

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HEALTH ENGAGEMENT PANEL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,
HERTFORD ON TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER
2010, AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs D Hone (Chairman)
Councillors P R Ballam and R I Taylor.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors R Beeching, N C Poulton,
P A Ruffles and B M Wrangles.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Barfoot	- Environmental Health Promotion Officer
Martin Ibrahim	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
George A Robertson	- Director of Customer and Community Services
Paul Thomas	- Environmental Health Manager

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Richard Beazley	- East and North East Herts NHS Trust
Nick Carver	- East and North East Herts NHS Trust

9 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf on
Councillors K Darby and R Gilbert. The Panel noted that
Councillor P R Ballam was substituting for Councillor R
Gilbert.

10 MINUTES

In respect of Minute 7 – Review of the 2009/10 Public Health Strategy Action Plan, the Panel noted that a feedback report about the Lunch Box Detectives cookbook would be submitted to a future meeting.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Health Engagement Panel meeting held on 22 June 2010, be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Richard Beazley and Nick Carver from East and North East Herts NHS Trust to the meeting.

The Chairman reminded Members that, in the period up to the Hunsdon by-election on 11 November 2010, “purdah” rules applied. These rules existed to ensure that there was no risk of public funds being used and/or actions undertaken to support one particular political party or individual.

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs D Hone declared a personal interest in the matter referred to at Minute 13 – Presentation from East and North East Herts NHS Trust, in that she was a governor of the Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

13 PRESENTATION FROM EAST AND NORTH HERTS NHS TRUST

Richard Beazley (Chairman) and Nick Carver (Chief Executive) of the East and North East Herts NHS Trust gave a presentation which covered:

- services to East Herts population
- Lister hospital developments
- the new QEII hospital
- urgent care centres
- cancer services developments
- Foundation Trust application update

They explained to Members that the Trust was responsible for providing hospital services and was not a commissioning arm, that being undertaken by the Primary Care Trust (PCT) at present. After the presentation they concluded by responding to questions asked by Members.

In respect of urgent care centre services, Mr Beazley advised that the large majority of people presenting themselves at Hertford County Hospital were appropriate kind of cases for the unit to deal with. Councillor R Taylor commented that this appeared to contradict the view previously given by the PCT responsible for health services in the eastern part of the District on the provision of urgent care services in Bishop's Stortford. The guest speakers could not comment on the position in Bishop's Stortford which was outside their brief.

In relation to advertising and promoting services, Mr Carver stated that, although this was a commissioning responsibility, the Trust, as the service provider, did use mail-shots to keep people informed of available services. Councillor N C Poulton commented that services were advertised in his parish newsletter and notice boards.

In response to questions on the QEII Hospital, Mr Carver confirmed that this was a new building that was being developed. There was no risk to the future of the Isabel Hospice unit, as it was safeguarded by a long lease.

In respect of the promotion of public health, Mr Carver commented that, although this was primarily the responsibility of the PCT, the Trust, as an employer, took its responsibilities seriously and was working closely with the PCT.

The Chairman thanked the guest speakers for their presentation.

RESOLVED – that the presentation be received.

14 WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel considered its work programme and the Chairman

drew attention to the Hertfordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee meeting that would be taking place on 20 October 2010. She invited Members to let her know if they wished her to raise anything.

Councillor R Taylor asked, given the views expressed earlier by the Trust on attendances at urgent care centres, if these comments could be conveyed to the Scrutiny Committee. The Panel Chairman undertook to provide feedback at the next Community Scrutiny Committee meeting.

In respect of the work programme, the Panel agreed to request that an invitation be extended to the Primary Care Trust responsible for health services in Bishop's Stortford to give a presentation at a future meeting.

The Panel approved the work programme as now submitted.

RESOLVED – that (A) the work programme, as now submitted, be approved; and

(B) the Scrutiny Officer be asked to extend an invitation to the Primary Care Trust responsible for health services in Bishop's Stortford to give a presentation at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm

Chairman

Date