

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
HEALTH ENGAGEMENT PANEL HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,  
HERTFORD ON MONDAY 12 DECEMBER  
2011, AT 7.00 PM

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PRESENT: Councillor Mrs D Hone (Chairman)  
Councillors S Bull, K Crofton and N Symonds

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors D Andrews, L Haysey and  
P Moore

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Barfoot	- Environmental Health Promotion Officer
Lorraine Blackburn	- Committee Secretary
Marian Langley	- Scrutiny Officer
Will O'Neill	- Head of Community and Cultural Services
George A Robertson	- Director of Customer and Community Services
Paul Thomas	- Environmental Health Manager

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Siobhan Nundram	- Herts Partnership Foundation Trust
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19 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors R  
Beeching and E Buckmaster.

## 20 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman stated that, with Members' consent, she would be changing the order of the agenda and would be taking agenda item 7 (Safeguarding Children Policy and Training programme) after agenda item 5 (HCC Health Scrutiny – feedback from Chairman). This was agreed.

The Chairman welcomed Siobhan Nundram of Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust who would be providing Members with a presentation on the transformation of the Mental Health Service.

The Chairman advised Members that she, along with Simon Barfoot and Paul Thomas had attended the House of Lords on 29 November to receive the Council's award for Health Promotion and Community Wellbeing partnership. It was noted that there would be a formal presentation of the award at Council on 14 December 2011.

## 21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman declared a personal interest in the matter referred to at Minute 25 - Mental Health Services, by virtue of the fact that she was a Governor of Hertfordshire Partnership and Foundation Trust.

## 22 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Health Engagement Panel meeting held on 18 October 2011 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 23 HCC HEALTH SCRUTINY - FEEDBACK FROM CHAIRMAN

The Chairman provided an update following the meeting of Hertfordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee on 19 October 2011 when the Committee had scrutinised QIPP (Quality Innovation Productivity Prevention). These comments would be presented to the next Health Scrutiny

Committee on 13 December, 2011.

It was noted that there would be an exhibition for the new QE II hospital at Hertford County Hospital on 13 December from 1-4pm.

24 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY AND TRAINING PROGRAMME

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The Head of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report on the Council's role and duty in relation to safeguarding children and its duty in complying with the Children Act 2005 and supplementary guidance. It was noted that Hertfordshire County Council had established an independent Safeguarding Children Board for Hertfordshire (HSCB). The role of the Board was set out in the report now submitted. It was noted that the Council had adopted a new Policy on Safeguarding and continued to monitor and evaluate best practice through the County-wide Safeguarding Children Forum for District and Boroughs under Guidance from the Board. The main issues for consideration following a mid-term assessment were set out in the report now submitted.

Members received the report and endorsed the Policy on Safeguarding Children as set out in Essential Reference Paper "B".

RESOLVED – that the Policy on Safeguarding Children, as now submitted, be endorsed.

25 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - SPEAKER SIOBHAN NUNDRAM (HERTS PARTNERSHIP AND FOUNDATION TRUST)

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The Chairman welcomed Siobhan Nundram from Herts Partnership and Foundation Trust who had been invited to provide Members with a presentation on the transformation of Mental Health Service provision and what was needed to bring about the changes proposed. The strategy aimed to make Mental Wellbeing "everybody's business".

The aspirations and the anticipated outcomes of the strategy

based on connecting with people, being active, taking notice, ongoing learning, and giving to the community were explained in terms of how this could improve the quality of life and development of individuals and its positive effects on the community. The strategy was aimed at making people become more independent and taking responsibility for their recovery and helping each other.

A Member expressed concern about previous attitudes to mental health and how individuals were grouped together with no apparent regard to the degree of their mental health needs. Ms Nundram explained what new approaches would be adopted including a range of new providers and choices of services, the use of Host Families and how these would work. Ms Nundram explained the role of the Employment Adviser in helping individuals recover, and become independent. Ms Nundram stressed the need to make sure that organisations (including employers) supported people with mental health issues. She explained how access to help could be found, how they were “categorised” and explained that their “pathway” in the system would now be tracked following an assessment of their needs.

Members received the presentation. The Chairman on behalf of Members thanked Ms Nundram for her presentation.

RESOLVED – that the presentation be received.

26 REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE ON THE EAST HERTS  
PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY 2011/12 ACTION PLAN AND  
PROPOSALS FOR THE 2012/13

The Executive Member for Housing and Health submitted a report reviewing the progress made on the East Herts Public Health Strategy 2011/12 Action Plan and on proposals for the 2012/13 Action Plan.

The Environmental Health Promotion Officer explained that the Action Plan for 2011/12 contained 45 projects which focused on key topic areas including:

- Smoking;

- Physical activity;
- Healthy eating;
- Obesity;
- Other health factors; and
- Powers of influence

It was noted that 35 of the 45 projects had been undertaken and that the remaining ones would be undertaken before the end of March 2012. An Interim Progress Report for 2011/12 attached to the report now submitted and as set out in Essential Reference Paper “B” provided further detail and explained the guiding principles of the strategy.

Members provided feedback on what other projects / issues might be included for inclusion in the 2012/13 Action Plan.

Members noted the progress for 2011/12, supported the projects out lined for inclusion in 2012/13 and agreed that other projects may be included in the Public Health Strategy Action Plan for 2012/13, subject to consultation.

RESOLVED – that (A) the progress made in implementing the Public Health Strategy’s Action Plan for 2011/12 be noted;

(B) the projects outlined in the report now submitted, be supported for inclusion in the Public Health Strategy Action Plan for 2012/13; and

(C) other projects may be included in the Public Health Strategy Action Plan for 2012/13 subject to consultation.

## 27 WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Officer submitted a report detailing the Panel’s Work Programme for 2011/12. She sought feedback on the timing in relation to inviting future speakers to the Health Engagement Panel including NHS Hertfordshire on their ‘Choose and Book’ scheme and from LINK/HealthWatch.

The Executive Member for Housing and Health said that she

had recently attended a conference on Health and Wellbeing and would be arranging for slides to be put on the intranet (Members' Training).

The Executive Member also talked about the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board which was now running in Hertfordshire. Districts/Boroughs were represented on it by Dorothy Thornhill, mayor of Watford Borough Council and Councillor Linda Needham, Leader of North Herts DC. She suggested that they might both be invited to the Health Engagement Panel in future to discuss the Board and its work.

The Scrutiny Officer provided an update on the Health and Social Care Bill which had just had its third reading in the House of Lords.

Members agreed the work programme and authorised the Scrutiny Officer to make any changes as necessary.

RESOLVED – that (A) the work programme be agreed; and

(B) the Scrutiny Officer be authorised to make any changes, additions or arrangements as necessary to the work programme.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

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