

AGENDA ITEM 3

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HEALTH  
ENGAGEMENT PANEL HELD IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,  
HERTFORD ON MONDAY 23 MARCH 2009  
AT 7.30 PM

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PRESENT: Councillor K Darby (Chairman).  
Councillors S A Bull, Mrs D M Hone, and Mrs B  
Wrangles

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors R Beeching \* and R L Parker (\* in  
attendance for Minute No. 14)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Barfoot	- Environmental Health Promotion Officer
Lorraine Blackburn	- Committee Secretary
Marian Langley	- Scrutiny Officer
George A Robertson	- Director of Customer and Community Services
Tracy Strange	- Head of Health and Housing
Paul Thomas	- Environmental Health Manager Commercial

ACTION14 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Councillor R Beeching to the meeting. She commented that Councillor Beeching had attended a Stakeholder Meeting on 10 March 2009 on her behalf. Councillor Beeching commented that it had been the third meeting of the Group. He provided a summary of the five issues which had been discussed at that meeting. These included:

- Transport (public, private and car parks)
- Delivering Quality Health Care
- Poly Clinics
- Intermediate Care Review
- The PCT Commissioning Plan

Councillor S A Bull commented on the difficulties of transport and the lack of poor communication between various partners and service users.

Councillor Beeching commented on the complexity of service care proposals and the expense of the new site options under discussion.

The Chairman commented on the importance of correct signage and the system would only work if people got to the most suitable services for their needs. She used the example of people arriving at A&E for non-urgent matters when a Walk-In centre would be better

ACTION15 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor S A Bull declared a personal interest in Minute 18 (Draft 2009/10 Public Health Strategy and Action Plan) and in any transport issue, by virtue of the fact he was a voluntary driver for Addenbrookes Hospital.

RESOLVED ITEMS16 MINUTES

Councillor D Hone commented that in relation to Minute 8 (Declarations of Interest) that she had declared an interest by virtue of the fact that she was a Governor of the "Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust" and not the "PCT".

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2008 as amended, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

17 HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FEEDBACK FROM CHAIRMAN – HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17 DECEMBER 2008

The Chairman provided Members with feedback following the last meeting of Hertfordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee on 17 December 2008.

Councillor Darby commented that a further meeting would be held at the County Hall on 24 March 2009 to which Councillor D Hone had agreed to attend on her behalf. The agenda for the meeting was circulated. In relation to the item on Cancer Care Services, she commented that this would include the results of the recent public consultation exercise on Mount Vernon Services Development Plan which this authority had contributed to by a written submission.

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Members commented on the uncertainty which some users of the service might face when needing to attend hospital e.g. for long term cancer treatment. Councillor R L Parker commented that where specialist care was being provided should not be an issue rather it was about having the confidence in the care being provided.

The Chairman urged Members to review Hertfordshire County Council's website for further information for matters under consideration by HCC's Health Scrutiny Committee. This information would normally be available about the same time as the Health Engagement Panel.

RESOLVED – that the Chairman's comments be noted.

18 DRAFT 2009/10 PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

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Simon Barfoot presented an Action Plan detailing the work which the Council would undertake to deliver its Public Health Strategy over the coming year by working within the six core themes:-

- Smoking: to reduce the number of people smoking;
- Physical activity: greater participation
- Healthy Eating
- Obesity: to reduce obesity
- Other Health Factors: wider issues which contribute to public health;
- Powers of influence: to influence health partners and organisations

Members were reminded that the focus of the strategy was

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about the prevention of ill health and the protection of health within the context of the six main themes.

Simon Barfoot provided an update on how health initiatives so far had impacted on the development of the Action Plan and how last years initiatives linked and furthered the aims of the Action Plan in 2009/10.

Councillor S A Bull questioned whether the walking to school initiative was in decline. Simon Barfoot commented that there were no figures to suggest that the "Walking Bus" initiative was in decline. He commented that the majority of schools had "green plans" in place but that a lot depended on the make up of a school i.e. if it was local, children would walk to it.

Councillor B Wrangles commented on the issue of the Mens' Health Week and the distribution of health packs. She added that in the past, campaigners had been discouraged from distributing publicity information at railway stations as this information became "litter" which British Rail then charged to clear up.

Simon Barfoot commented that the information would be managed in the form of a package together with questionnaires which would minimise any problems associated with litter. The possibility of targeting manual workers was an initiative which could also be progressed at some future point.

The Chairman suggested that stress management might be an initiative to target male commuters in light of the current economic climate. Paul Thomas commented that stress was already one of the Council's topic areas with substantial amounts of information already available.

Councillor R L Parker commented that a brochure was currently being circulated on Bowel Cancer asking recipients to submit samples for analysis. The Panel supported including this initiative within the next Mens'

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Health Week.

RESOLVED – that the Public Health Strategy and Action Plan for 2009/10 be supported.

19 WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

The Chief Executive submitted a report inviting the Committee to review its work programme. The Head of Health and Housing commented that the Public Health Strategy had been developed some time ago and decisions made in relation to what it would tackle in the light of evidence available at that time. However there was some data now available, that East Herts was developing an issue with children and alcohol and of the link between crime and disorder. It was suggested that it might be time to review the work programme with this issue in mind and identify health related gaps so that the Council could make sure that it was doing whatever was necessary.

The leading role of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership was noted in relation to drug and alcohol. The Panel was however, concerned that the health and public health aspect within local strategies should be addressed. The Scrutiny Officer commented that a 'round table' discussion with Community Safety Partners and local services in this field could be programmed in for the October meeting.

The Panel supported the inclusion of an item on drug and alcohol from a health and public health perspective on the Work Programme for October 2009.

The Panel approved the work programme, as amended and attached to the report now submitted.

The Scrutiny Officer reported that the East Herts Scrutiny Annual Report for 2008/09 would be circulated shortly for comment. A draft version would be going to the next Community Scrutiny Committee on 7 April 2009 and would

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be sent to Health Engagement Panel members by email.

RESOLVED - that the work programme, as amended, for 2009/10 be approved.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Chairman	.....
Date	.....