

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HEALTH ENGAGEMENT PANEL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,
HERTFORD ON MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY
2011, AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs D Hone (Chairman)
Councillors S A Bull, R Gilbert and R I Taylor

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors P R Ballam, R Beeching and
R L Parker

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Barfoot	- Environmental Health Promotion Officer
Lorraine Blackburn	- Committee Secretary
Marian Langley	- Scrutiny Officer
Paul Thomas	- Environmental Health Manager

21 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the Director of Customer and Community Services.

22 HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chairman provided an update following attendance at Hertfordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee when she had taken part in a budget cafe exercise examining standards and targets.

Councillor R Gilbert raised the issue of the GP Consortia and concerns over the provision of service for Bishop's Stortford residents. The Chairman stated that definitive information

could not be given on this issue as further information was awaited. She said that GP practices would need to have a flexible arrangement in order to meet their statutory obligations. Councillor R Beeching referred to the considerable cynicism surrounding the issue of GP Consortia and re-organisations. Concerns were expressed about some GPs being well organised and others which were not.

It was noted that a review of the Pilot Urgent Care Centres at Hertford and Hoddesdon was currently taking place and that there would be a further meeting on 17 February 2011. The Chairman provided an update following a recent visit to the Lister Hospital where the County Council's Scrutiny Committee members were given a tour of the hospital. It was anticipated that the new sections of the hospital would open in April 2011.

Councillor P Ballam queried whether the QEII hospital would be dispensing with eye surgery and referred to the difficulties people had who needed eye surgery in terms of driving to a hospital. The Chairman was unable to provide a definitive response on this.

Councillor S Bull referred to the problems of public transport in East Herts and the lack of information made available to residents in terms of what transport was available to hospitals.

The Panel received the update and noted the concerns expressed.

RESOLVED – that the update and Members' concerns be noted.

23 DRAFT 2011/12 PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

The Executive Member for Health and Housing submitted a report outlining the Council's involvement in promoting public health issues to residents. The report highlighted how the Council could have a positive impact on health in specific areas. These were detailed within an Action Plan attached to

the report now submitted. It was noted that first Public Health Strategy had been approved in 2008 which had helped provided a steer and facilitated joint working in a number of areas. The Action Plan for 2011/12 contained 44 projects, which the Council and its partners aimed to undertake before the end of March 2012. The Action Plan had been developed from suggestions and feedback provided at the Health Engagement Panel on 9 December 2010. These projects covered the agreed key topic areas:

- Smoking
- Physical activity
- Healthy eating
- Obesity
- Other health factors; and
- Powers of influence

The Environmental Health Promotion Officer gave a detailed presentation on how the suggestions / feedback had been linked to create an Action Plan for 2011/12, how the feedback had and could be formed into new projects and into actions to provide Public Health local action. The presentation provided details of what progress had been made from the first action plan in 2008 and proposals envisaged under the key areas for 2011/12.

Councillor S Bull referred to the difficulties parents had in being more active given the present day pressures on them in terms of both parents having to work. Officers acknowledged this stating that it was about making things manageable, e.g. that the family could all go for a walk to promote physical activity. The Environmental Health Promotion Officer explained that rates of physical activity had risen slightly according to the 2010 Active People's survey conducted by Sports England, but there was still more which could be done. He referred to the fact that schools were providing a wide range of activity across a broader band.

The element, Other health factors (food safety) was considered. Officers explained that it was fundamental for the Council to provide external training in relation to food safety. The Council did not incur a loss in providing these training

events.

The Panel and Officers discussed the different approaches they had seen relating to the promotion of healthy blood pressure and awareness of individuals' own blood pressure.

Members expressed concerns regarding Action 23 (Project at Pishiobury Park linking Farming and Healthy Food) given the issue at Godstone and the contraction by children of E-Coli. Officers reassured Members that measures would be in place so that visitors would not be at risk.

The Chairman, on behalf of Members, thanked the Officers for their work in driving the Public Health Strategy forward. The Executive Member for Health and Housing added his personal thanks to Officers and to the Panel for their deliberations.

The Panel supported the 44 actions as detailed in the Action Plan 2011/12 now submitted.

RESOLVED – that (A) the presentation be received;
and

(B) the Action Plan for 2011/12 be supported.

24 WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel considered its work programme for 2011/12. Members expressed their concern about mental health (i.e. the lack of provision in Bishop's Stortford) the GP consortia in Bishop's Stortford and its slow progress. The Executive Member for Health and Housing explained that the drive on mental health provision would be from the County Council. The Chairman stated that a topic group on Mental Health of Specialist Groups would be held on 16 June 2011 organised by Hertfordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman urged Members to speak to the County Councillors in relation to the GP Consortia and the issue of mental health provision.

Councillor P Ballam raised the issued of transport links

from Broxbourne to the QEII hospital. Concerns were also expressed by Councillor S Bull who referred to the fact that some people were able to get transport via an ambulance from a GP referral service. He referred to the fact that it was about communicating this information to residents who were not aware of what help they could get especially, to and from hospitals.

The Environmental Health Promotion Officer explained that following publication of the Public Health White Paper, the Public Health Outcomes Framework was out for consultation. When a draft response had been written, he would circulate it to the Panel for their consideration and comments.

The Panel approved the work programme as now submitted.

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

25 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2010 were submitted. In respect of Minute 20 (Work Programme), the Executive Member for Housing and Health provided an update following a meeting between the Council, NHS Hertfordshire, North and East Herts NHS Trust and the Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust on 13 January 2011. He explained that the purpose of the meeting had been to establish what services were available to local residents and to involve the local providers in preparing a document for the area detailing local provision of services.

The Executive Member said that the meeting was positive and all present agreed to involve their Communication Teams in preparing a document in a format along the lines of “Feeling Unwell?”.

It was noted that a follow up meeting would be held in approximately five to six weeks time.

The Environmental Health Promotion Officer referred to a previous request by the Panel to pursue an award for the 'Lunchbox Detectives' project. Following investigation, an award had been identified, which looked at all of the health promotion work undertaken by the Council, the detail of which was outlined. Officers suggested that a submission be made in April 2011. This was supported.

Councillor R Gilbert referred to Minute 19 (Hertfordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee). It was agreed that in paragraph six, the word "western" should be deleted and replaced with "eastern".

Councillor R I Taylor requested an update following the meeting referred to in Minute 19, paragraph eight. Officers informed the Panel that the meeting had taken place, but they did not have any further information. The Director of Customer and Community Services would feedback at the next meeting of the Panel.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Health Engagement Panel meeting held on 9 December as amended, be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Chairman
Date