

MINUTES of the meeting of the Health and Care Partnership held at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Monday 11th July, 2005 at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

Herefordshire Council: Councillors: Mrs. L.O. Barnett, Mrs. M.D. Lloyd-Hayes, R.J. Phillips, D.W. Rule, R.V. Stockton.

Ms S. Fiennes, Director of Children's Services.

Herefordshire Primary Care Trust: Mr. P. Bates (Chief Executive), Ms F. Howie (Associate Director of Public Health), Dr. I. Tait (Chairman of the Executive Committee), Mr. E.G. Willmott (Chairman of PCT).

Hereford Hospitals Trust: Mr. D. Rose (Chief Executive).

In Attendance: Ms Y. Clowsley (PCT), Mr. S. Hairsnape (PCT), Ms J. Howard (PCT), Mr S. Heptinstall, Councillor W.J.S. Thomas.

40. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

That in accordance with Paragraph 9 of the Constitution the Chairman of the Herefordshire Primary Care Trust Mr. E.G. Willmott was duly elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

41. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

That in accordance with Paragraph 10 of the Constitution the Cabinet Member (Social Care Adults and Health) Councillor Mrs. L.O. Barnett was duly appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman of the Herefordshire Hospital Trust and the Chairman of the Primary Care Trust PPI Forum.

43. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no named substitutes.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

45. MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th April, 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

46. REPORT FROM THE JOINT HEALTH AND CARE COMMISSIONING GROUP

Jean Howard, Programme Manager IMPACT informed the Partnership of the issues discussed by the Joint Health and Care Commissioning Group at their recent meeting on 13th June, 2005. The key points raised were:

- 'Alliance' funding and procurement. Jessica Stewart 'Alliance' Project Manager gave a presentation on funding and procurement and on a code of practice. The code of practice was well received and is now out for consultation until 1st September 2005.
- Accreditation. Members were advised that the accreditation process was very challenging and that members had to 'buy in' to the process but that it was succeeding.
- Partnership Fund - Small Schemes. Members were advised that a consultation and satisfaction survey had been carried out with organisations that had applied for funding from the scheme, however, the response had been poor. Further consultation is to be carried out, with a fresh consideration of the data.
- JCG - Community Transport. Members were informed of the work of Voluntary Action in providing a range of community transport schemes. It was now proposed to work with local health services to look at how linkages could be made to improve transport services. This work is to be carried out by Yvonne Clowsley and Trish Jay who will work together to map out the various elements of transport in the health community and then liaise with the Transport Ambition Group of the Herefordshire Partnership.

RESOLVED: THAT the report be noted and the above comments and suggestions be taken into account at discussions with the Transport Ambition Group of the Herefordshire Partnership.

47. INTERIM JOINT PLANNING AND COMMISSIONING STRUCTURE FOR HEREFORDSHIRE

Yvonne Clowsley made a presentation to Members on the proposed Interim Joint Planning and Commissioning Structure for Herefordshire.

She advised that Local Implementation Teams had been established to deliver the National Service Frameworks but they now needed to deliver a wider commissioning agenda. The paper presented proposed an interim joint planning and commissioning structure which would need further refinement once the current health and local authority structural changes had embedded.

It was noted that the review of the Herefordshire Plan and the development of the Local Area Agreement would require changes to the number and configuration of Ambition Groups. Members emphasised that they would like changes in the structure to take place as soon as possible.

Members discussed the Section 31 Agreements, which are under regular review. It was felt that the Section 31 Agreements could be considered to be demand led. However, they would be monitored closely to ensure the right balance between providing the service and financing it and keeping in line with Local Area Agreements.

RESOLVED: THAT the report be noted.

48. STATE OF HEREFORDSHIRE REPORT

Gill Swaites, Research Officer Herefordshire Partnership, outlined to Members the format and functions of the State of Herefordshire Report. She stated that the functions of the report were:

- To evaluate the progress made in meeting the aims of the Herefordshire Plan, and;
- as a resource for Partner organisations to inform strategies, programmes and projects, funding bids, and research activities.

The format of the report was:

- a summary table showing progress for indicators and links to ambitions;
- to provide general facts and figures;
- ten sections - one for each ambition group - providing contextual information and summary tables for indicators, and;
- to provide sources for further information and contacts at the end of each section.

The general contextual information relevant to all users:

- current population;
- population projections;
- access to services - deprivation and distances to key services, and;
- quality of life.

Members were advised of the current population of the county and the projected increase in the older population against the national level. The results of the Council's 2003 survey on "what makes Herefordshire a good place to live" were: low crime levels; health services; affordable housing; low level traffic congestion and access to nature. Equally when surveyed on where improvements were most needed they were: road and pavement repairs; level of traffic congestion; activities for teenagers; affordable housing and levels of crime.

A discussion ensued with regards to amenities for young people and concerns were expressed around alcohol abuse, which some Members felt was of equal concern to that of drug abuse in young people.

The meeting also discussed teenage conception rates. It was noted that Herefordshire's rate was lower than national rates at 37.2 per 1,000 compared to 47.6 regionally and 43.1 nationally, but it was still a cause for concern. Members were informed that the new Children's Services Directorate was proposing to collate new and more informative statistical information, with consideration being given as to the best mechanism to carry this out.

Mortality rates

Gill Swaites went on to report on the mortality rate figures from suicide and undetermined injury in Herefordshire. It was noted that Herefordshire figures had improved a little and caution was needed when interpreting this data.

Discussion then focussed on the mental health of rural farming communities in the current climate of change and particularly in relation to that of young men in the

community. Consideration was given as to whether it was worth gaining more data on this issue from the diocesan office as rural churches collated figures on depression in the farming community. However, Paul Bates, Chief Executive of the Primary Care Trust, felt this information would only provide part of the picture and it needed to be considered as part of the work of the Mental Health Partnership Board. The question was raised as to whether the diocesan office should be represented at the Health and Care Partnership meetings. The Chairman undertook to investigate this matter.

Rural Isolation of the Elderly

Members examined the figures relating to the number of people aged 65 and over helped to live at home. Figures suggest Herefordshire does not perform well against this indicator but this may be affected by the quantity of services commissioned by the statutory services but provided by the voluntary sector and others. It was suggested that alternative ways of collecting this data needed to be put in place.

It was noted that it was more difficult to provide services and transport for older and vulnerable people.

Adoption Figures

In relation to adoption figures these were low and needed to be monitored, however, Members were advised that figures for this year were higher than previous years.

Public Health

Obesity was also an issue of concern and work was progressing to look at how we could establish reliable data to measure the scale of the problem.

Finally all Members of the Health and Care Partnership agreed they had been provided with an excellent report.

RESOLVED: THAT the report be noted.

49. PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Development of Local Area Agreements.
- Ambulance Services and emergency practitioners.
- Updates on adult mental health services and adult learning disabilities.
- Ethnic minority services - for a future meeting.

50. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items raised under any other business.

51. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: THAT the date, time and venue for the next two meetings was Thursday 13th October, 2005 and Thursday 19th January 2006 at 10.30 am at the Council Chamber, Brockington, Hereford.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm

CHAIRMAN