

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
HEALTH ENGAGEMENT PANEL HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,  
HERTFORD ON TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER  
2011, AT 7.00 PM

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PRESENT: Councillor Mrs D Hone (Chairman)  
Councillors R Beeching, E Buckmaster,  
K Crofton and N Symonds

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors P Moore, L Haysey and  
B Wrangles

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Barfoot	- Environmental Health Promotion Officer
Lorraine Blackburn	- Committee Secretary
Marian Langley	- Scrutiny Officer
George A Robertson	- Director of Customer and Community Services

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

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10 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor A S Bull.

11 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Councillor K Crofton to his first meeting. She also welcomed Sarah Brierley, Director of Business Development Partnerships, Lesley Dustaghear both

from East and North Herts NHS Trust, Jenny Turner (Churchfields Children's Centre) and Jennifer Henderson (Silver Birches Children's Centre).

The Chairman stated that with Members' consent, she would be changing the order of the items so that the Briefing from Sarah Brierley would come before the update on the Hertfordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny.

## 12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N Symonds declared a personal interest in the matter referred to at Minute 15 - Introduction to East Herts' Children's Centre, in that she was on the Partnership Board of "The Squirrels".

## 13 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Health Engagement Panel meeting held on 21 June 2011 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 14 BRIEFING: DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL A&E SERVICE AT THE QEII (2012-2014) - SPEAKER: SARAH BRIERLEY EAST AND NORTH HERTS NHS TRUST

Sarah Brierley provided Members with the proposed changes to adult and children's emergency department care at the QEII in Harlow. She explained the strategic context of the proposed changes, in that it supported the delivery of quality health care for Hertfordshire; it was integral to the NHS Trusts "Our Changing Hospitals Programme" and that it supported service changes in relation to the Surgicentre (at the Lister Hospital) Emergency Surgery, and care provision in relation to Maternity, Cardiology (and stroke). Essentially it was about the way services were provided in terms of quality of care and the improvement of clinical outcomes and summed it up in terms of getting the best value for money. Updates were provided in relation to the Surgicentre at the Lister Hospital

and what had been happening over the last year in terms of the services provided there and of the fact that most surgeons were concentrated at the Lister Hospital.

Arrangements around urgent care provision at the QEII and the Lister and models of care provision were discussed. It was noted that the aim for the QEII was for it to become a local general hospital. Members were provided with an outline on how the adult emergency services would be provided and the implications for both adult patients and children's emergency services. Assurances were provided that anyone turning up at QEII as an emergency patient out of the full A&E service working hours would be stabilised before a transfer to the Lister where more specialist care could be provided.

Sarah Brierley stated that the new arrangements would have implications for the Trust's staff and that proposals and working arrangements were currently out for consultation. It was noted that the Trust had a commitment to avoid clinical staff redundancies. She stated that the strategy would help the Trust to continually improve the quality of the service to the local community and that the changes would support the continued provision of clinically viable and sustainable services in Hertfordshire. She welcomed comments on the proposals and how the new services could be disseminated into the community.

In response to a query about A&E care at the QEII, Sarah Brierley provided clarification regarding the triage services in operation and of the role of paramedics in making an assessment of an emergency. In response to a query about "hot clinics" for children, Lesley Dustaghear explained the three methods of referrals. In response to a query regarding transport to the Lister if someone presented at QEII and getting home, Lesley Dustaghear explained that patients would not be left stranded and there were some community transport options available to get back home. Sarah Brierley advised that she would write to Members regarding Air Ambulance provision.

Lesley Dustaghear explained that the Trust had developed robust pathways and that if someone turned up at the QEII

complaining of chest pains, they would be given an ECG and then transported over to the Lister if that was considered appropriate.

The Chairman referred to car parking at the Lister and the QEII. Sarah Brierley explained the parking fee strategy and the rationale for this and arrangements for people with disabilities.

Sarah Brierley referred to the methods of communications which could be used in publicising the provision of services and of the need to provide this information in a sustained way. A Member suggested that information could be provided via the posting which contained Council Tax invoices.

The Chairman, on behalf of Members, thanked Sarah Brierley and Lesley Dustaghear for attending and providing Members with an update on the new arrangements.

RESOLVED – that the presentation be noted.

## 15 INTRODUCTION TO EAST HERTS CHILDREN'S CENTRES

The Executive Member for Health, Housing and Community Support submitted a report on the work of the East Herts Children's Centres and what opportunities there may be for partnership working through the remit of the Council's Public Health Strategy 2008-2013. The Chairman welcomed Jenny Turner (Churchfields Children's Centre) and Jennifer Henderson (Silver Birches Children's Centre). It was noted that there were now 10 Children's Centres within East Herts District.

Jenny Turner provided an outline of the role of the Children's Centre; a universal service which provided support to families with children under 5 years of age. The core purpose was explained which aimed at reducing inequalities in child development and provided support to parents including health issues and improving parenting skills.

Members were provided with Key Performance Indicators on the number of children who were obese. The Children's

Centre at Bramble Hill showed that it had below average figures for the District. Jennifer Henderson explained what the Children's Centres were doing in terms of Active Play Sessions and health eating which had impacted favourably on these statistics. The Funky Food (June 2011) delivered in partnership with East Herts Council had been particularly well received and was attended by a lot of adults. Graphs were provided which showed how well the social experience from a number of projects had been received. It was anticipated that feedback shown in the graphs could be incorporated into the development of a number of initiatives and services.

Jennifer Henderson referred to the hope to establish a sensory garden with fruit and vegetables at Silver Birches. She stressed the need to support parents so that they are in "the right place" to be able to support their children in learning and development.

In response to a query regarding plans for a cultural exchange of food, Jennifer Henderson said that this was encouraged in each of the centres and that a number of children already did this.

In response to a query concerning communicating with Hertfordshire Safeguarding Board, Jenny Turner explained that she would be investigating this issue in terms of ICT as this was considered one of the highest priorities and to share these concerns with parents.

The Executive Member for Health, Housing and Community Support praised the work of the Children's Centres. It was noted that 70% of the children in the District attended a Children's Centre. Councillor N Symonds commented on the beneficial effects of Children's Centres in the district. She was 110% behind the Children's Centres and the work they were doing. She suggested that Silver Birches Children's Centre contact the Rotarians to see what they could do to help, particularly in relation to preparing the new vegetable garden.

Officers thanked the Children's Centre for their presentation and asked that their statistics be emailed to him, so that these could be linked into the Public Health Action Plan and

strategy.

The Chairman, on behalf of Members thanked Jenny Turner and Jennifer Henderson for providing Members with an update on Children's Centres.

Members congratulated the East Herts Children Centres for the work undertaken and for the difference they were making to people's lives.

RESOLVED – that (A) the work of the Children's Centres be noted and that the ongoing work of the East Herts Children's Centres be supported within the remit of the Public Health Strategy 2008-2013; and

(B) East Herts Children's Centres be congratulated on the work they are undertaking and of the difference this is making to people's lives.

16 REPORT ON ANY LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE MEMBER: VERBAL UPDATE

The Executive member for health Housing and Community support provided an update in relation to the recent award to the Council of the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) 2011 Health Promotion and Community Well-being Organisation and partnership Award. She congratulated Simon Barfoot and all those involved in helping to achieve the award. The RSPH Chairman, Selwyn Hughes would be attending Full Council on 14 December to formally present the award.

Members thanked the Executive Member for the update.

RESOLVED – that the update be noted.

17 HCC HEALTH SCRUTINY - FEEDBACK FROM CHAIRMAN

The Chairman provided an update following the meeting of Hertfordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee on 22 June 2011. She referred to the closure of Windmill House

and that the Health Scrutiny on 19 October 2011 would consider the Hertfordshire QUIPP (Quality Improvement, Productivity and Prevention) Plans for 2012/13 and that five local Trusts would be attending to have their plans scrutinised by Members of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor N Symonds said that she had attended a meeting on 4 July 2011 in Watford and was concerned that the health service provision in the East Herts area was not up to the same standard as that provided in the west of the county. She stated that following the last meeting and presentation by Darren Leech she had been successful in obtaining a copy of the "Purple Book" which she had promoted to the Princess Alexandra Hospital and that all nurses had been trained in its use. She was now taking the "Purple Book" to Addenbrookes Hospital in the hope of getting it rolled out there. Councillor N Symonds said that she had attended a conference recently on health and welling being and congratulated Simon Barfoot on his report.

RESOLVED – that the updates be noted.

## 18 WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Officer submitted a report detailing the work programmed for the Health Engagement Panel for the civic year 2011/12. It was noted that a speaker who could report on mental health services in the east of the District had been identified and could attend the meeting on 12 December 2011.

Members were advised that Richard Beazley (Chairman) and Nick Carver (Chief Executive) would be attending next meeting of Council to provide Members with a presentation on developments linked to East and North Herts NHS Trust

It was noted that there would be a meeting on 11 November 2011 in Welwyn Garden City on Public Health in Herts on "new opportunities and new directions". The meeting would run from 9.30 am to 3 pm. Neither the Executive Member nor Chairman of the HEP could attend on this date and Councillor N Symonds confirmed that she wished to attend. Simon

Barfoot and the Scrutiny Officer would also be attending.

Councillor R Beeching referred to East Herts involvement with the County Council in relation to the Safeguarding Children Group under Section 11 of the Children’s Act. He asked that the Council be provide with an update on the work of the Group at the meeting on 12 December 2011. Members supported this request and asked that this be included on the work programme at the next meeting.

Members noted the work programme as amended.

RESOLVED – that the work programme as amended by approved.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Chairman .....
Date .....