

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HEALTH AND WELLBEING PANEL HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON TUESDAY
24 FEBRUARY 2015, AT 7.00 PM

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors L Haysey, J Jones and P Ruffles

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Barfoot	- Environmental Health Promotion Officer
Lorraine Blackburn	- Democratic Services Officer
Claire Pullen	- Scrutiny Officer

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Laura Hyde	- East Herts Citizen's Advice Bureau
Margaret Spencer	- East Herts Citizen's Advice Bureau

26 MINUTES

In relation to Minute 22 - Healthwatch Hertfordshire – GP Access Survey, Councillor P Ballam stated that, the increase in care homes and the general population was putting a lot of pressure on GPs and their time. The Chairman stated that Members did not have any say in how GPs surgeries operated, but that this might be something which could be referred to Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman sought Members' confirmation that the resolution be amended by the insertion of

“(B) that clarification be sought from Health Watch on the role of “community champions”.

This was supported.

In respect of Minute 23 - East Herts Health and Wellbeing strategy 2014/15 Work Plan Interim Progress Report, the Chairman referred to and stated that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment had not been included on the agenda for this meeting. Moving the item to the meeting on 23 June 2015 would provide new Members with an informed approach to the work of health and wellbeing. This was supported.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting, as now amended, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

27 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the request of the Chairman, the Executive Member for Health, Housing and Community Support provided an overview regarding Disability Facilities Grants (DFG) and explained the difficulties encountered over the years. She explained that Officers were considering whether the discretionary part of the DFG budget could be used to award grants to vulnerable individuals, helping them stay independent and in their own homes.

The Chairman, on behalf of Members thanked the Executive Member for Health, Housing and Community Support for her hard work in supporting health and wellbeing initiatives.

Finally, the Chairman asked Members to note that agenda item on Feedback from the Environmental Health Promotion Officer had been withdrawn. It will also be withdrawn from future meetings

28 EAST HERTS CITIZENS' ADVICE SERVICE - INTEGRATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH: GUEST SPEAKERS; LAURA HYDE AND MARGARET SPENCER

The Chairman, on behalf of Members, welcomed Laura Hyde

and Margaret Spencer from East Herts Citizens' Advice Service (EHCAS). Ms Hyde explained that the presentation would focus on the service's approach to health and wellbeing.

Ms Hyde provided a summary of:

- Health and Wellbeing related projects which the CAB supported
- Training and quality
- Statistical information in relation to clients with particular disabilities / health status
- Mental health statistics
- Addressing unhelpful behaviours
- Signposts and referrals
- Areas of good practice

In response to a question from Councillor E Buckmaster, regarding benefits and the role of Revenues and Benefits in identifying who might benefit from debt advice, Ms Hyde explained that the CAS worked closely with Circle Anglia and Riversmead Housing Associations. Ms Spencer stated that a client's debts could not be looked at in isolation but that priority would always be given to resolving high priority debts which could affect an individual's liberty and home. She stated that the CAS was non-judgemental and rather than recommending that an individual to take a course of action they would "signpost."

Ms Hyde referred to the number of clients with disabilities and long term illness who statistically had more benefits and tax credit issues than many others. She stated that those individuals were less likely to be employed.

In response to a query from Councillor R Beeching regarding people with mental health issues and how the CAs interacted with the carer, Ms Spencer advised that it was usual to see the client with the carer present.

In response to a query from Councillor P Moore regarding service provision, Ms Hyde explained that, where possible, the service provided general advice via email or by telephone

subject to the requisite permissions being in place and data protocols being observed. She referred to the “quick referral” scheme operating in GP surgeries in Liverpool.

The Chairman, on behalf of Members thanked Ms Hyde and Ms Spencer for attending and providing an informative presentation.

RESOLVED – that (A) the presentation be received;

(B) the appropriate Scrutiny Committee seek to work with EHCAS to identify opportunities for strengthening the public health offer in the district and identify where there may be gaps in health and wellbeing support services which could be raised with relevant partner/agencies; and

(C) Officers consider including health and wellbeing outcomes in any new Service Level Agreement negotiated with EHCAS.

29 EAST HERTS HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY WORK PLAN REVIEW 2015-16

The Executive Member for Health, Housing and Community Support submitted a report on the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy Work Plan Review for 2015/16. The Environmental Health Promotion Officer provided a summary of the progress made on each of the six public health projects.

In relation to N006 (Cooking DVD community delivery), Councillor Beeching referred to a multi faith cooking event which he had attended. He stated that the diverse nature of the group was welcoming and fostered peace in the community. The Executive Member for Health Housing and Community Support and Councillor D Andrews suggested that there might be some merit in working with the CVS on such an initiative and that this should also involve the Afro-Caribbean community.

In relation to N007 (Self Harm supporting and equipping young people), Councillor R Beeching referred to the need to support young people in promoting a positive image of

themselves.

The Panel approved the report as submitted.

RESOLVED – that (A) the content of the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy Work Plan for 2015/16 be noted; and

(B) the proposed East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy Work Plan for 2015/16 be approved.

30 SCRUTINY EVALUATION AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Panel submitted a report seeking an evaluation of the work undertaken by the Panel last year and which set out the proposed future work programme of the Panel.

The Scrutiny Officer sought Members' comments on:

- the progress made against the action plan;
- examples of successful practice from the work of the Panel; and
- comments on any challenges or barriers which they had met during the last year.

Councillor P Moore referred to the excellent speakers which the Panel had heard during the year and the information they had provided.

Councillor E Buckmaster commented on the need to give feedback to the towns in anticipation that the information provided would empower them to empower others.

The Chairman referred to what she considered was the Panel's biggest success, i.e. Health Watch research on access to GP surgeries which had encouraged Hertfordshire County Council to take a closer look and roll out the investigation across all of Hertfordshire.

Councillor D Andrews asked that Money Advice and NHS Community Mental Health Trust be invited to attend HWP in

15/16 work plan.

Councillor J Jones referred to the impact of planning development on the two surgeries in Buntingford. He expressed concern that one would be closing shortly and the impact this would have on the remaining surgery. The Chairman suggested that the Member take the matter up with Health Watch. Councillor E Buckmaster felt that real progress had been made by including health and wellbeing issues in all service plans and inviting Heads of Service to discuss their plans in this area. The Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services referred to the strategic contribution that the Health and Wellbeing Panel had made as a result of its debate which he said, had raised the Council's game in the area of public health, developing ideas, relationships and networks which had all contributed to the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan.

The Chairman stated that that the work of the Panel aimed to help everyone.

The Executive Member for Health Housing and Community Support praised the content of the recent presentations, reports/recommendations in that they allowed for a progressive and more assertive approach in scrutinising issues and considering "what next".

The Scrutiny Officer referred to the content of the draft work plan for 2015/16, the detail of which was set out in the report now submitted.

Members supported a suggestion by the Chairman that the induction on HWP/JSNA and new public health video be conducted prior to the meeting of the Panel on 23 June 2015 commencing at 5.30pm with JSNA debate (and subsequent report) being included as an agenda item for that meeting. This was supported.

The Scrutiny Officer suggested that, given the content of the proposed agenda for that meeting, the presentation on the integration of public health into benefits be deferred until later in the civic year. This was supported.

The Panel approved the revised work plan, as now amended.

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

31 HCC HEALTH SCRUTINY - FEEDBACK FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman provided a summary of matters which had been considered by HCC Health Scrutiny. She referred to the difficulties in recruitment which had not been helped by the fact that Hertfordshire did not receive a London Weighting Allowance. The Chairman stated that on a positive note, more paramedics were being recruited. The Chairman commented that she would be attending a meeting about Urgent Care in Welwyn Garden City on 3 March 2015.

32 MINUTES OF THE LSP PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER GROUP AND DEMENTIA INITIATIVE

The Chairman referred to a meeting of the LSP Public Health Officer Group which had been held on 21 February, 2015.

In relation to the dementia Initiative, it was noted that the Ageing Well Committee was supporting the set up of a Dementia Café in Bishop's Stortford and that Officers were advising on potential grants.

Members supported a suggestion that the Minutes of the HCC Health Scrutiny Committee and the LSP Health and Wellbeing Officers' Group be included as a link within the Health and Wellbeing Panel agenda.

33 VOTE OF THANKS

The Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their hard work and support of the health and wellbeing process. Councillor R Beeching, on behalf of Members, thanked both the Chairman and Officers for their hard work in moving forward the health and wellbeing agenda which were now at the core of the Council's policies and services.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Chairman

Date