

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

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors D Andrews, L Haysey and
G McAndrew

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Ian MacBeath	- Hertfordshire County Council
Colette Wyatt-Lowe	- Hertfordshire County Council

15 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Colette Wyatt-Lowe, HCC Executive Member Adult Care and Health and Chairman of Hertfordshire County Council's Health and Wellbeing Board and Iain MacBeath, HCC Director of Health and Community Services to the meeting.

The Chairman also welcomed two members of the public from the Royal Society of Public Health who were attending as observers.

17 CHAIRMAN OF HERTFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: VISIT

Councillor Colette Wyatt-Lowe thanked the Chairman for the invitation to attend the meeting to provide Members with an opportunity to discuss the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2016. She provided a summary of the background to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWbB) and why this had been established, the Government's concerns about the services offered by the NHS locally and of concerns that the NHS base model was not now considered fit for purpose. Councillor Wyatt-Lowe explained the composition of the HWbB, its membership and their areas of expertise. It was noted that Royston was now a part of the joint Cambridge and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group but that work would continue with Royston to ensure parity of care for residents.

At the request of the Chairman, Councillor Wyatt-Lowe responded to the questions posed and circulated with the agenda, the detail of which was set out in the report now submitted and within Essential Reference Paper "B".

Councillor Wyatt-Lowe commented on the good working

relationships which had been built up at a senior level, the on going work to integrate services and joint funding arrangements to maximise the use of resources. She referred to the need to continue to jointly commission work and integrate services generally and to those in more need such as the elderly. Councillor Wyatt-Lowe referred to the role of outreach workers and how their roles needed to be enhanced. Councillor Wyatt-Lowe stated that there was not yet an agreement over the transfer of funding away from acute care into prevention and that was the big “next step”.

Councillor Wyatt-Lowe referred to the nine priorities within HCC’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy and provided a list of the four key areas where she believed district and borough councils could make the greatest contributions. These addressed the issues: thriving families, including benefits advice, dementia friendly communities and environment, physical exercise through leisure services and smoking cessation. It was noted that smoking was the single most preventable admission to hospitals.

Iain MacBeath referred to the two pilot schemes of Home First which were operating in Cheshunt and Potters Bar. He explained how the service operated, including the fact that it used a system of priority categorisation for those at most risk of becoming hospitalised and getting care to them in advance to prevent a crisis. This was an example of pooled resources which was starting to show positive results. He explained the role of local GPs within the Home First initiative.

Councillor Colette Wyatt-Lowe referred to poor public attendance at the HWbB meetings and hoped to encourage wider attendance and more input. She reminded Members that there were user and carer representatives on clinical commissioning groups and other bodies making up the Board Membership, so there was underlying public involvement but she wanted it to become more active.

She referred to the new measures in place such as the introduction of a “dashboard” model to quantify outcomes and help measure success of the nine strands within the health strategy. Councillor Wyatt-Lowe cautioned that a year’s work

of data needed to be gathered first.

Councillor Colette Wyatt-Lowe referred to the role of the “Conversation Café” and the need for wider engagement at a national level. A main theme coming out of the Café was the need for more engagement with adult mental health and this had to include leisure service and housing providers.

She explained that the biggest challenge for 2014 was getting agreement and delivery for the integration transformation funding as the plans needed to be ready for April 2014.

Clarification was sought by a number of Members and provided by Councillor Wyatt-Lowe and Iain MacBeath on the provision of Hertfordshire County Council’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy and what the District Council could do to ensure that services were provided to those in need in an integrated and resource efficient manner. She stated that information should be published in approximately six weeks time regarding a multi-agency event to look at just that issue. It was at this point that she saw Districts and Borough Councils playing a significant role.

After a short discussion on the under developed mental health resources in East Herts, the Chairman, on behalf of Members, thanked the guests for attending and providing an insight into the health and wellbeing strategy, the work of the HWbB and how East Herts could support the process.

RESOLVED- that the presentation be received.

18 PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2013/14;
REVIEW OF PROPOSALS FOR 2014/15 ACTION PLAN

The Executive Member for Health Housing and Community Support submitted a report updating Members on the public health work undertaken by the Council for the 2013/14 Transitional Action Plan interim progress of the Council’s Public Health Strategy, the detail of which was set out in the report now submitted and supporting Essential Reference Papers.

The Environmental Health Manager explained that Essential Reference Paper “B” provided a progress update of all the projects undertaken in East Herts and that Essential Reference Paper “C” suggested how Members might receive more focussed progress reports in the future. He stated that Officers were exploring the use of the Intranet to provide a summary update of how projects were progressing. Members supported a suggestion that this be made available and that this would be even more helpful with a ‘search’ function.

The Environmental Health Promotion Officer provided Members with a presentation on the progress of the 2013/14 Transitional Action Plan. A summary of the key points of the presentation was detailed as supplementary information on the agenda.

In terms of challenges for the next 10-15 years, the Environmental Health Promotion Officer suggested that working in synergy would make a fundamental difference to the provision of public health strategies and resource constraints.

Councillor L Haysey, praised the work already done by Officers and suggested that Officers review the public health initiatives adopted by St Albans Council and consider ways of working alongside of them. West Sussex was also referred to as a progressive authority in this area. Councillor Haysey cited their review of obesity as an exemplar and suggested the Panel might work in a similar way in future, taking specific topics for review and working more closely with partners including Registered Social Landlords.

The Environmental Health and Promotion Officer stated that he was aware of the work already done by St Albans and acknowledged the need to learn and work with others. He reminded Members that the Council had recently won an award for its public health initiatives.

Members of the Panel then had an opportunity to make initial suggestions for health and wellbeing projects which might be included in the action plan for 2014/15.

The Panel received the report.

RESOLVED – that (A) the interim progress made in relation to the East Herts Public Health Strategy Transitional Action Plan be noted;

(B) the format for reporting future progress reports as set out within Essential Reference Paper “C” be approved; and

(C) the use of the Intranet for providing Members with progress reports be explored.

19 HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - FEEDBACK FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Councillor E Buckmaster provided an oral report on the ongoing work of Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC). He advised that he had attended a budget scrutiny meeting held over one and a half days and provided a summary of that meeting in terms of its format and outputs achieved. Councillor E Buckmaster drew Members’ attention to a number of recommendations which had emerged from the meeting such as the need to prioritise mental health, the need to support the “Thriving Families” programme and closer partnership working to avoid duplication.

The Panel received the update.

RESOLVED – that the update be received.

20 WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Panel submitted a report setting out the proposed future work programme of the Panel.

The Panel approved the work programme as now submitted.

RESOLVED – that the work programme, as now submitted, be approved.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman

Date