

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 11 JANUARY, 2011 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Molineux, G.N. (Chairman)
Bennett, Mrs. D.J. (Vice-Chairman)

Alcott, G.	Jones, R.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Yates, Ms. W.
Gilbert, P.	

14. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

15. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

There were no Declarations of Interest declared.

16. Minutes

Arising from consideration of the Minutes the Chairman referred to Minute 13 (A) and advised Members that the Chase CVS had not responded to the issue in respect of correspondence forwarded regarding checks during the winter months on older people.

The Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader referred to Minute 13 (B) and advised the Committee that a press release was recently issued to highlight the need for caring for older people during the winter months. She then referred to Minute 13 (C) and advised that currently there was no policy and if there was it would require an over arching policy. A discussion had taken place with regard to the development of an adult safeguarding policy, although a multi agency approach would be required and would be lead by Social Services.

Members were of the view that it was very difficult to obtain the details of older people who were vulnerable due to legislation such as the Data Protection Act. Members of the Committee were however still keen to support this.

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September, 2010 be approved as a correct record.

17. Proposed Changes to Public Health Arrangements and Responsibilities

Mr. S. Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health gave a presentation to Members on the Proposed Changes to Public Health Arrangements and Responsibilities as detailed in the Governments Public Health white paper – Healthy Lives, Healthy People..

The Head of Environment Health reported that Mr. J. Bletcher was unable to attend the meeting as he was required to be at a tribunal today.

He reported on the health background and advised on a number of problems including Britain being amongst the worst levels for obesity in the world, smoking claiming over 80,000 lives a year and 1.6 million people are dependent on alcohol.

The new approach would involve the following:-

- Representative–owned by communities and shaped by their needs
- Resourced–with ring-fenced funding and incentives to improve
- Rigorous–professionally-led, focused on evidence, efficient and effective
- Resilient–strengthening protection against current and future threats to health

He reported on health and wellbeing throughout life and advised of the new public health system which included Public Health England –a national public health service, and a return of public health leadership to Local Government.

Public Health England would be a new public health service directly accountable to the Secretary of State for Health with a clear mission to achieve measurable improvements in public health outcomes; and provide effective protection from public health threats.

A Member pointed out that the Committee were being asked for their views although some of the work had already been undertaken. The Head of Environmental Health advised the Committee that PCTs were being disbanded as part of the NHS reforms. Public Health England would be formed, and a Director of Public Health would be jointly appointed by Staffordshire County Council and Public Health England.

He advised that a Director of Public Health would be accountable to elected Members. The person would then be the principal advisor on all health matters to the Local Authority.

The Head of Environmental Health provided information in respect of public health and the NHS and advised that from April 2013 ring-fenced budgets would be allocated. At this point a Member asked if there was a requirement for the new Director of Public Health to be a doctor. The Head of Environmental Health was of the opinion that unless there were changes to existing requirements the person would need to be a suitably qualified health professional and not necessarily a doctor.

Information was provided to the Committee on health premiums which were incentive

payments given to Local Authorities depending on the progress made to improve the health of local people.

He advised on the public health outcomes framework, the overall transition and consultation and engagement.

The Challenges for the Council would include working with the new public health structure in Staffordshire and ensuring that local health needs were recognised. He also advised that there would be a Health and Wellbeing Board and would expect Members to be appointed to it.

Members raised concern and were of the opinion that the Council should have the opportunity to challenge decisions if local voices were not heard and concern was also raised in respect of funding and the amount.

The Head of Environmental Health advised the Committee that consultation was currently ongoing. With regard to the local delivery of services the present Director Of Public Health was currently a joint appointment between South Staffordshire PCT and Staffordshire County Council.

18. Health and Wellbeing Priority Delivery Plan

Consideration was given to the Performance Outturn for Quarters 1 and 2.

A Member referred to Annex 5b Supplies and Services and Internal Trading and was keen to see a breakdown of what these entailed. The Head of Environmental Health advised that he would supply this information for the next meeting.

A Member referred to Annex 5c and the 'Failure to develop and implement a District Alcohol Harm reduction Strategy' and was keen to know how the Residual Risk Score had been calculated. The Head of Environmental Health explained to Members of the Committee how the risk matrix worked.

A Member then referred to the 'Failure to meet statutory timetable for Air Quality Management monitoring' and was of the opinion that monitoring of the Poplars Landfill site was needed particularly with odours omitted from the site. The Head of Environmental Health explained that there were 2 air quality monitoring stations, a network of diffusion tubes and also computer modelling software which was used. He advised that an assessment had been taken of the A5 corridor between Churchbridge and Norton Canes due to pollution levels and would be routinely monitored. An Air Quality Management Area had already been declared in respect of the A5 corridor between Longford and Churchbridge.

He advised that there was no specific monitoring of the Poplars Landfill site and was not aware of any emissions or problems. Methane gas was drawn off the tip and burned to generate electricity. Odour problems were not criteria covered by the national air quality monitoring criteria. It was noted that there is a Poplars Liaison committee which several elected members attend.

A Member referred to "health" statistics having been requested a number of years ago in

respect of residents residing around the Poplars tip and Rugeley power station.

A member advised that air quality management figures for around the District were submitted to a past Committee and was keen to see the current Committee being updated with current air quality figures.

AGREED:

- (A) That a breakdown of the items 'Supplies and Services' and 'Internal Trading' costs as referred to in the Financial Summary be submitted to the next meeting.
- (B) That air quality monitoring figures for the District be submitted to the next meeting.
- (C) To request health statistics from South Staffordshire PCT in respect of the Poplars Landfill site and Rugeley Power Station.

19. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

AGREED:

That an update on the position regarding the proposed changes to public health arrangements be provided at the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 5.05 p.m.