

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING) held in Civic Suite 0.1A, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 3 July 2012.

PRESENT: Councillor S J Criswell – Chairman.

Councillors S Akthar, K M Baker,
Mrs P A Jordan, P Kadewere, Mrs L Kadic,
M C Oliver, J W G Pethard and R J West.

Mr R Coxhead and Mrs M Nicholas –
Coopted Members.

14. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 12th June 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor K M Baker declared a personal interest in Minute No. 12/18 by virtue of being Vice-Chairman of Huntingdon Shopmobility.

16. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000: FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered and noted the current Forward Plan of Key Decisions (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which had been prepared by the Executive Leader of the Council for the period 1st July to 31st October 2012. In noting the addition of an item entitled "Gambling Act 2005 – Revised Statement of Principles", Members agreed that an advance copy would be circulated to Members before a decision was taken whether to include it on the Agenda for the Panel's October 2012 meeting.

17. UPDATE ON REDESIGN OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

(Dr C Denman, Medical Director for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust, Mr J Ellis, Head of Mental Health Commissioning for NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Dr D Irwin, GP Mental Health Lead for Hunts Care Partners, Mr S Legood, Assistant Director for Business Development and Marketing for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust, and Dr J Richmond, GP Mental Health Lead for Hunts Health, were in attendance for consideration of this item).

Pursuant to Minute No. 11/93 and with the aid of a presentation by Mr J Ellis, Head of Mental Health Commissioning for NHS Cambridgeshire, and Dr J Richmond, GP Mental Health Lead for Hunts Health, the Panel received an update on the redesign of mental health services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. As part of a presentation, Members were informed of the feedback which had been received during the earlier consultation and were apprised of the

steps that would be undertaken to address each of the points raised. The Panel then received background information relating to the Advice and Referral Centre, including the purpose of establishing the Centre, the key issues to be addressed and the current status of its establishment.

Having concluded the presentation, Mr Ellis proceeded to respond to questions which had been raised by the Panel in advance of the meeting. The questions related to a number of aspects of the new service arrangements including transportation arrangements for both patients and their carers, care in the community services, the role of the Crisis Resolution Home Treatment Team, the reasons for the closure of Acer Ward together with the community services available from the Newtown Centre, Huntingdon and the availability of specialist mental health assessments at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. In response to a follow-up question by the Chairman, Mr Ellis undertook to confirm outside of the meeting whether reimbursements to travel costs were means tested.

A question was then asked by Councillor Mrs P A Jordan about access to the Crisis Resolution Home Treatment Team and whether patients in need of the service would be directed towards the Advice and Referral Centre. Dr C Denman, Medical Director for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, responded by assuring Members that this service would not cease and that it played a significant part in the overall structure of mental health services. Furthermore, it was confirmed that the Advice and Referral Centre would primarily deal with issues that did not require an immediate response. Any calls for service requiring a response within four hours would be directed towards the Crisis Resolution Home Treatment Team.

The Panel was advised that the services of the Advice and Referral Centre would be offered to patients, carers and their families from January/February 2013 onwards. It was not intended to publicise contact details for the service. Preliminary referral routes would be largely as they were at present. It was, however, noted that the public could access services through the dedicated website which had been set up specifically for this purpose. The website contained a comprehensive directory of all Primary Care Trust services.

Mrs M Nicholas queried whether calls made to the Advice and Referral Centre would be handled by qualified staff. Dr C Denman responded by informing the Panel that the Centre would be staffed by both reception staff and gateway workers. The latter would undergo a comprehensive training programme and acquire extensive knowledge and experience of the mental health field.

Members then discussed the travel implications of the service redesign and queried whether the transitional arrangements were operating as effectively as was intended. Mr Ellis reported that there were some issues to resolve; however, efforts were being made to work closely with service users and carers in this respect. Dr J Richmond then outlined some of the experiences of his patients, who primarily resided within the Ramsey area. Feedback received to date suggested that half of his patients preferred the care in the community approach, whilst the others had been affected to some extent by the

travel requirements of the new service design. Members were however reminded that patients' views would differ according to their own personal circumstances.

Other matters that were discussed included the type of clients that the Advice and Referral Centre would deal with, the availability of community services such as Caresco, who raised awareness of mental health issues and the population growth projections for Cambridgeshire and its subsequent impact on demand for services.

At the conclusion of the Panel's discussions, the Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance at the meeting. In so doing, Mr Ellis indicated that he and colleagues would be happy to return to provide a further update to Members at a future Panel meeting.

18. VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING 2013/14 ONWARDS

(Councillor N J Guyatt, Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Housing, was in attendance for consideration of this item).

(Councillors G Bull and P G Mitchell were present for discussion on this item).

(At 8:10pm, during discussion on this item, Councillor S Akthar left the meeting).

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Environmental and Community Health Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) on the allocation of funding to support the voluntary sector in Huntingdonshire. Councillor N J Guyatt, Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Housing, drew the Panel's attention to the current procedure for agreeing financial support together with the criteria that it planned to utilise to determine future applications. Members were advised that the future funding model would be a grant based system, which would be more flexible than the previous commissioning model.

Consideration was given to a suggestion that future financial support should be tapered to ensure voluntary organisations found match-funding for any grant that they received from the Council in the final year of the three year period. It was argued that this would mean the budget set aside by the Council would stretch further. Members expressed their reservations over the tapering process, which appeared to be prescriptive on the voluntary organisations' part. Councillor N J Guyatt concurred with the comments made and indicated that it would be up to each individual organisation to determine how they would wish to match-fund their activities and the additional value for money they would provide. Comment was then made on the need to provide alternative ways of supporting the voluntary sector, such as assisting organisations behind the scenes in their search for match funding opportunities.

It was stressed to Members that the success or otherwise of any applications that were received would be determined by the criteria against which applications were assessed. In response to a question by a Member, it was confirmed that the process would be open to the

whole voluntary sector and not just those organisations that currently held commissioning agreements with the Council.

Members noted that the relevant Executive Councillors responsible for determining grant applications would be Councillors T D Sanderson and J A Gray, Executive Members for Healthy and Active Communities and Resources respectively. In that light, the Managing Director (Communities, Partnerships and Projects) undertook to make this clear in paragraph 9.2 of the report prior to its submission to the Cabinet.

Owing to the Panel's concerns with the proposed tapering process, the Panel has agreed upon a further amendment to the report at paragraph 9.6 which has been agreed by the Managing Director (Communities, Partnerships and Projects). Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that subject to amendments outlined above relating to match-funding and the identity of the relevant Executive Councillors, the report by the Head of Environmental and Community Health Services on Voluntary Sector Funding 2013/14 Onwards be endorsed for submission to the Cabinet.

19. JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT - AWARENESS RAISING

(Mrs W Quarry, JSNA Programme Manager for Cambridgeshire County Council, was in attendance for consideration of this item).

With the aid of a report by Cambridgeshire County Council (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel was acquainted with the contents of the Phase 6 Summary Report for the Cambridgeshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The Report played an integral part in the development of the draft Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy (Minute No. 12/20 refers). It identified key facts about the health and wellbeing of the Cambridgeshire population, together with health related trends for specific population groups.

Mrs Quarry identified some of the main findings of the Report in relation to Huntingdonshire. She made reference to various factors that had been found to affect the population's health and, in particular, road deaths and statutory homelessness. The Panel recognised the importance of the JSNA as a basis for local health strategic planning and spending. This importance partly derived from the fact that it contained links to many other documents and drew on a range of data. Having noted that the highest spending on health went on mental health disorders, it was

RESOLVED

that the report be received and noted.

20. DRAFT CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2012 - 17

(Dr L Robin, Director of Public Health for NHS Cambridgeshire was in attendance for this item).

(At 8.55pm, during discussion on this item, Councillor S Akthar returned to the meeting).

(At 9.05pm, during discussion on this item, Councillor Mrs L Kadic left the meeting).

The Panel received and noted a copy of the draft Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-17 (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which was currently subject to consultation by NHS Cambridgeshire. The purpose of the consultation was to seek views on the priorities the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and Network believed would improve the Health and Wellbeing of local people. The Strategy also contained details of how Partners would work together effectively to achieve the priorities.

Dr L Robin, Director of Public Health for NHS Cambridgeshire, delivered a presentation on the background to the work and membership of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and Network. She then drew Members' attention to the Strategy's vision and principles and mention was also made of the tools utilised to assist with the development of the Strategy, which included the Cambridgeshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, existing local strategies and social care organisations, a stakeholder event which had been held to identify the current priorities of local partnerships and organisations together with the findings of a recently completed Community Impact Assessment. The Panel was advised of the statutory requirement to have in place a Health and Wellbeing Strategy by April 2013; however, it was intended to publish the Cambridgeshire Strategy in October 2012.

A detailed explanation of each of the proposed priorities was then delivered to Members, which were as follows:-

- Ensure a positive start to life for children;
- Support older people to be safe, independent and well;
- Encourage healthy lifestyles and behaviours in all actions and activities whilst respecting people's personal choices;
- Create a safe environment and help to build strong communities, wellbeing and mental health; and
- Create a sustainable environment in which communities can flourish.

In concluding her presentation, Dr Robin advised that once the Strategy was ready for publication, work would commence on developing an action plan for the delivery of the agreed outcomes.

In discussing the proposals, comment was made on the need for enhanced levels of community involvement on health and wellbeing matters, particularly in light of the forthcoming transfer of public health services to County Councils. It was further suggested that local GP surgeries and health providers should more actively engage with their

local communities.

Mr R Coxhead queried what involvement NHS Cambridgeshire had in infrastructure planning for large scale housing developments. In response, Dr Robin reported that NHS Cambridgeshire contributed to the planning process in two ways through its own public health planning arrangements and through a nominated estates lead at NHS Cambridgeshire. It was confirmed that during the planning phase consideration was always given to the health facilities available within neighbouring communities and that a significant increase in the population would be needed to justify the establishment of a new GP practice.

A discussion then ensued on the methods of communication that were employed by NHS Cambridgeshire to generate awareness of the consultation. Members noted that details of it would be circulated to all Town and Parish Councils, local GP surgeries and libraries. The Panel then discussed the perception that often existed in relation to consultations that the outcome was predetermined. Dr Robin confirmed that this was a risk but that efforts were being made to elicit the views of stakeholders on the proposed Strategy to ensure that the priorities were right for Cambridgeshire.

Following a question by Councillor P Kadewere on the availability of resources to deliver against the Strategy's priorities, Members were advised that the Health and Wellbeing Board had been mindful of the financial constraints placed upon Partner organisations and noted that the Strategy was not intended to need additional resources.

In response to a question by Councillor R J West about the period covered by the Strategy, Dr Robin reported that it would be refreshed at some point during its life. Having noted the number of Countywide and Districtwide strategies, which had contributed towards the development of the draft Strategy, the Panel was informed that all Partners had contributed towards its development.

Given that the consultation period would close on 17th September 2012 the Chairman suggested that a Working Group should be established to record terms that would form the Panel's response. Accordingly, it

RESOLVED

that Councillors S J Criswell, M Oliver and J Pethard, together with Mr R Coxhead, be appointed on to a Working Group to formulate the Panel's response to the draft Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-17 for submission to the Panel's September 2012 meeting.

21. LEADERSHIP DIRECTION

The Chairman reported that this item had been deferred for consideration by the Panel at its September 2012 meeting. Members were advised that the Leadership Direction would be announced at Council the following day and that the Corporate Plan Working Group had given prior consideration to it on 28th June 2012.

22. NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS - PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEES IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE - CONSULTATION RESPONSES

With the aid of a report by the Neighbourhood Forums Working Group (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel were acquainted with the consultation responses received from Town and Parish Councils, District and relevant County Members, Partners of the existing Neighbourhood Forums and members of the public with an interest in the existing Neighbourhood Forums on the proposed establishment of Local Joint Committees in Huntingdonshire. The Chairman reminded the Panel of the background to the review which had been prompted by the Cabinet at the meeting on 16th May 2011 by the Deputy Executive Leader. Members' attention was drawn to Appendix D of the report which outlined a summary of the consultation responses received, together with the Working Group's response to each of the points raised.

On behalf of Councillor Mrs L Kadic, Councillor P Kadewere queried how the views of local communities would be represented at the proposed Local Joint Committee meetings. In response, the Chairman reported that elected Members would represent the communities' views and that the meetings would continue to operate within the public domain. He further reported that each of the Local Joint Committees would be responsible for setting their own Agendas which would be of local relevance to each area.

In discussing the proposal to undertake a review of the Local Joint Committees after 12 months, it was suggested that this could be done during a debate at a future Council meeting. A question was then asked by Councillor Mrs P A Jordan on the likely administrative and Officer costs associated with the proposals. The Chairman responded by informing the Panel that Officer support would continue in the same way as it was for the existing Neighbourhood Forums. Having regard to the servicing of meetings, it was confirmed that secretarial functions would be shared between the Clerks/Officers from amongst the membership of the Local Joint Committee.

In noting that the Chairman would be attending a meeting with the County Council on 6th July 2012 to discuss various matters identified in the authority's consultation response and having been advised that the Chairman would also be attending the Cabinet's July meeting to present the report, it was

RESOLVED

that the report of the Neighbourhood Forums Working Group be endorsed for submission to the Cabinet.

23. CAMBRIDGESHIRE ADULTS, WELLBEING AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor R J West reported that the Working Group appointed by the Cambridgeshire Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate delayed and premature discharges from hospital would be meeting on the 5th July 2012. The next Committee meeting was scheduled to be held on 15th July 2012. He

also gave an undertaking to update the Panel on matters relating to the redesign of mental health services.

24. WORK PLAN STUDIES

The Panel received and noted a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which contained details of studies being undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels for Economic Well-Being and for Environmental Well-Being.

25. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING) - PROGRESS

The Panel received and noted a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which contained details of actions taken in response to recent discussions and decisions. Following a request for Members to assist Mr R Coxhead with the study into the social value of One Leisure Services, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillors S J Criswell and R J West be appointed to the One Leisure Sub-Group.

26. SCRUTINY

The 125th Edition of the Decision Digest was received and noted.

Chairman