

# Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2015 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 4.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Wreford-Bush (Chairman); Councillors Illingworth, Kinson OBE, and Mrs Knight.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Copping and Mrs Falp.

The Chairman announced that he had agreed to an additional item of business being added to the proceedings, namely a consultation document in respect of the Warwickshire Child Poverty Strategy 2015-2018. He introduced Mr Basra from the County Council who had issued the consultation paper and was seeking opinion from Members after giving a short introduction into the work being done. The Chairman had agreed to this being added to the meeting because the deadline for response on the consultation was 6 March.

## 26. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 27. **Warwickshire Child Poverty Strategy (2015-2018)**

The Child Poverty Act came into force in 2010 with the aim of eradicating Child Poverty by the end of 2020. It was deemed necessary for all local authorities to have a policy. In summer 2014, the Government revised its approach to tackling Child Poverty over the next three years by seeking to focus on:

- Supporting families into work and increasing earnings.
- Improving living standards.
- Educational attainment.

Locally there was a requirement to have a multi-agency child poverty strategy in place supported by a needs assessment. In Warwickshire, a Strategy was adopted in 2011. There was a need to update this and part of that was seeking views from the many bodies involved, including Warwick District Council. To this end, a first draft of Warwickshire's Child Poverty Strategy (2015-2018) had been sent to the District Council, with an invitation for consultees to submit comments to Mr Basra, Partnerships Delivery Manager by 6 March 2015. A second draft would be circulated in mid-March following receipt of comments.

The Head of Health & Community Protection had requested that Mr Basra attend the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee's meeting to answer any questions Members might have on the 1<sup>st</sup> draft.

In response to questions from Members, Mr Basra informed them that:

- The Government recognised that educational attainment was a method to break the cycle of child poverty. He then explained the issues local authorities had had in encouraging students who were

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entitled to free school meal, claiming them. The County Council was trying to find methods to increase uptake.

- Food Banks were providing data to the County Council. The reasons many people were forced to use food banks were many, but cited amongst these was the delay in receiving benefit payments or sanctions. Providing Citizens' Advice Bureau Outreach at food banks was being investigated as was provision of recipe cards to help people understand how to make best use of the food provided by the food banks and give them ideas on how to shop in the future.
- There was a spike in using food banks during school summer holidays especially because the children were not provided with school meals during this period.
- The County Council was investigating the same model used by Stratford-Upon-Avon Reach Out and Help Model, whereby initiatives to relieve child poverty was advertised to the public in need through "door knocking" to take the information to them.

The Head of Service for Health & Community Protection informed Members that the District Council would be including the relief of child poverty in its work on health and wellbeing through financial inclusion and work with troubled families. The work being pursued by the District Council would form part of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy currently being written by the Health and Wellbeing Lead.

Officers at the District Council would look at the 1<sup>st</sup> draft strategy and feed back any response to Mr Basra which would then be fed back to Health Scrutiny at its March meeting.

The Chairman thanked Mr Basra for the information.

## 28. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2015 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- Minute number 22 – the paragraph starting "There was a concern that in respect of transport, people were too focussed on the car and not enough on sustainable modes of transport." The final sentence of this paragraph should have stated "Transport corridors were being examined, together with an integrated approach to improve road junctions for all modes of transport, *particularly where there were air pollution problems.*"
- Minute number 25 – "Update from Councillor Kinson on the Warwickshire County Council Adult Social Care & Health O & S Committee." In the bulleted list "Care and nursing homes (13 *complaints* were being examined in Warwickshire).

## 29. Future of Health Scrutiny at Warwick District Council

The Sub-Committee considered whether any final amendments were required in its report giving recommendations to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the way forward for health scrutiny at the District Council, starting in the new municipal year.

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The Committee Services Officer read out an amendment requested by Finance which related to paragraph 5.1, which now would state "The formation of a new committee would mean that an additional Special Responsibility Allowance of £2,511 per year would be payable to the Chairman. At present, there is no budgetary provision for this within the Council's budget for 2015/16. Therefore, the Council, if it approved an additional committee, would decide how this should be funded for 2015/16 and the finance implications for both 2015/16 and beyond."

Members agreed that Recommendation 2.1 (a) needed amendment to widen the role of a committee so that it would handle pre-scrutiny of Council reports, not just Executive reports. It should also scrutinise health related consultations.

Paragraph 3.1 should be amended so that the first sentence was altered to state "The changes to the health service introduced by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 meant that the local authorities had an increased role in delivering health & wellbeing *as a result of public health responsibility being transferred from the NHS to Local Government.*"

The Head of Health & Community Protection and the Committee Services Officer were asked to liaise to ensure these amendments were worded correctly to convey the meaning intended.

### 30. **Work Programme**

The Committee considered a report from Democratic Services on the Sub-Committee's work programme.

#### Warwick District Council Health Strategy Update

The Health and Wellbeing Lead informed the Members that since the last meeting, he had done work on the following:

- planning the 'Green Spaces' Public Health funded Warwick Hospital partnership 'Measured Miles' project;
- developing the joint Human Resources action plan for Health & Wellbeing of staff;
- training as 'Dementia Champion' in order to train colleagues as 'Dementia Friends';
- joined the County-wide 'Walking for Health' group - learning to arrange local Walks for Health;
- presentation to all Council Senior Officers on progress of the Health Strategy to date;
- meeting with contractor to specify Mental Wellbeing training for Council staff;
- Corporate Induction presentation for colleagues joining the Council staff;
- presentation of the revised Smoking Policy to Employment Committee;
- discussions with Head of Cultural Services re that Department's contribution to the Health & Wellbeing agenda;
- liaison meeting with Public Health, Warwickshire;
- Health Champions meeting;

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- interview with contractor commissioned to evaluate the Council's Arts & Culture Strategy;
- discussions with Jeff Watkins re Dementia-orientated activities at the Pump Rooms and Museum; and
- discussions with Jacky Oughton re Housing Department contribution to the Health & Wellbeing agenda.

### Warwick District Health Improvement & Wellbeing Partnership (HIWEB) Update

The Health & Wellbeing Lead informed Members that discussions on the future of HIWEB, in light of stakeholder consultation, had taken place. The Head of Health and Community Protection informed Members that the Terms of Reference had been re-drafted in light of the consultation. A re-organisation had taken place in his service area which allows HIWEB to be better supported and so that work with the voluntary sector can re-commence.

### Update from Councillor Kinson on the Warwickshire County Council Adult Social Care & Health O & S Committee

Councillor Kinson gave the Sub-Committee an update on matters that had been discussed at the Warwickshire County Council Adult Social Care & Health O & S Committee since his last update. These included:

- Looking after child and adult mental health. It was felt that not enough work had been done to upgrade the service and consequently a Task & Finish Group was being considered to look at this.

### Amendments or Additions to the Work Programme

The Health & Wellbeing Lead informed Members that future work would include:

- Briefing on Health Impact Assessments to facilitate effective scrutiny (Guest from Public Health, possibly Nicola Wright?)
- Alignment of WDC's Health Strategy with WCC's Health Strategy. (Guest from Public Health?)
- Representative from Housing - contribution to the Strategy, progress of Public Health Consortium on GP Exercise Referral and Child Weight Management
- Representative from Culture - contribution to the Strategy
- Dementia Friendly Authority – progress
- Reports from Licensing
- The Reading Walking project

Following consideration of the Work Programme, it was

**Resolved** that:

- (1) the report be noted; and

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- (2) the Work Programme be amended to reflect the topics in the "Amendments or Additions to the Work Programme".

(The meeting finished at 5.30 pm)