

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HEALTH AND WELLBEING PANEL HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON TUESDAY
17 JUNE 2014, AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: 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	- Engagement and Partnerships Officer (Grants)
George A Robertson	- Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services
Paul Thomas-Jones	- Environmental Health Manager

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Roma Mills - Carers in Hertfordshire

27 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was moved by Councillor P Moore and seconded by Councillor P Ballam, that Councillor E Buckmaster be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Panel for the 2014/15 civic year.

RESOLVED – that Councillor E Buckmaster be appointed Vice–Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Panel for the 2014/15 civic year.

28 MINUTES

The Chairman referred to Minute 24 (East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy Work Plan for 2014/15) and to the success of the “Crucial Crew” in Bishop’s Stortford and Ware. She commented that discussions were continuing with Officers and the Police in order to set up an arrangement for people with learning disabilities. The Chairman also referred to how well the Green-aiders Garden Scheme was working.

In response to a query from Councillor P Ballam regarding the evaluation of “E” Cigarettes, the Environmental Health Promotion Officer advised that he and the Executive Member for Health, Housing and Community Support had attended meetings co-ordinated by Hertfordshire County Council. The Environmental Health Promotion Officer referred to the positive effects of “E” Cigarettes in helping smokers give up the habit.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Roma Mills, Involvement Manager for Carers in Hertfordshire to the meeting. She outlined Ms Mills’ experience and credentials.

The Chairman also welcomed Councillor D Andrews to his first meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Panel.

It was noted that the Training Dates for “Dementia Friends” were 8 July 2014 at Hertford and 14 July 2014 in Bishop’s Stortford.

The Chairman stated that the Council had received an offer of

£100,000 per annum for the next two years from the Director of Public Health for Hertfordshire to be used for the delivery of public health outcomes. It was noted that East Herts Officers had had a number of meetings with the Executive Member to consider potential approaches to spending the funding. Exact details on the priority areas and delivery focus of the monies were being progressed.

The Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services stated that the Council was conscious of the fact that public health crossed all service boundaries and commented that all Head of Service had been involved in the discussions. The Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services stated that it was important that the funds added value and needed to be used as leverage to generate more funds for public health initiatives.

In conclusion, the Chairman informed the group that the Council had just submitted its application for the Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH) Award following the Council's success three years ago.

30 WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Panel submitted a report setting out the proposed future work programme of the Panel. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the proposed report scheduled for the meeting on 14 October on feedback from the East Herts Citizen's Advice Service Bureau on gambling/payday loan debts. The Chairman suggested that, with Members' agreement, this issue be referred to Community Scrutiny Committee for scrutiny. This was supported.

Councillor R Beeching was pleased to see that the Head of Planning and Building Control would be reporting on the National Planning Policy Framework, adding that it was important to incorporate communities and their connections with Licensing, Enforcement and Public Health.

The Chairman referred to the programme for the meeting on 9 December 2014 when Keith Shepherd (Health Watch) would

be the guest speaker on a survey undertaken of GP surgeries in Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth, Much Hadham and the time taken to see a GP. The Chairman stated that NHS (England) had requested to see the results of that survey.

The Chairman suggested that a working group be established to advise how the £100,000 offer (over the next two years) from the Director of Public Health for Hertfordshire might be used for the delivery of public health outcomes. This was supported. In terms of membership, Councillors N Symonds, E Buckmaster and P Moore submitted their names for consideration as Members. This was supported.

RESOLVED – that (A) working group be established comprising three Members to advise how the £100,000 offer (over the next two years) from the Director of Public Health for Hertfordshire might be used for the delivery of public health outcomes;

(B) the Chairman of Community Scrutiny Committee be asked to add to their work programme, a report from the East Herts Citizen's Advice Service on gambling/payday loan debts; and

(C) the report, as amended, be approved.

31 CARERS IN HERTFORDSHIRE

The Chairman welcomed Roma Mills, Involvement Manager for Carers in Hertfordshire to the meeting. Ms Mills provided Members with a presentation on the background to Hertfordshire Carers' Centre and its vision. Ms Mills explained that in the UK, there were 6.5 million adult carers and that there were 244,000 children helping to care for a family member. From an East Herts perspective and according to the 2011 Census, there were 12,799 people providing unpaid care. Of that figure, there were only 1437 adult carers registered on the Carers in Hertfordshire Database. It was noted that the organisation's vision was to increase the number of registered carers in order to strengthen their position and ensure that they had the proper support.

Statistical breakdowns were provided relating to the ages of the carers and how many hours a week care they provided. Ms Mills explained how caring for a friend or family member impacted on the carer in terms of their health and finances and how important it was to ensure that they had the support they were entitled to, including young people and of the need for them to achieve their full educational potential.

Ms Mills referred to the current difficulties in terms of carers having to wait up to six weeks for a Carers Assessment and the logistics of providing support in a District the size of East Herts. Ms Mills referred to schools in East Herts which were supporting Young Carers and what the Council could do as an employer in terms of “carer friendly” human resource policies.

The Chairman referred to the lack of hospital beds at the Lister to facilitate respite care. She referred to concerns expressed by the Police, of transporting people with mental health issues across the whole of the District to the Lister Hospital in Stevenage.

In response to a query from Councillor E Buckmaster regarding links to other organisations providing a carers service, Ms Mills confirmed that Carers in Hertfordshire had a variety of links with other organisations to ensure that the right kind of support could be given at the appropriate time.

In response to a query from Councillor P Moore regarding counselling or therapy training for carers to address elements of caring, Ms Mills confirmed how the process worked and how training was provided in relation to sensitive roles.

The Chairman referred to the “Time Bank” scheme and Ms Mills confirmed that her organisation was linked to this volunteering scheme. In response to a query, Ms Mills confirmed that private agencies did notify Carers in Hertfordshire where there might be a need for support. The cost of private care providers and the impact this could have on a household, was discussed.

The Chairman on behalf of Members, thanked Ms Mills for her

informative presentation.

RESOLVED - that (A) the services provided by Carers in Hertfordshire be noted; and

(B) any East Herts residents' who are carers, be referred directly to Carers in Hertfordshire.

32 HCC HEALTH SCRUTINY - FEEDBACK FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported that she had visited the Surgi Centre at the Lister and was impressed with it but had then heard some "disturbing stories". The Chairman referred to transport difficulties in getting to the Lister and that a lot of people were going to the Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) in Harlow because it was easier to get to.

The Chairman stated that she had recently visited King Fisher Court and had received an invitation to attend a "fun day".

The Chairman commented that she would be attending a meeting next week looking at hospitals and a breakdown in service provision within Hertfordshire.

RESOLVED – that the feedback be noted.

33 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman said that she had agreed to accept two urgent items onto the agenda in order to facilitate the efficient conduct of the Council's business. These were on the Transitional Action Plan Year End 2013- 2014 Progress Report and East Herts and St Albans District and City Councils' Public Health Benchmark.

34 EAST HERTS AND ST ALBANS DISTRICT AND CITY COUNCILS PUBLIC HEALTH BENCHMARK

The Executive Member for Health, Housing and Community Support submitted a report on the Public Health Benchmarking exercise between East Herts and St Albans

Councils carried out in October / November 2013.

Councillor E Buckmaster stated that there were a lot of similarities between St Albans' public health initiatives and those of East Herts. The Environmental Health Promotion Officer said that he and his counterpart at St Albans had met a number of times and hoped that they could both learn from each others' practices.

In response to a query regarding comparative specific policies or actions, the Executive Member for Health, Housing and Community Support commented that St Albans carried out more Task and Finish groups and brought in more partners for discussion on a particular plan or action. The Chairman commented that she had not attended another Health and Wellbeing Panel and thought that there might be merit in Members and Officers attending each others as a visitor. She asked Officers to find out whether this would be possible or perhaps attend an Officer Group meeting. This was supported.

The Panel received the report.

RESOLVED – that (A) the content of the East Herts and St Albans Public Health benchmark comparison report be noted; and

(B) Officers liaise with St Albans City Council with a view to attending, on occasion, each other's meetings or suitable Officer Group.

35 TRANSITIONAL ACTION PLAN YEAR END 2013 -2014 PROGRESS REPORT

The Executive Member for Health, Housing and Community Support submitted a report updating Members on the Council's Public Health Work for 2013/14 Transitional Action Plan Year End and progress associated with the East Herts Public Health Strategy.

The Environmental Health and Promotion Officer summarised the key points of each initiative, the detail of which was set out

in the report now submitted.

In response to a query from Councillor R Beeching regarding Geocaching, the Environmental Health and Promotion Officer referred the Member to an Officer who had more knowledge of the "App" for mobile phones.

The Chairman referred to an initiative promoted by the Rotary Club in Bishop's Stortford involving an educational caravan which had visited Thorn Grove and was currently at Windhill School, Bishop's Stortford. Other schools had expressed an interest in the educational caravan and the matter was being discussed at the Head Teachers Consortium.

Members considered how best to publicise Public Health initiatives in terms of the format of the website and whether this could take the form of case studies cascading into Members' Wards. The Environmental Manager commented that this was under consideration. The Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services supported the use of case studies. He referred to the Local Government Association Conference in July 2014 in Bournemouth, when the Council would be displaying a number of case studies so that people could see what East Herts was doing.

The Panel received the report.

RESOLVED – that the content of the East Herts Public Health Strategy's Transitional Action Plan Year End Progress for 2013/14 be received.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Chairman
Date