COUNCIL'S HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That, in view of the absence of the Council's representative on the County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee, this item be deferred.

48. UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALTH CENTRE AT CHASE LEISURE CENTRE

It was reported by the Head of Leisure that the Council had received a proposal from the PCT's appointed contractor for the development of a new Health Centre at the Chase Leisure Centre. The Council's Chief Executive had met with the Chief Executive of the PCT and it was agreed that a decision on the proposals be postponed until such time as the results of the land contamination survey at Cannock Stadium were known. It was anticipated that the results of the survey would be known during May 2005.

Whilst the PCT confirmed that this was the case, they indicated that they were under pressure to improve health services within the district and that there was a need for a swift decision on this matter.

CHAIRMAN