

**MINUTES of the meeting of the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 12 June 2012 at 7.00pm**

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**Present:** Councillors Wendy Curtis (Chair), Robert Gledhill, Martin Healy, Wendy Herd and Sue Gray

**In attendance:** Cllr V. Morris-Cook – Portfolio Holder for Housing  
B. Brownlee – Director of housing  
J. Forbes-Burford – Project Director – Health Transition  
Paul Toner, Director of Nursing & Quality, South Essex  
PCT Cluster  
~~Paul ?? – PCT~~  
R. Harris – Head of Commissioning  
C. Pumfrey – Strategic Lead – School Improvement,  
Learning and Skills  
M. Boulter – Principal Democratic Services Officer

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**1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

a) Interests

Councillor Curtis declared a personal interest in relation to Item 7 by virtue that her daughter worked in adult social care.

b) Whipping

No interests were declared.

**2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**RESOLVED That the Terms of Reference be noted.**

**3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

The Committee was informed that housing was a council priority and, as such, a separate task and finish group was being established to focus on housing issues. The portfolio holder added that she would also highly recommend to the group when it was established that it create a sub-group to investigate and look into the issue of black mould.

The Committee welcomed the report and all agreed that the constitution working group should look into creating a Housing

Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a matter of urgency. Councillor Gledhill also added that the Group should include **traveller** issues. Officers highlighted that the allocations policy and the tenancy agreements policy were the first items that would need to be considered by the Group.

Comment [j]: Issues related to “Hard to reach” groups, for example Travellers.

**RESOLVED: That:**

- i) **Members agree to establish a task and finish group to oversee the work of the Housing Directorate.**
- ii) **The task and finish group be established in accordance with political balance, consisting of six members drawn from the other overview and scrutiny committees, four from the Labour Group and two from the Conservative Group.**
- iii) **The task and finish group report back to the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee in six monthly intervals.**
- v) **The task and finish group meets every two months.**
- vi) **Traveller issues be included in the Task and Finish Group**
- vii) **The Constitution Working Group be asked to look at creating a Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a matter of urgency to deal with the above issues.**

**4. NHS QUALITY ACCOUNTS FOR BASILDON AND THURROCK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (BTUH) AND NORTH EAST LONDON FOUNDATION TRUST (NEFLT)**

Officers explained that the quality accounts were a requirement of all NHS bodies in order to demonstrate primarily to the public but also other stakeholders, how successful they were in achieving quality targets to improve service delivery and hence patient care. **targets**. The BTUH account was focussed on the outcomes achieved while the NEFLT accounts focussed on the processes involved in achieving outcomes, rather than the outcomes themselves.

BTUH had achieved the following outcomes:

- Reduced falls in hospital.
- Reduced the incidence of pressure ulcers.
- Improved Nursing Documentation.

BTUH was still reviewing the improvement of service experience for patients using the cancer services.

The aims for BTUH for 2012-13 were:

- Reducing the incidences of pressure ulcers
- Further reducing falls
- Improving dementia care
- Improving discharge planning
- Improving maternity care

NEFLT had similarly improved on their aims, which included:

- Improving tissue viability assessment (to avoid pressure ulcers)
- Reduced harm from omitted and delayed medicines
- Increased compliance with NICE guidance in relation to prevention of Venous Thromboembolism
- Improved nutritional assessment
- Improved discharge planning across all services

NEFLT's aims for 2012-13 were:

- Improving communications between staff and service users/patients
- Improving waiting time from referral to first contact with our services
- Improving quality of treatment.

Officers stated that ~~there would be~~ plans to reduce waiting times for speech and language therapy as stated within the Account, ~~might~~ involve the recruitment of ~~more~~ speech therapists, or further skill mix within the service in order to increase capacity. Further details would be sought on behalf of the committee ~~in line with improving speech and language therapy.~~

It was noted that residents were choosing to use BTUH again for a variety of services, including maternity care. The committee was reassured that capacity to maintain services at a good quality was being helped by the new management, which was creating a new culture of ownership in staff's work. Likewise, BTUH was continually audited to ensure services were kept at a good standard. Following a number of questions about BTUH including how they advertised their success, the Committee agreed to invite the new Chief Executive to attend a future meeting.

A discussion took place on the presentation of the accounts and it was highlighted that the accounts should avoid confusing percentage figures and use expressions that are more understandable for the public.

It was also stated that the reduction of patient days in hospital was supported by interim rehabilitation beds where patients could recover fully before returning home.

As part of the discussion it was brought to the committee's attention that MRSA was significantly decreased in hospitals and it was unlikely that patients were tested for it when entering into the premises. However, this would be checked and reported back to Members.

**RESOLVED: That the Committee:**

- i) **Notes both accounts.**
- ii) **Requests further details from the results of the 2012 cancer survey relating to BTUH performance, which are not due until June 2012. This should also include the Trust's response to those results in terms of action plans, where appropriate.**
- iii) **Formally requests the Quality Account submission of South Essex Partnership Foundation Trust (SEPT) in the future in order to assess the quality of service delivered by the organisation to Thurrock citizens.**
- iv) **Recommends the continued involvement of the Local Authority in the development of the Quality Accounts in terms of presentation and the public interest.**
- v) **Receives an update following the formal publication of the revised quality accounts on 30 June 2012.**

**6. ADULT SKILLS – THURROCK'S POSITION AND PERFORMANCE 2012**

A service restructure last year had led to more joined up working in the service which had led to greater ambition and expectation for the service. Level 2 and 3 results were improving. There was still a noticeable difference in performance between the best performing schools and the poor performing schools. This gap would need to be reduced.

There was an initiative to undertake a learning/ skills analysis to improve skills provision within Thurrock. Numbers of residents accessing job seeker's allowance also needed to be addressed, as did work with the community accessing free school meals provision.

The Committee discussed the educational aspirations of Thurrock and a number of Members highlighted that there were very few opportunities within Thurrock for people to pursue Level 4 or 5 qualifications. Officers responded that students did have access to these courses through Thurrock College albeit the courses were provided outside of the borough. It was added that Level 4 or 5 provision needed to be cost effective and creating such opportunities were costly and required enough residents to be undertaking them.

Members of the Committee felt that there were not enough opportunities for adults in their twenties and thirties to obtain Level 4 or 5 qualifications at a time that suited their work lives as well. There was a general view that a survey of resident's education needs was required to make informed decisions. Officers promised to take these comments back to the Community Skills Group. It was also felt that work was needed to survey local businesses (not just DP World) to understand what skills they required from the workforce moving into the future.

A discussion was had on how the Council could support workers at the Coryton refinery and officers stated that a Council project group was meeting to create an action plan for the redundant workers that the Learning and Skills Team would then support.

The Committee was informed, following a question, that there were a number of initiatives to inspire young people to develop their skills. These initiatives included Thurrock's Next Top Boss and also two projects to develop a family learning strategy.

**RESOLVED: That:**

- i) The Committee acknowledge this report**
- ii) All Overview and Scrutiny Committees endeavour to champion lifelong learning opportunities by considering learning and skills needs when scrutinising service reports and challenging performance**
- iii) The chair of the Learning and Skills Board presents Thurrock's Learning and Skills Needs Analysis to HOSC once completed – November 2012**
- iv) Thurrock Adult Community College leads in the development of a clear strategy to develop adult learning and skills in Thurrock as they have the required expertise to lead on the strategy.**

## **7. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee was asked for any suggestions for the work programme. The following issues were raised:

- Health Reform including Public Health and GP Consortia (Member suggestion)
- Invitation to the new Chief Executive of Basildon Hospital. (Member suggestion)
- Receive updates from the Housing Task and Finish Group.

- Hard to reach groups. (Member suggestion)
- Health Transitions Updates (Officer Suggestion)
- Public Health – What will be the Council’s responsibilities? (Officer Suggestion)
- Commissioning of Healthwatch (Officer Suggestion)
- Update on Welfare Benefits Task and Finish Group (Officer Suggestion)
- Draft Mental Health Strategy (Officer Suggestion)
- Quarterly Performance reports (Officer Suggestion)
- An item on Arts and Sports Development – detail to be confirmed (Member Suggestion)

**The meeting finished at 8.50pm.**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
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or alternatively e-mail [mboulter@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:mboulter@thurrock.gov.uk)**