

HEALTH SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Friday, 14 January, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room, Council House, Walsall

Panel Members Present

Councillor Yasin (Chair)
Councillor Ahmed
Councillor Azam
Councillor Creaney
Councillor Longhi
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Sears
Councillor Thomas

Officers present

Andy Rust - Head of Vulnerable Adults, Joint Commissioning, NHS Walsall
Peter Davis - Head of Community Care (Social Care and Inclusion)
Susan Gill - Healthy Weight Programme Manager (NHS Walsall)
Barbara Watt - Consultant in Public Health (NHS Walsall)
Paulette Myers - Joint Interim Director of Public Health (NHS Walsall)
Nikki Gough – Scrutiny Officer

50/11 Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor V. Woodruff.

51/11 Substitutions

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

52/11 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest and party whip.

53/11 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting that took place on 26 October, 2010, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

54/11 Tackling Obesity

The Chair introduced the item and reminded Members that the meeting had been called due to poor performance on indicators relating to obesity.

The Healthy Weight Programme Manager presented 'Tackling Obesity in Walsall'.

(see annexed)

Members discussed the 'Fit for a Fiver' programme and it was noted that Willenhall Leisure Centre was now closed. Officers confirmed that NHS Walsall were now looking to work with 'The CHART' to allow residents in Willenhall to fully participate in this programme. A discussion around the use of private sector gyms was held. NHS officers stated that this was being investigated.

The Obesity and Overweight Care Pathway was tabled:-

(see annexed)

Members were informed that bariatric surgery is carried out in Walsall but that NICE guidelines on eligibility were not followed. NHS Walsall would not be able to fund the numbers that would be eligible. There would not be funding for preventative measures if NICE guidance was followed. Members were informed that this was the position across the West Midlands.

The Chair asked how programmes were communicated to the public. Officers stated that they were advertised through press releases and hard to reach groups were targeted.

The Panel discussed the public health responsibilities which were to become the responsibility of the Local Authority. The environment in Walsall needed to encourage people to walk more, cycle more and eat less take-aways.

Officers stated that for the first time, obesity levels in Walsall had come down for children in Year 6. It was emphasised that obesity was everyone's concern, as so many things influenced obesity.

The Head of Community Care asked what the budget spend on obesity was and how this compared as a percentage to other PCTs.

The Joint Interim Director of Public Health suggested that it may depend on which services were defined as weight management. NHS Walsall spent £1.2 million but this did not include services such as health visitors who also contribute to the agenda. Another PCT may use staff differently or receive more funding from the Local Authority.

Members discussed the reasons why children become obese, including factors such as obese parents, cultural issues and economic situations. Methods to tackle this included support for schools but also improving the environment and working with parents.

Officers discussed opportunities to work with local supermarkets and take-aways to provide consumers with better information. Electronic solutions were being explored by the PCT. In addition, it was hoped that big retailers could be influenced at a national level.

Councillor Longhi suggested a partnership audit of the retail offer be carried out in Walsall to identify a set of standards that NHS Walsall would like to see to improve health in Walsall. The Panel were supportive of this suggestion.

Members were informed that Councillor Robertson was lead Member for the Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel Obesity Working Group. It was agreed that Councillor Robertson would keep the Health Panel updated of the progress.

55/11 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 7 March, 2011 and would take place at the Council House, Walsall.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.15 p.m.

Signed:

Date: