

**MINUTES of the meeting of Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 February 2013 at 7.00 p.m.**

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**Present:** Councillors Wendy Curtis (Chair), Mark Coxshall (Vice Chair), Sue Gray, Joy Redsell (substituting for Wendy Herd), Bukky Okunade (substituting for Martin Healy) and Tony Fish

**Apologies:** Councillor Wendy Herd and Martin Healy

**In attendance:** Councillor Barbara Rice – Portfolio Holder for Health  
Les Billingham – Head of Adult Services  
Ceri Armstrong – Strategy Officer  
Matthew Boulter – Democratic Services Officer

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**37. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 28 January 2013, were approved as a correct record.

**38. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair stated that she welcomed the NHS Commissioning Board's investigation in Basildon Hospital's mortality rates and that she looked forward to seeing the results of this investigation, as well as the CQC and internal reports that the hospital was going to forward to the committee once they were complete.

**39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**40. THURROCK JOINT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING STRATEGY**

The Chair highlighted the importance of black mould as an issue and officers agreed that this was an issue that was being tackled through both public health and the Housing Department. IT was added that although the strategy could not include every single health issue in Thurrock, only the most important and wide affecting, this did not mean that the Council and partners would not work to tackle other health issues.

Councillor Redsell added there were issues with mould in the high rise flats in her ward. The portfolio holder assured the committee that the issue would be dealt with wholesale across the borough and that a Cabinet report next week outlined this.

Councillor Coxshall informed the committee that he had received a later version of the strategy and was not certain that key amendments had been ready for the version that was presented in the agenda, notably content around tobacco control.

Councillor Fish asked the officers to consider adding the educational achievement of the borough's two special schools into the relevant section and also the reasons why only girls were being targeted with incentives to stay at school longer.

**RESOLVED That the Committee commend the report to Cabinet on the basis that the Committee will have the opportunity to review the strategy again before the end of 2013.**

#### **41. BUILDING POSITIVE FUTURES – PROGRESS REPORT**

The report was presented to Committee to provide an update of progress covering the ambitious programme to transform the way in which health, housing and social care would work together to improve outcomes for older and vulnerable people in the future. The programme was also designed to improve efficiency and reduce demand, both factors of importance given the economic position facing local authorities.

The Council had developed local area co-ordination and the three posts to fulfil these roles would be appointed soon. There was also going to be a two day workshop covering Asset Based Community Development in Thurrock with the national lead on this initiative and Members were urged to attend. Dates were the 27<sup>th</sup> March and 18<sup>th</sup> April with the venue yet to be confirmed. The Council had also made a bid to fund a development of Older Peoples housing in Derry Avenue, Ockendon against the HCA administered Specialist Housing Fund.

Officers confirmed that developments such as Elizabeth Gardens was part of the overall programme however a key aim was to avoid using such facilities by providing more general housing that suited and adapted to people's needs as they grew older. Officers added that there were many other options that could be considered including retirement villages.

The Committee debated the extent of the adaptability of homes and officers stated that the homes would be adaptable to the majority of care needs as people grew older but the more complex adaptations, such as strengthened ceilings for hoists, could not be included as they were only required by a small minority of residents and it would not be economical to accommodate them in all properties.

With regards to downsizing, officers hoped that the new homes would be attractive to people at a time when they were considering downsizing their homes.

There was a brief discussion on the pathway for residents from hospital to their homes and it was clarified that the Council's social care team in Basildon Hospital worked well and discharged patients appropriately. However, another aspect of Building Positive Futures would be to improve the whole care pathway from community based early intervention to hospital discharge and re-ablement to ensure that people received the right care when it was required to promote their independence.

**RESOLVED That the report is noted.**

#### **42. WORK PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED that the work programme be noted.**

**The meeting finished at 7.50p.m.**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIR**

**DATE**

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
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