

Time commenced : 6.00pm
Time finished : 8.40pm

SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH COMMISSION

25 JULY 2005

Present: Councillor Turner (in the Chair)
Councillors Gerrard, Khan, Marshall and Skelton

Co-opted Members: Pat Hill, Philip Johnson and
Elaine Jackson

In attendance: Councillor Hussain

13/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Berry, Chera, Leeming and Willitts.

14/05 Late items

There were no late items.

15/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

16/05 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2005 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

17/05 Call-in

There were no call-ins.

18/05 Access to Dental Health - Presentation

The Commission received a presentation from Ken Wragg, Consultant for Dental Public Health, which gave an overview of the situation of dental health in the region, paying particular attention to Derby.

Key points arising from the presentation included:

- Less than 50% of the population attended NHS dental health practitioners
- Focus had shifted from treatment to prevention
- There were significant differences in dental health in the city with disease in western Derby caught early and treated whilst central Derby had a high number of extractions

- Sure Start is used to address dental health
- Gaps in dental health were being filled by dentists from abroad

Councillor Skelton asked how many people in Derby were registered with a dentist. Ken responded this varied between children and adults but generally, 50% of people in Greater Derby were registered with a dentist and 35% in Central Derby were registered with a dentist.

Councillor Hussain raised concern over the dental health of Asian people in the city and it seemed where the need was greater, the registration was lower. He asked how the Health Authority were addressing this issue.

Ken advised that particularly in young children they were trying to promote oral health and were working with Sure Start, Health Visitors and schools to target specific groups. They were also maintaining screening programmes in areas where disease was high. The aim was to get dental health stabilised.

Councillor Khan advised that he appreciated that some Asian people chose not to visit a dentist but some of them did not have access to one. Ken agreed and said that the Health Authority needed to improve access and the local commissioning of dental services would help with this.

Councillor Marshall asked if individual dental practices chose their own prices and if customers were not happy who could they go to to complain. Ken advised that the NHS laid down the cost for each item and advised how much should be charged for each part of the service. He agreed that it was not always clear what was provided under the NHS or on a private basis. If a customer was not happy with the prices quoted by a dental practice, they should firstly speak to the practice itself and then if there was still an issue, the Patient Advice and Liaison Service, in the Primary Care Trust, would be able to help.

Councillor Turner commented that during the presentation, Ken advised that there were a large number of five year olds who had diseased teeth, did the dental profession hold the view that, as the child would lose these teeth eventually, they would not treat them. Ken responded that this was not the case, approximately 40% of the population had diseased teeth and it was generally the ones that had disease that did not seek help. Dentists would try and conserve deciduous teeth as much as possible as preserving these teeth maintained the space for the second teeth.

Councillor Turner asked why fluoridation of water ceased during the 1980s. Ken advised that Severn Trent had to start moving water over a larger area which included areas that fluoridation had not been agreed. This meant they had to cease fluoridating water in Derbyshire. There was also no great profit in water fluoridation and the bad press that went with it. Ken added that the Water Act had been amended and there were new regulations coming in regarding water fluoridation and these would be put out to consultation by the Strategic Health Authority. He had no doubt that fluoridation had a significant benefit on oral health and not just in children.

Resolved

1. To note the report.

2. To ask the Health Authority to consult the Commission on the fluoridation issue at the appropriate time.

19/05 Social Services Complaints & Representations Procedure Annual Report

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Social Services on the Social Services Complaints and Representations procedure annual report. The Commission were advised that the Social Services complaints procedure was prescribed by the Children Act 1989 and the NHS Community Care Act 1990. The procedure was separate from but complimentary to the Council's Corporate Complaints procedure. All local authority social services departments were required to send an annual report to the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).

Resolved to note the report.

20/05 NHS Travel Cost Scheme

Mahroof Hussain, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer, asked the Commission to consider a leaflet that had been produced by the Health Trusts regarding the NHS Travel Cost Scheme. It was a requirement of health bodies to ensure that patients were aware of this scheme.

Resolved to approve the leaflet with the suggested changes.

21/05 Topic Review Update

Resolved to defer this item until the next meeting of the Commission.

22/05 Notification of the Retirement of Dr PK and Dr A Chakraborti

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services asking them to note the action being taken by the Greater Derby Primary Care Trust in response to a planned GP retirement.

Members were concerned that a lot of patients would have to travel a significant distance to reach the alternative surgeries being offered. Members asked whether the Primary Care Trusts had considered the availability of public transport to the alternative surgeries and whether other practices in a surrounding area had been considered.

Mahroof Hussain suggested that members invite a representative from the Primary Care Trust to advise the process that they follow, when GPs notify them of retirement.

Resolved to invite a representative from the PCT to attend a future meeting.

23/05 Performance Monitoring Fourth Quarter 2004/05

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services highlighting the Key Performance Indicators relating to Social Care and Health Commission. Members had agreed at the last meeting that they would closely monitor indicators shown in red in the Performance Eye. Commentary on each of the red indicators was detailed in the report.

Mahroof Hussain advised that he would be working with the Head of IT and Performance Management Systems and the Performance Management Team to identify approximately 20 of the most important performance assessment framework indicators that are reported to CSCI on a regular basis. Members asked that this information be provided quarterly.

Members asked for clarification on indicators LPSA 4.1 and 4.2.

Resolved

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To consider 20 of the Performance Assessment Framework Indicators quarterly.**
- 3. To ask the Director of Social Services to provide an explanation of the LPSA 4.1 and 4.2 indicators at the next meeting.**

24/05 Work Programme 2005/06

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services which asked the Commission to identify and agree topics for its work programme 2005/06.

Members agreed to prioritise suggestions for the Work Programme for 2005/06 as follows:

Topic Reviews

- Review of children looked after services
- extra care village – examination of the alternative to traditional residential homes for elderly people

Reports to Future Meetings

- to consider the progress on the Health and Equalities Topic Review
- Director of Public Health Annual Report
- Budget scrutiny
- Response to consultations by the Local Heath Trusts as part of their annual health check.

The Commission agreed that the following items would not be considered as a topic review or a scrutiny item but would be dealt with as stated:

- **Feasibility of producing a booklet detailing different organisations for older people.**

Members asked that Social Services instigate and investigation into the feasibility of this and suggested that a booklet previously produced by the CVS be looked at to see if this just needed updating. Members were not suggesting that Social Services took this on themselves but they should ask another organisation or department to carry out.

- **Retaining Qualified Social Workers**

To include this in the review of Children Looked After Services

- **Retention of Foster Carers and Adopters**

To include this is in the review of Children Looked After Services

- **Issues of Teenage Pregnancies**

To be dealt with under the Director of Public Health Annual Report

- **Establishing a Clinic to offer advice on the side effects of medication prescribed by GPs**

Members agreed that the comment received from a member of the Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee be forwarded to the Primary Care Trust for them to respond.

25/05 Update from the Patient and Public Involvement Forum Members

The Commission received an oral update from the Patient and Public Involvement Forum.

Resolved to note the update.

26/05 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items.

27/05 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any Reports of the Commission

There were no items.

28/05 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

There were no items.

MINUTES END