

# Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 September 2014 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 4.30 pm.

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

**Also present:** Councillor Mrs Knight (Co-opted, non-voting Member) and Councillor Coker (Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection).

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Copping.

## 7. **Substitutes**

## 8. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 9. **Work Programme**

### Co-option of Councillor Mrs Knight onto the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

As per the procedure rules agreed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 10 June 2014, the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee was given delegated authority to appoint co-optees:

### **"Co-optees**

The Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee will have the discretion to appoint Councillors who are not members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to sit on their Sub-Committee, but those Councillors will have no power to vote. However, no Councillor acting as a co-optee may be involved in scrutinising a decision in which they have been directly involved...."

Councillor Mrs Knight had previously served on the Health Scrutiny Working Party before the Sub-Committee was established. However, due to statutory regulations, she was unable to be appointed to the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee as a voting member because she did not sit on the parent committee, Overview & Scrutiny. To avoid the loss of the knowledge she had built up it was

### **Resolved** that:

Councillor Mrs Knight be co-opted onto the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee as a non-voting Member.

### Briefing from the Senior Democratic Services Officer at Warwickshire County Council on Health Scrutiny

The Senior Democratic Services Officer at Warwickshire County Council, Ann Mawdsley, had been requested to give a presentation to the Sub-Committee Members on how health scrutiny was being dealt with at the

## **Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee Minutes (Continued)**

County; its interaction with other health bodies and what the role of the District Council was. This had been requested because some of the membership of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee was new to health scrutiny.

Members were informed that guidance to Local Authorities on scrutinising health services had been published and this had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. This guidance spelt out the role of Local Authorities and the framework within which they had to operate. It also stated the role of a District Council. It was explained that the County Council could request that District Councillors were co-opted onto their Scrutiny Committees and also the County Council could request that certain health scrutiny functions were dealt with at District Council level.

Members were informed that if they wished representatives from the various health bodies to attend Sub-Committee meetings, then the Senior Democratic Services Officer at Warwickshire County Council had a list of contact names and details and the Committee Services Officer could liaise with her after the Sub-Committee had examined exactly what it wished to look at. It was also suggested that the Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee should develop a working relationship on an informal level with HealthWatch.

The County Council would be working on a Health Inequalities Project and would share this with the District Council to see if there was scope for areas where the two Authorities could work together.

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Community Protection suggested that it was necessary for this Council to examine every activity it carried out to see if there was a health implication. It could also see what the County Council was working upon through its Work Programme and if there were any issues District Members wished to raise, this could be done via him or Councillor Kinson.

The Head of Health and Community Protection expected that the focus for health scrutiny at District level would be more concentrated on wellbeing issues, rather than acute health issues.

(Councillor Coker arrived at the meeting near the start of this item)

### Public Health meeting 10 July 2014

Councillor Mrs Falp and the Head of Health and Community Protection informed Members about the Public Health meeting they both had attended on 10 July. Councillor Mrs Falp was disappointed that there was such poor representation from staff out of Housing Departments, although she had found the day useful for networking. Useful discussion had taken place on how health issues could be worked into planning application decisions.

### Update from Councillor Kinson on the Warwickshire County Council Adult Social Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Kinson reported on the work being done by the Adult Social Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He was pleased to report that Dr Linnane, Director of Public Health for South Warwickshire, would be

## **Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee Minutes (Continued)**

looking at the issues surrounding Community Hospital transport services. Councillor Kinson had raised the issue of how the NHS would cope with the implications from the Local Plan with Dr Linnane. He had also asked the West Midlands Ambulance Service to keep us informed about the "111" service and how it was working. Councillor Kinson reported that several health issues were being discussed by the Committee, amongst which featured obesity, especially in relation to childhood obesity and child abuse.

Sub-Committee Members were informed that when they saw agendas for the Warwick District Health and Wellbeing Partnership (HIWEB), they could raise questions with Councillor Coker either individually or collectively as a sub-committee. Papers for future HIWEB meetings would be passed to the Committee Services Officer for circulation to all members of the Sub-Committee.

### Warwick District Council Health Strategy Update

The Health and Wellbeing Lead (HWL) gave an update on the progress of the Health Strategy report and various initiatives being pursued by the Council. He informed Members that the Council's employee policy in respect of smoking in the workplace would be re-examined in light of evidence about e-cigarettes. Whilst the initial thought had been to ban e-cigarettes being smoked in Council premises, this would be examined in greater detail due to new reports which suggested that e-cigarettes could be an aid to stopping smoking altogether. Anecdotally it appeared that incidents of smoking in work vehicles, which is an offence, were increasing and required the attention of enforcement officers. The HWL had presented a brief to the County Smokefree Alliance on the subject

Amongst other initiatives in progress or to be tackled were:

- Personal lifestyles
- Health impact assessments for Planning
- Financial Inclusion
- Food bags for tenants
- Disabled adaptations
- Low cost influenza vaccinations.

### Amendments or additions to the Work Programme

The Health and Wellbeing Lead was asked to present a report on smoking policies for the 10 November meeting.

HIWEB should be an agenda item for every meeting.

It was also agreed that a representative from Public Health Warwickshire would be welcome to attend future Sub-Committee meetings.

## **10. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2014 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Committee Services Officer was asked to speak to the Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer about appointing a Mental Health

## **Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee Minutes (Continued)**

Champion. It was noted that Councillor Copping had expressed a desire to serve in this role.

The Health and Wellbeing Lead reported that it had been decided that this Council would be seeking the national Workplace Wellbeing Charter. Coventry City Council would audit this Council's progress and we had audited them. He also reported that staff had been trained for the Sports England initiative in conjunction with Bowls England. The Global Corporate Challenge initiative that this Council had participated in recently was a "tick in the box" towards the Charter.

### **11. Warwick District Health Improvement & Wellbeing Partnership (HiWeb)**

Councillor Mrs Falp reported that she had attended a meeting of HiWeb in August. She raised concern over the amount of time it took the Health and Wellbeing Lead to administer the meetings and the fact that there was no scrutiny of what this group did, or an action plan.

The Head of Health and Community Protection gave Members a short briefing on the background and historical context of this group. HIWeb was the group asked to monitor the 'one-off' projects joint funded by Public Health and WDC with £10,000 each. A further £10,000 had been contributed for this purpose by the South Warwickshire Care Commissioning Group (SW CCG) this year.

The Health and Wellbeing Lead then said that a review was required on the way HiWeb would be taken forward and how it would be resourced in terms of staff administering the meetings, which currently he was handling. Questions needed to be raised on how the £30,000 would be spent and Members felt that in respect of the £10,000 we had given, then it should go to initiatives that the District Council felt appropriate, but it should be managed through HIWEB. It was felt that for the time being, the Head of Service and the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Coker should monitor the spend.

A suggestion was made that HiWeb should be amalgamated into the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee but this was dismissed because in order to scrutinise how the money was spent and how HiWeb operated, the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee could not be part of the decision making process – separation of responsibilities. It was also felt that the responsibility for administering the HiWeb meetings should remain with the Health and Wellbeing Lead.

(The meeting finished at 6.04 pm)