

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MONDAY 22 APRIL, 2013
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:

Councillors

Gamble, B. (Chairman)
Bennett, C. (Vice-Chairman)

Ball, G.D. Freeman, Miss. M.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F. Sutton, Mrs. H.M.

Also present: Ms. H. Parsons, Health Watch

47. Apologies

There were no apologies received.

48. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members

There were no interests declared.

49. Minutes

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March, 2013 be approved as a correct record.

50. Update – Health Watch

The Chairman welcomed Hester Parsons, Health Watch.

Hester Parsons reported that Health Watch had now taken over the role of LINK. Health Watch would continue the work of LINK and deal with any issues or concerns raised by the public at a local level and would also be responsible for signposting people to services and working closely with other organisations. She reported that breast care at Stafford Hospital had already been raised as a concern which would be pursued through Health Watch.

She advised that Health Watch would be accountable to Health Watch England and issues and concerns raised could be escalated to the regulator Care Quality Commission.

Health Watch were currently in the process of trying to recruit Health Watch Champions and around 20-30 expressions of interest had been received. It was hoped that the Champions would work closely with the local community to encourage people to raise their views on services and concerns they had. She indicated that Champions would undergo an initial training session and would continue to receive training once recruited.

She advised that the LINK AGM and launch of Health Watch would take place on Wednesday 5 June, 2013 commencing at 11.00 a.m. at the Baptist Church, Burton Square, Stafford.

Councillor Ms. M. Freeman expressed concern with the launch of the new NHS 111 service and asked if the service was now up and running.

Hester Parsons advised that a 'soft launch' had taken place, although the launch was not advertised and re-engagement with GPs started again in order for calls to be dealt with. She reported that the contract for the Cannock District was won by NHS Direct although she was unsure whether or not GPs were still taking out of hour's calls at night.

In response to a question raised by Councillor C. Bennett, Hester Parsons reported that she was not aware that Health Watch representatives would meet with the Special Trust Administrators at Stafford Hospital.

AGREED:

That an invite be extended to a representative to discuss the NHS 111 service with Members of the Committee.

51. Items Arising from Staffordshire County Council's Health Select Committee

Steve Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health reported that the Digest had not been received from the County but would circulate it to all Members on the Committee following receipt of it.

52. Update of Health Scrutiny Arrangements in response to the Report of the Francis Inquiry

Consideration was given to the Supporting Information previously circulated.

The Head of Environmental Health referred to the supporting information previously circulated and advised that the County was already engaged with the Centre for Public Scrutiny. Following the establishment of the new Health Select Committee, a review would then take place of the Health

Scrutiny arrangements currently in place.

He advised that the outcome of the review could have implications for the Council's Health Scrutiny Committee.

53. Outstanding Item for Discussion

Consideration was given to the Supporting Information previously circulated.

The Head of Environmental Health discussed the presentation received last year on Assistive Technology and was keen to know if Members of the Committee were still interested in participating in a visit to the adapted house in Bilbrook.

Members of the Committee were still keen to visit the adapted house in Bilbrook, and in response to this Councillor Mrs. A.F. Bernard asked why the Council still had no similar adaptation.

The Head of Environmental Health reported that Angela Schulp, Staffordshire County Council had raised similar concerns and had tried to identify similar properties that the Council could use. He indicated that one of the vacant caretakers bungalows adjacent to the civic centre had been considered for this purpose but was found to be unsuitable.

Councillor Miss. M. Freeman agreed that this was a good idea but also expressed concern that major adaptations also required consideration. She referred to the current waiting list which was extremely long and a constituent who could have been waiting for an assessment for 12 months.

The Chairman agreed that the issue around major adaptations was cause for concern and asked for this to be placed on the next work programme for the Committee to consider with a request that a representative from Staffordshire County Council be invited. The Chairman also suggested that it may be an idea for the Committee to think about questions to ask prior to the meeting.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that the Head of Housing received an annual budget for adaptations to Council owned dwellings. Adaptations to privately dwellings were undertaken by way of disabled facilities grants. These were means tested, with the exception of adaptations for children.

AGREED:

That the Head of Environmental Health liaise with Staffordshire County Council in order to seek appropriate dates for a visit to the adapted property in Bilbrook.

54. Overview of Work Programme in the Past Year

Consideration was given to the Supporting Information previously circulated.

The Head of Environmental Health updated Members of the Committee on the issues that had been considered over the past year.

Those issues included:

- District Health Profile – improvement had been seen
- Cannock Chase Hospital – closure of kitchens – discussion with Hospital Trust management
- Cannock Chase Hospital – closure of kitchens – visit by Members
- Dementia Care Services
- Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board – what is was and how it operated
- Cannock Chase CCG – Q&A with Chief Officer
- Local Health Watch – transition from exiting LINK

55. Work Plan Items for 2013/14 Municipal Year

Consideration was given to the Supporting Information previously circulated.

The Head of Environmental Health referred to the Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust and the Joint Code of Working between the District and Boroughs and reported that the main issues around the Mid Staffs situation would be dealt with direct by the County. It was also hoped that the current public accountability sessions would continue to take place in order for Members and the public to provide input into the scrutiny of the Trust.

Members of the Committee were keen to see the following items included as part of the 2013/14 work programme:-

- Disabled adaptations
- 111 Emergency service

Councillor C. Bennett referred to the appointment of Trust Special Administrators to Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust and asked if a further meeting of the Committee should be arranged to consider any proposals which may emerge from their review.

The Chairman concurred with this and suggested that a meeting be held in June rather than the one previously scheduled for July.

Mrs. J. Hunt, Senior Committee Officer advised the Committee that she would need to review the Calendar of Meetings for June and also indicated that the Committee membership may change following the Annual Council Meeting.

AGREED:

That a meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee be arranged for June following the publication of proposals made by Trust Special Administrators appointed to Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust.

56. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted the date of the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 9 July, 2013 although this was subject to change.

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.).