

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING PANEL HELD  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON TUESDAY  
18 JUNE 2013, AT 7.00 PM

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PRESENT: Councillor N Symonds (Chairman)  
Councillors P Ballam, R Beeching, S Bull,  
E Buckmaster and P Moore.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors L Haysey, Mrs D Hollebon and  
S Rutland-Barsby.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Barfoot	- Environmental Health Promotion Officer
Lorraine Blackburn	- Democratic Services Officer
George A Robertson	- Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services
Paul Thomas	- Environmental Health Manager

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr David Brewer	- Head of Engagement, East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust
Mr Jim McManus	- Director of Public Health, Hertfordshire County Council
Dr Nicky Williams	- Deputy chair, East and North Herts Clinical

## Commissioning Group

1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor P Moore and seconded by Councillor S Bull, that Councillor E Buckmaster be appointed Vice Chairman for the 2013/14 Civic Year.

RESOLVED – that Councillor E Buckmaster be appointed Vice Chairman for the 2013/14 Civic Year.

2 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was later received from Marc Davis, Director of Development (The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust).

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Members, Panel guests and Students from the University of Hertfordshire to the meeting.

5 YEAR END REVIEW OF PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2012 – 2013

The Environmental Health Promotion Officer gave a presentation summarising what had been achieved locally from a public health viewpoint via a number of health promotion initiatives. He summarised the Council's partnership role and its projected future focus. Local demographics provided a profile of residents' health and a focus for the future.

The Executive Member for Health, Housing and Community Support referred to "time banking" and the need to expand on

the possibilities.

In response to a query from Councillor R Beeching, the Environmental Health Promotion Officer referred to the difficulties in obtaining feedback from schools. Councillor R Beeching suggested that an approach to School Governors might prove more successful. He referred to the difficulties in securing school nurses and the important roles they played. Mr Jim McManus, the Director of Public Health gave an update on this issue.

In response to a query from Councillor P Ballam, the Environmental Health Promotion Officer explained the various sources of data used in preparing reports. In response to a query from Councillor S Bull, the Environmental Health Promotion Officer explained Circle Anglia's role in helping residents attend a recent cooking project event, "Meet and Eat". In response to a query from Councillor P Moore regarding the Sele Children's Centre, the Environmental Health Promotion Officer explained that there was a good link with them and other East Herts Children's Centres. A recent project merited positive feedback from the Centre and further work with the Centre would be explored.

The Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services asked how else the Council could help in furthering health initiatives. Mr McManus stated that what the Council was currently doing health-wise was an excellent model, adding that partnership working was the key to success.

The Panel confirmed and endorsed the East Herts Public Health Strategy Action Plan 2012/13 and was pleased with the progress made.

RESOLVED – that the East Herts Public Health Strategy Action Plan 2012/13 be endorsed.

The Chairman provided an update in relation to Hertfordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee. It was noted that the Ambulance Service was taking on more paramedics and there were concerns relating to insufficient ambulances. The Chairman further advised that Mark Jordan was reviewing rural deprivation and the health and wellbeing of elderly people. It was noted that Hertfordshire was seeing an increase in the number of sexually transmitted diseases.

Councillor E Buckmaster provided an update following a tour of the Princess Alexandra Hospital on 20 March 2013. Of particular concern, was the hospital's need to find £17million in savings in order to achieve trust status.

Councillor P Ballam referred to the need for planning officers to liaise with hospitals when large developments for an area were proposed.

The Executive Member for Health, Housing and Community Support provided an update on the "Ageing Well Conference". She was pleased to report that transportation to hospitals had been considered and explained what new service provision had been agreed by the various bus operators and that this had been helped by providing evidentiary data.

Members received the update.

RESOLVED – that the update be received.

## 7 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERS

The Chairman thanked guest speakers, Dr Nicky Willaims, David Brewer and Jim McManus for attending. The Chairman referred to a number of questions which had been circulated earlier to panel guests which set out Members concerns:

- What does Public Health mean to you and how is this demonstrated in the organisation you work for?
- Bering in mind the majority of Clinical Commission

Group (CCG) budgets are spent on acute care, of the remaining spend priorities, what proportion of these funds would you say are directly spent on public health prevention measures?

- In view of the spend on other priorities, which is the smallest amount for both CCGs, what scope is there for targeting this at preventative interventions such as obesity with local partners like East Herts?
- What aspects of your Acute Trust work would you define as preventative as opposed to reactive secondary care?
- How do you see your role in championing Public Health prevention and practice influencing CCG and Acute Trust priorities?
- With the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Hertfordshire priorities linking across all the Health and Social Care, CCG and Acute trust influences, how do you see the East Herts Local Authority role playing its Part?

A detailed debate took place setting out the panel guests' views, professional priorities and Members' areas of concerns.

In response to a query from the Chairman regarding a comment she had heard regarding the working arrangement between the County Council and the District Council, Mr McManus reassured the Panel that the County Council would be unable to carry on its public health work without the help of the District Council.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Panel, thanked the Panel guests and representatives from the University of Hertfordshire for attending and the full discussion which had taken place.

RESOLVED – that the discussion be noted.

The Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services explained that there had been discussions at each scrutiny committee, around the perception that the work programme of each committee often previewed items to be submitted to the Executive. He added that this used time and attention which might better be employed to challenge and investigate matters which might be considered priorities for their own Committees. He asked Panel Members to consider what their own priorities were and suggested that there might be one or two areas which could be reviewed via a Task and Finish or working Group.

The Executive Member for Health, Housing and Community Support suggested that the Panel might wish to consider some issues raised by Dr Nicky Williams relating to cancer treatment and diagnosis, the frail and vulnerable and obesity.

It was suggested that a meeting be arranged to consider what the Panel might wish to review.

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

(B) an informal meeting be arranged to consider work plan priorities for review.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

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