

A T A M E E T I N G

- of the -

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL** held at  
the Council House, Walsall on **4 July**  
**2006** at 6.00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Councillor Woodruff  
Councillor D Pitt  
Councillor Micklewright  
Dr Sam Ramiah – Director of Public Health  
Jim Weston – Patient Forum  
D Russell – PALS (NHS)  
Catherine Boneham – PALS (PCT) Advocacy Service  
representative

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

David Martin (Executive Director Social Care & Supported  
Housing)  
Kathy McAteer (Assistant Director, Adult Services  
Social Care & Inclusion)  
Darrell Harman – Partnership Development Manager  
(Adults), Strategic Manager (Childrens)  
Nikki Ehlen – Scrutiny Officer

**1/06 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Robertson and Dr Desai.

**2/06 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

Councillor Woodruff nominated Councillor Pitt as the Vice-Chair of the panel. David Martin clarified that the Vice-Chair of the panel must be an elected member.

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor Pitt was nominated vice-chair of the panel for the 2006/07 municipal year.

**3/06 SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were no substitutions for this meeting

**4/06 DECLERATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

Councillor Woodruff declared a personal non prejudicial interest as an employee of the Walsall hospital NHS and Councillor D Pitt declared a personal and non prejudicial interest as an employee of West Midlands Ambulance Service.

## 5/06 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2006, copies having been previously circulated to each member of the panel be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record.

D Russell informed the panel that she had given her apologies for the panel meeting on 7 April 2006.

## 6/06 KEY DISCUSSION ITEMS

The panel discussed the current position of the Black Country Review and considered how changes to the health service would impact upon children's services. It was agreed that Stella Forsdyke and Sue James would be invited to the next meeting of the panel to give an update on the current position of the reconfiguration of health services within the Black Country. Also that David Drew would be invited to inform the panel how children's services would be affected.

## RESOLVED

That Stella Forsdyke, Sue James and David Drew be invited to the next panel meeting to provide updates on the Black Country Review and the Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

## 7/06 NHS BANK

Darrell Harman explained to the panel that item 7a, would not be going to Cabinet as indicated by the report.

(annexed)

Councillor Woodruff requested that Darrell reminded the panel what the NHS Bank meant for Walsall. Darrell explained that the NHS Bank was intended to even out overspends across the entire country by requiring all tPCTs to return part of their budget growth to the Bank. The main concern was to what extent LAA targets would still be achieved; an example of the risk is that the number of health trainers originally planned cannot be funded this year – though the tPCT are confident that the target can be delivered early the following year. Members were informed that detailed performance indicators were in place to allow performance to highlight non-delivery.

Councillor Woodruff asked officers if there were any plans in place to prepare for a similar situation occurring next year. Dr Sam Ramiah explained that more information would be available in September.

Councillor Pitt highlighted that in the minutes for the meeting on 7 April, Martin Turner had informed the panel that there would not be any cut backs in the following year. David Martin explained that Martin had expressed his opinion and that there are not any guarantees that there would be no cut backs in the following year.

Councillor Woodruff asked officers what action they wished the panel to take following the information that had been presented. David Martin suggested that the

panel received quarterly updates on the degree to which targets were being met. David recommended that Brandon Scott-Omenka met with Rachel Neal (PCT) and Darrell Harman and came back to the panel with a proposal for how the panel could receive this information.

Dr Sam Ramiah suggested that the panel write to the Secretary of State to raise their concerns. David Martin explained that as a Council the 3 leaders wrote to the Secretary of State explaining that the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and the NHS Bank would have a detrimental impact upon the borough of Walsall. Councillor Woodruff requested a copy of this letter so that the panel could also send a version containing the panels' views.

### RESOLVED

That Councillor Woodruff, as Chair of the panel, be provided with a copy of the letter raising concerns about the NHS BANK sent by the 3 leaders to the Secretary of State.

That information is received on a quarterly basis to allow monitoring of performance as a result of NHS Bank.

### 8/06 SCOPING OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The reports of the Executive Director on Scoping of Work Programme 2006/7 and Establishment of Sub-Committees and Work Groups were submitted: -

(see annexed).

Members noted the work of the panel during 2005/6 municipal year and noted the proposals for scoping additional items for the work programme for 2006/7 municipal year. As stated in the scoping of the work programme report Dr Ramiah was invited to report on issues which may be useful for the panel to consider adding to their work programme.

Councillor Woodruff suggested to that the panel considered the support offered by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), to get help and advice in scoping the work programme for the next municipal year. Councillor Woodruff stated that there were items on the work programme which were affected by the NHS Bank.

Dr Ramiah informed members that on 12 July at Bescot Stadium, 2 seminars were to be held presenting the results of a number of developments in childhood obesity; he added that there had not been as much progression in adult obesity. Dr Ramiah reported that there were major variations between East and West Walsall in accessing health services.

Councillor Woodruff discussed the importance of adult obesity due to the role of adults as employees in the borough. She asked if there was any possibility of a seminar being held to scope the problem and identify a way forward. Dr Ramiah stated that the information is available to allow for a short presentation.

David Martin stated that the role of the panel is to explore an issue and to add value; he questioned how the panel could best do this and stated that the panel must

decide on what it could most add value to and have the biggest amount of impact on. Dr Ramiah suggested that the panel could add value by asking questions. David asked if there was a group that could be accessed where these questions could be presented.

Dr Ramiah stated that the obesity strategy could be circulated to members and the chair of the obesity steering group could be invited to a future meeting to answer the panels' questions.

Dr Ramiah suggested that the panel consider adding the issue of life expectancy to their work programme, in particular long-term conditions, which was a major issue irrespective of an individuals' background. He stated that a report could be circulated to panel members. He also added that a good issue for the panel to add to their work programme would be falls prevention. David Martin said that this would be a good item as it links to the work of the LAA.

Councillor Woodruff requested that the progress of the Goscote site is placed on the panels work plan. David Martin stated that the panel decides on issues to proactively explore and on issues to react to, of which Goscote is an ideal issue. Councillor Woodruff requested that Andrea Bigmore is invited to update the panel on the progress of the Goscote site.

Catherine Boneham suggested that the panel could consider the expert patient programme.

Daivd Martin suggested that the panel may wish to consider scheduling the issue of obesity into the work programme for the following year.

Kathy McAteer clarified that the item headed 'Review of mental health services in the Black Country' under item 3.1 of the scoping of the work programme was inaccurate. This was because it stated that 'formal public consultation took place in June 2006' when in fact key stakeholders were invited to attend a seminar which gave more information prior to public consultation.

## RESOLVED

That the following areas of work to be included in the programme for the 2006/07 municipal year: -

- 1) Adult obesity
- 2) Long-term conditions
- 3) Falls prevention
- 4) Progress of Goscote site

## 9/06 THE FUTURE OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BLACK COUNTRY – UPDATE FROM MEMBERS ON SEMINAR (26 JUNE 2006)

Councillor Woodruff explained to the panel that Councillor Robertson had attended the seminar on the future of mental health services in the Black Country and had provided her with an update. Councillor Woodruff explained that it had been

anticipated that some form of joint scrutiny would be a constructive step for all authorities involved.

Kathy McAteer explained that the seminar was an information sharing event, she suggested that officers from Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall meet to consider the implications of joint scrutiny and to allow members to decide if joint scrutiny would be effective.

RESOLVED

That officer's from Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall would meet initially to scope the issues and report back to panel members

10/06 Jim Weston informed the panel that it had been promised by the minister of state that patients' forums will be found a new home and nothing had been received. Jim stated that he would send a copy of this information to the scrutiny team when he receives it.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 7.20 p.m.

Chairman .....

Date .....