

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND OLDER PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER, 2008 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Beddows, J. (Chairman)

Davis, Mrs. M.A. Yates, Ms. W.
Jones, R.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. Easton, M.P. Freeman, Mrs. D. Grice, C. Mitchell, Mr. J. Bletcher (South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust) and Ms. M. Darbyshire (Staffordshire County Council – Health and Social Care)).

20. Minutes

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October, 2008 be approved as a correct record.

21. Presentation

The Chairman welcomed Dave Prosser-Davies, Food and Safety Manager and Lisa Shephard, Arts Development Officer, who gave a presentation to Members on Tackling Health Inequalities.

The Food Safety Manager gave information on health inequalities and reported on a number of local issues. He stated that Cannock Chase District was worse than the England average for:

- Mortality and life expectancy
- Obese adults
- Homelessness
- Teenage (under 18) pregnancies

Members were shown information on the structure of the Environmental Health Department, and it was reported that the food and safety section consisted of a number areas of work.

- Infectious Diseases –
 - Outbreak investigation and control
 - Exclusion of food handlers from work

- Food Safety & Hygiene –
 - Registration and Inspection of Businesses
 - Scores on Doors
 - Response to complaints about food and premises

- Health and Safety –
 - Inspection of commercial premises
 - Investigation of notifiable accidents
 - Pet sales and animal licensing

It was reported that there were around 1600 business premises in the District, with around 350/400 catering businesses inspected. A healthy eating awards pilot would commence in the new year starting with care homes in the area.

He stated that with regard to health promotion there was a delivery of national health promotion campaigns which included:

- Child safety week
- Skin cancer awareness
- European week for health and safety
- Food safety week

There were also a number of special projects which included:

- Falls prevention in care homes
- Slipper swap
- Healthy eating
- Workfit
- New baby smoke detectors
- Electric blankets

He reported that the 'Slipper Swap' campaign had been successful and helped eliminate the risk of falls with older people, and 500 new baby smoke detectors had been fitted to date. Members stated that residents were very happy with the 'Slipper Swap' campaign and were keen for it to continue.

Reference was made to the Performance Monitoring report recently received at the Performance and Partnerships Scrutiny Sub-Committee. The Indicator NI184 stated that 60% of food establishments in the area were broadly compliant with food hygiene law, and Members queried the other 40%. The Food and Safety Manager stated that food establishments were in fact 89% compliant.

A discussion took place regarding the testing of electric blankets and concern was raised

at the possible numbers of older people with blankets which could be faulty and cause harm.

Lisa Shephard, Arts Development Officer then gave a presentation regarding Arts Development.

The Arts Development Officer reported that there was a strong partnership with the Primary Care Trust. She also stated that a number of the arts and health project work undertaken had been recognised both nationally and internationally. The Council were also key partner in setting up an Artist Professional Development Programme in conjunction with Staffordshire University.

A number of Joint Health Priorities included:

- Physical Activity
- Health Eating
- Obesity
- Smoking
- Teenage Conceptions
- Mental Health
- Sensible Drinking

She reported that project examples included:

- Route to Health
- Message in a Box – Smoking
- Projekt Flux
- Turbulance – Board game and DVD designed by children

Members were keen to know if youth centres were involved in the projects and also what work was carried out with drug prevention. The Arts Development Officer stated that youth centres worked with the Council in developing initiatives and work was carried out with young people such as young offenders.

22. Information from Healthcare Organisations

The Committee received a progress report from Ms. Perren, Head of Marketing and Business Development in respect of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust.

Campaign to Reduce Hospital Associated Infections

With regard to the Campaign to Reduce Hospital Associated Infections it was reported that a new target of 163 cases per year for C. difficile had been set for 2008/09. There had been 3 actual positive samples in December and the total positive samples currently stood at 89.

There were no MRSA bacteraemia cases reported for December and there had not been any cases for the last 126 days. The total cases stood at 3 for 2008/09; however 1 case was still under investigation at Derby Hospital.

Healthcare Commission – Hygiene Code Inspection

Following a recent inspection the Trust had achieved national hygiene targets having put standards in place to eradicate hospital 'superbugs', and was one of only a handful of Trusts to meet the targets. This followed an unannounced visit by Healthcare Commission (HCC) assessors who found the Trust to be completely compliant with the government's strict hygiene code.

Senior Positions

Ms. Perren reported on a number of new positions within the Trust which included the appointment of a new Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgeon which was the first of its kind for the Trust. She also reported on interviews for two Non Executive Directors and a Medical Director.

Cannock Chase Hospital

Ms. Perren reported that Medirest had recently been awarded the housekeeping services contract for the next three years at Cannock Chase Hospital.

She also stated that there would be a refurbishment of the Fair Oak Garden to make an area on level 2 for rehabilitation patients.

Health Talk

An event would be held on 13 January, 2009 at 6.00 p.m. at Cannock Chase Hospital for the public and staff which would provide information surrounding strokes.

23. Work Programme

Members considered the Work Programme and agreed that an additional meeting be scheduled. They were also keen to receive further information on previous discussions regarding the need for additional burial space within the District.

AGREED:

- (A) That an additional meeting of the Healthier Communities and Older People Policy Development Committee be arranged.
- (B) That further information be provided regarding the need for additional burial space within the District.

CHAIRMAN