

Steve Shillock, Head of Environmental Health advised that the meeting was based around taking evidence and a number of similar meetings would be held. He advised Members that he would try and see what information he could obtain from the meeting.

A Member referred to Minute 15. Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals Trust – Presentation and reported that she had been made aware of a meeting that had recently taken place in Cannock with the Trust where it had been reported that funding was in place for 29 months which would include finance for maintenance works. However, issues around the health economy for Staffordshire needed to be dealt with before the funding came to an end.

Members referred to the presentation/discussion at the last meeting and it was reported that Ms. Espley would check to see if there was a Governor from within the District that occupied a position within the Council of Governors. Members had not been supplied with this information and were keen to receive it.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Policy Development Committee and Health Scrutiny Committee held on 11 September, 2014 and the Health Scrutiny Committee held on 13 October, 2014 be approved as a correct record.

23. Dementia Friendly Communities

Angela Schulp, District Commissioning Lead, Staffordshire County Council reported that a discussion had taken place with the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and it was identified that a model for dementia was seen as a priority.

Initial work was undertaken with various groups where the Dementia Friendly Communities model was considered. The model was in place to help people with dementia feel included and to also encourage those with dementia and their carers to seek help.

She reported that a meeting was held on 1 July in Hednesford and It was encouraging that there was a very good turn out and such willingness of people to become involved, and particularly from local business, the Town Council and community groups. The Chase CVS spent some time talking with organisations on the matter and advising them on how they could help.

An action plan was then formulated with some of the actions being implemented through local business, community groups and the Police. The dementia support group known as “the Maze group” who currently operate in Cannock would run a group in Hednesford.

It was reported that every 6 months a meeting would be held with all those

that were involved to provide an update and also discuss what future support was required and how it could be delivered.

It was reported that other areas of the District had been considered and with some funding through a local Councillor and Chase CVS, work would commence after Christmas in the Heath Hayes/Norton Canes area.

It was reported that Staffordshire County Council had received recognition which would promote Staffordshire County Council as the 'Staffordshire Alliance'. Details and information about the Dementia Action Alliance can be accessed via the internet by following the link: <http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/>

RESOLVED:

That an invite be extended to representatives of the Dementia Action Alliance to discuss their area of work with the Committee.

24. SEND Reforms

Angela Schulp reported on reforms which were required to be implemented by September, 2014 with regard to special educational needs (SEN).

She reported that an assessment would be carried out for those with severe and complex needs and the traditional statement of education needs would be replaced with a single Education, Health and Care Plan.

A 'local offer' was published in respect of those with SEND so their families were aware of the services and opportunities available and how they could access them. Consultation was carried out with children, young people and their parents and local authorities and local health services would work together to plan and commission education, health and social services.

The approach to the changes involved focusing on the child or young person, having ambition for the children or young people and delivery of personalised education, health, care and support.

It was hoped that children and young people would live as independently as possible and live how they chose, they would learn, achieve and make good progress, be safe and secure and live and thrive in their local communities. The timescale for this ran between September 2015 and December 2017.

With regard to the Local Offer it was reported that partners had been involved and the focus of the work was with children, young people and parents on 'what should it look like'. There had been sessions on the new Code of Practise and a platform provider had been commissioned to work to populate the Local Offer which progressed well.

She reported on the mock up of the Local Offer with local groups, young

people and a local school who were asked to test this over the summer period. She reported on access to funding and work undertaken with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to develop a joint commissioning group who would develop a needs analysis.

It was reported that work had been undertaken with further education providers and employment officers and a 'Local Offer' was now in place. She explained that there were still some problems with the offer and additional support had been agreed.

She explained that over the next few years the group would continue to work in order to make improvements.

Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions.

Members reported that this was good news and pleased to hear the service was being enhanced.

In response to questions raised by Members, Angela Schulp indicated that special education needs could include learning difficulties such as autism. She discussed the problems experienced later in adult life if those needs were not addressed. She then referred to Dyslexia where there was now better awareness and with appropriate testing of young people, measures could be implemented to ease problems later in life.

A Member asked if schools with pupils who had special needs would be offered more help.

Angela Schulp responded and explained that it was hoped that with the changes, the way children were referred would take less time as every new referral would be subject to the new process. She also indicated that the way in which assessments were carried out would become easier, and monitoring of the system would take place in order to gauge what the demand would be.

With regard to the changes around SEN the Chairman asked if any intervention that was made when a child was young would essentially have a line drawn under it when they reached adulthood.

Angela Schulp commented that one of Staffordshire County Council's priorities which was currently in progress was to create a service which benefitted all ages.

RESOLVED:

That an update be provided by Independent Futures at a future meeting.

25. Early Years Nursery Provision

Angela Schulp reported on the Childcare Act 2006 and the general

functions of local authorities in the provision of childcare. She explained that more recently some 2 year olds could be entitled to free early education and childcare.

She reported on Staffordshire's Think2 scheme where eligible families could be entitled to up to 15 funded hours (term time only) of free childcare. Providers were being encouraged to stretch the offer over 48 weeks of the year which equated to 12 hours per week.

She explained that all childcare providers and groups would need to be rated as either good or outstanding by OFSTED and both postal applications and applications online through the County Council's website were available to families who wished to apply.

It was reported that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) had identified 3,500 families that would be entitled to the funding, however there were only 2,500 places available. She reported that only Stafford and Staffordshire Moorlands would be able to provide for the shortfall.

She indicated that 54% of places were available in Cannock Chase and there were 522 families in Cannock and 379 places available. However, of those places available only 284 were with childcare providers that had been rated good or outstanding.

It was reported that the County Council were working with Entrust (the independent joint venture company set up between the County and Capita to improve education) to try and identify capital funding and working to make sure all childcare places were in place.

She reported that if a provider when assessed had been down graded, work would commence in helping them to achieve the rating as required by OFSTED. However, if the provider was unsuccessful in attaining the rating another provider would be used.

Angela Schulp explained that some of the funding included some school nurseries where children's centres were part of the school, although most school nurseries only provided for children from the age of 3.

26. Update on Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

RESOLVED:

That the Digest summarising the meeting held on Monday 10 November, 2014, be noted.

27. Healthwatch Staffordshire – Update

Hester Parsons, Healthwatch reported on the integration of hospital services between the County Hospital, Stafford and the Royal Stoke

University Hospital, Stoke-On-Trent which was now known as the University Hospitals of North Midlands.

She reported on recent meetings which had not seen a very good turn out and work which had been undertaken with the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. Communities' teams would continue with their work and a Doctor currently located at Cannock would be moving over to Wolverhampton, but would still undertake work at Cannock.

With regard to 'support for carers' the County Council were currently working on a briefing paper which would include concerns, priorities and actions. Groups were also being asked to rate the areas of priorities which had been identified.

Hester Parsons reported on the Cancer Advocacy Launch which was funded by MacMillan which helped and supported those over the age of 50 who had been diagnosed with cancer. The scheme would be rolled out from Stoke-On-Trent to Staffordshire with someone leading for Staffordshire. There was also a carer's hub which would provide information, guidance and support.

28. Work Programme Update

Steve Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health circulated an updated Work Programme for 2014/15 to Members of the Committee.

Members of the Committee discussed the Cannock Chase CCG Financial Recovery and it was agreed that the Committee look into this issue, however preparation was required and additional support needed due to the nature of what the Committee would be expected to consider.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the updated Work Programme for 2014/15, be noted
- (B) That Members of the Committee wish to look at the Cannock Chase CCG Financial Recovery, and that additional support be provided
- (C) That Independent Futures be invited to a future meeting
- (D) That a visit be arranged for Members of the Committee to view the 111 non emergency service facility

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting concluded at 5.35 p.m.).