

Healthier & Safer Scrutiny Committee

2012/13 Annual Report

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Introduction

After a slow start to the New Year, the Borough Council's Healthier & Safer scrutiny committee voted to scrutinise the corporate priorities set by the Corporate Management Team to make Tamworth a healthier and safer town.

The committee members unanimously agreed to scrutinise five important issues that affect many areas of the borough.

- Address the causes of poor health in children and young people
- Investigate, scrutinise and make recommendations concerning the adequacy of provisions for pre-school children and their families arising from factors including
- Improve the health and well being of older people by supporting them to live active, independent lives
- Investigate, scrutinise and make recommendations concerning pressures on community safety in Tamworth
- Create an integrated approach to protecting those most vulnerable in our local Communities

Mental health was also raised by members as an issue for the committee to scrutinise in detail, however, as Staffordshire County Council also had mental health on their work plan for 2012/14, it was agreed that the Borough Council's scrutiny committee should concentrate on other areas of concern.

October 18 2012

Address the Causes of Poor Health in Children and Young People and Per School Provision

Two detailed reports on the causes of poor health in children and young people and per school provision were produced for the committee by Mr Robert Barnes, Director Housing and Health, and his team.

The Committee considered the two reports and following a discussion, several questions were raised by members and it was decided to invite officers to the next meeting to answer the questions.

The Chairman proposed that an invite be sent to Staffordshire's new Police and Crime Commissioner to meet with the whole of the Council (as a seminar) to inform members what their plans are for the policing of the Tamworth area. The proposal was seconded and voted unanimously

to ask Cabinet for the invite to be sent after the election, on November 15 2012.

The committee also discussed Tamworth's FoodBank, based at the Elim Church in Glascote, and it was agreed by all members that Cabinet be asked if a permanent donation point could be setup in Marmion House, to allow residents of the town who do not have easy access to Glascote, a central point to make donations. Similar collection points at local supermarkets were suggested, however, the committee agreed these would not be suitable and did not make any formal recommendations.

The Chairman of the committee attended the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 28th November to submit the request for Staffordshire's new PCC to be invited to meet with members and the proposal of a FoodBank donation point.

Cabinet agreed that the Portfolio Holder for Community Development should invite Mr Ellis to give a seminar to Members. A meeting has now been arranged to take place on Wednesday 24 April between 18:00 and 20:00, in the Council Chamber and invites have been sent out to all elected members and relevant Borough Council Officers to attend the meeting with Mr Ellis.

Cabinet also agreed to investigate the proposal for a FoodBank donation point, and following discussions with Tracey Yeomans, Head of Customer Service, and Debra Lewis and a meeting with the FoodBank coordinator, Rev Stephen Jonathon, the donation point was installed in the reception area on Friday 14 December.

During the following week, the run up to Christmas, 11 carrier bags full of food were taken out of the donation box for the FoodBank and a customer stopped Tracey Yeomans to praise the Borough Council, stating it was the most convenient location in which to have the food bank.

Using Marmion House as a location for a FoodBank collection point has proved to be a very successful and to date we have supplied 25 carrier bags full of food.

The FoodBank has been overwhelmed with the response so far and have sent on their appreciation to all at the Borough Council.

However, the work does not stop there, this also serves as a reminder that if you do have any food you do wish to donate, please do so in the reception area of Marmion House.

December 6 2012

Community Safety (General Update Including Current and Future Challenges) and Vulnerable People (Community Safety Services and Service Integration)

Presentations on community safety (current and future challenges) and vulnerable people (community safety services and service integration) were given by Mr Robert Mitchell, Director Communities, Planning and Partnerships, Mr Tim Leese, the District Commissioning Lead, and Mr David Fern, Head of Community Safety.

Questions were asked by members and it was agreed that the following recommendations be made to Cabinet

1. Ensure that support is available from Tamworth Borough Council staff for adults with learning difficulties living independently in TBC owned properties
2. Keep sports / fitness course costs as low as possible, if not free
3. Last year's play programme was a success, therefore, Cabinet should look to expand the programme in 2013 with low cost / free to attend events
4. Explore external funding to subsidise the above recommendations, and
5. Retain £15,000 in 2013 Council budget for tackling obesity.

The Chairman attended Cabinet on January 9 2013 to submit the recommendations from the committee and the following responses were given

1. Scrutiny to bring back to Cabinet with further clarification
2. Sport fitness costs will be kept as low as possible for the coming year
3. Report will be presented at Cabinet in February on external development
4. £35,000 has been identified in the current fiscal year for external funding and £580,000 for external groups, and
5. The sum of £15,000 has been retained and Cabinet will feedback proposals to the scrutiny committee

The committee was also updated on the questions raised at the previous meeting on addressing the Causes of Poor Health in Children and Young People and Pre School Provision. Members agreed that two sub groups be setup

- sub group to investigate further the pre school provision for the children of Tamworth and to produce a questionnaire on breakfast clubs be sent to all schools in Tamworth
- sub group to investigate children's obesity levels across Tamworth and to ask what both the LEA schools and Academies are currently doing and putting in place to reduce this issue

The pre school provision sub group met in Marmion House on Thursday 20 December and Cllr Couchman agreed to produce a questionnaire to be sent out to the local schools asking if breakfast clubs were being run, were they being run by the school or outside bodies, what was the take-up from pupils and how much were pupils being charged to attend.

January 10 2013

The first meeting of 2013 started on a very sombre note with a minutes silence for our friend and colleague, Cllr Brian Beale, who sadly passed away in December.

Improve the Health and Wellbeing of Older People by Supporting them to Live Active, Independent Lives

A presentation on the new Clinical Commissioning Group, set to come into place from April 2013, was given by Rita Symons and Anna Hammond, South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsular Clinical Commissioning Group, and several questions were asked by members. Members thanked Rita Symons and Anna Hammond for their presentation and they both left the meeting.

However, following a further discussion, it was felt by members that, whilst the presentation had been informative on the proposed CCG, the presentation did answer any of the questions raised in the scoping document on "Improve the Health and Wellbeing of Older People by Supporting them to Live Active, Independent Lives." It was agreed that the Chairman should meet with Director Housing and Health to discuss the scoping document and feedback to the Committee.

The Chairman subsequently made contact with Mr Barnes and it was agreed that a report on improving the health and wellbeing of older people by supporting them to live active and independent lives would be produced for the next scrutiny committee meeting, due to be held on February 7 2013.

An update on the meeting of the pre school provision sub group was given to members and Cllr Couchman circulated copies of the questionnaire on breakfast clubs in Tamworth's schools that had been

produced. Members agreed unanimously to send the questionnaire to all schools in Tamworth.

February 7 2013

Prior to the meeting, a member of the committee requested an update on the temporary closure of the Harvey ward at Good Hope hospital, Sutton Coldfield. The Chairman read out the press release given by the Heart of England Foundation Trust on the temporary closure caused by staff leaving, maternity leave and high sickness levels for the closure.

Members agreed that a letter should be sent by the Chairman to the Trust questioning why the closure was blamed on resignations and maternity leave, when NHS staff has to give at least one month's notice before leaving and the Trust should be aware in advance of all staff due to take maternity leave.

Members also agreed that a letter should be sent to the Secretary for Health, raising concerns of the committee that the temporary closure will turn into a permanent closure, as happened in the A&E department at Stafford hospital.

Improve the Health and Wellbeing of Older People by Supporting them to Live Active, Independent Lives / Lets Work Together

A report produced by Mr Robert Barnes, Director Housing and Health, and his team on improving the health and wellbeing of older people by supporting them to live active and independent lives was reviewed by the committee and questions were raised for the Borough Council, County Council and the Health Service. The questions were submitted to Mr Barnes, Mr Tim Leese, the District Commissioning Lead, and Anna Hammond, South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsular Clinical Commissioning Group and detailed responses were received ahead of the meeting due to be held on March 7 2013.

A detailed report on "Lets Work Together" was produced by Mr Barnes and members agreed that Mr Barnes be invited to the next meeting to give a more in-depth report and answer questions from the committee.

Updates on the two sub groups were also given

- pre school provision sub group – members were informed that replies are starting to come back from the breakfast club questionnaires sent out to all Tamworth Schools and a more detailed report will be given at the next meeting

- children's obesity sub group – a list of questions will be compiled to be sent to all schools in Tamworth asking what is being done to reduce child obesity

The committee requested updates for the next meeting on the Belgrave Project and how the Borough Council are promoting the use of the three outdoor gyms in Tamworth. Members discussed the work plan for 2013/14 and agreed that the Francis Report, and how the recommendations from the report are going to be implemented, should be included in the new work plan.

March 7 2013

At the previous meeting, it was agreed that the Chairman write to both the Secretary for Health and the Chairman of the Heart of England Foundation Trust regarding the temporary closure of the Harvey ward at Good Hope hospital, Sutton Coldfield. However, since the February meeting, the Heart of England Foundation Trust have announce that the temporary closure of the Harvey ward will be, as members suspected, a permanent closure and the current 12 bed ward is to be replaced by a 5 bed ward.

Members agreed that the Chairman should still write to both the Secretary for Health and the Chairman of the Trust questioning the Trust's HR team on staffing levels, raising concerns on possible stress levels on families caused by both travelling and costs. Also asking if the reduction of the ward size is an excuse to move services to the Heartlands hospital, as is happening with stroke services that are being moved from the Good Hope hospital to the Heartland hospital in April 2013. It was also agreed that that the letter should state it has cross party support from all members.

Under the update from Staffordshire County Council, members were informed of plans from the Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to impose car-parking charges on all patients and visitors to the Sir Robert Peel hospital from April 1 2013. Members were also informed that a public accountability session with the Chief Executive of the Trust would take place at County Hall, Stafford at 17:30 on Tuesday 19 March. As the meeting is being held at the same as the Borough Council's meeting of the full council, members asked if the Chief Executive can be invited to a meeting with local members at Marmion House.

An invitation has been sent to the Trust and the Chief Executive, Helen Ashley, will be attending the next meeting of the Healthier & Safer

scrutiny committee on Thursday 11 April to discuss the implementation of the car parking charges.

Belgrave Project / Outside Gym / Lets Work Together / Healthier Tamworth

Cllr Steven Claymore, Portfolio Holder for Economic development and enterprise, and Mr Neil Mason, Sport, gave verbal updates on both the Belgrave project and the marketing of the towns three outside gyms and a detailed discussion ensued with several members asking questions of both the Cabinet Member and Officer.

Fleur Fernando, Head of Partnerships & Commissioning, supported by Mr Robert Barnes and Cllr Jeremy Oates, Portfolio Holder for Community Development, then gave a detailed presentation on the "Lets Work Together" project and again, several questions were asked by members.

Cllr Couchman updated the committee on the questionnaires sent to all 29 infant, junior and primary schools in Tamworth on breakfast clubs. So far, 17 schools have replied, take up is between 5% and 10% at each school, prices range from £2.75 - £4.50 per pupil per day and all breakfast clubs are open from 08:00, apart from Moorgate Community Primary School, which offers two packages for pupils / parents; £3.50 from 07:30 and £2.75 from 08:00.

Members agreed Staffordshire County Council should be contacted to encourage the promotion of breakfast clubs, breakfasts and healthy eating in all schools.

A vote of thanks for the work carried out by Cllr Couchman on breakfast clubs at Tamworth's schools was minuted by the Chairman.

April 11 2013

The final meeting of 2012/13, set for Thursday 11 April, will include the visit of the Helen Ashley, Chief Executive of Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, to discuss the proposed car parking charges at Sir Robert Peel hospital. Updates from the two sub groups will also be on the agenda, along with a review of 2012/13 and a discussion over possible items for inclusion on the work plan for 2013/14.

Staffordshire County Council Health Select Committee

The County Council's Health Select committee meets on the first Monday of each month in Stafford and during 2012/13 a range of items have been scrutinised, including

- mental health service changes in North Staffordshire
- transforming adult care services in the community
- development of the 111 service
- mental health beds in the south of the county
- stroke care
- drugs and alcohol

The Health Select committee also held several public accountability sessions during the 2012/13 with both County Council Cabinet members and the various NHS Foundation Trusts that cover the health of Staffordshire.

The committee held three public meetings with Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust to discuss Stafford hospital. The committee also met with Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust, South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

A further public accountability session with Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is taking place in Stafford on Tuesday 11 March to discuss mortality rates at the Queens hospital, Burton-upon-Trent highlighted after the recent publication of the Francis Report. An extra Health Select committee meeting has been arranged for Friday 22 March to consider the County Council's response to the Francis Report.

Full details of all County Council Health Select committee meetings and public accountability session are available on the County Council's website

<http://modern.gov.staffordshire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=140&Year=0>



Cllr Andrew James – Chairman
Healthier & Safer scrutiny committee