

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2009

Present: Councillors G Garrity (Deputy Chairman in the Chair);
Mrs A Faichney; M McVeigh and R Salkeld.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Y Clarkson;
Mrs M Docherty; J Park; C Whiteside and P Watson.

Also Present: Councillors H Branney and Mrs C Watson.

Mr K Clarkson, Deputy Chief Executive/Chief Operating Officer North
Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Officers: K Parker, Acting Director of Quality of Life; J Crellin, Head of
Finance and Management Information Systems; N White, Scrutiny
Support Officer; J O'Reilly, Environmental Health Manager; C Coombs,
Acting Head of Leisure and Environmental Services; P Tyas, Community
Development Officer; A Smith, Environmental Health Team Leader and
C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

CYPHC 01/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2009 were signed by the
Deputy Chairman as a correct record.

CYPHC 02/09 Arrangement of Agenda

Due to the attendance of Officers, it was agreed that Agenda Item 8 then
Item 7 be taken before Item 6.

CYPHC 03/09 Closer to Home Update

Mr K Clarkson, Deputy Chief Executive/Chief Operating Officer North
Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust gave an update to Members on
the progress of Closer to Home and in particular, responded to the
Council's comments on the Closer to Home proposals.

Members were advised that:

- there was no intention to remove the specialised Stroke Unit at West
Cumberland Hospital.
- the stroke unit had merged with Palliative Care, but there had been no
reduction in the number of stroke care beds.

- there would be no reduction in the numbers of acute beds or rehabilitation beds in the Stroke Unit.
- there were currently no changes planned to the Palliative Care service at The West Cumberland Hospital and this would be included in the new Hospital design.
- the Primary Care Trust and North West Ambulance Services Trust would continue to ensure the best service would be provided.
- the new West Cumberland Hospital would be built as per the Closer to Home agreement with 220 beds and the possibility of increasing to 250.
- there were no plans to remove the Young Disabled Unit, Maternity Unit and Paediatrics.
- the number of beds would be regularly reviewed and the Council provided with the analysis.
- Major Trauma services be set up as per the Closer to Home agreement.
- options for Blood Science Services were being investigated for both sites. It was proposed that Coroner's Post Mortems would be conducted in Cumberland Infirmary only.

During the discussion that followed, Members expressed their concern regarding the proposed change to the Post Mortem arrangements. Members were informed that at present, post mortems are conducted in Whitehaven on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. Outside of those days the body was stored until the next available day. The proposal was to transport the body to Carlisle where post mortems are conducted daily. Therefore providing the deceased's family with the cause of death quicker. The number of post mortems where this change would apply was small (1 – 2 per week).

The Committee felt that more detail was required before any changes could be supported. The Deputy Chairman of this Committee was asked to put forward the views of this Committee at the Cumbria Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee when it next meets.

Mr Clarkson was thanked for his update.

AGREED – that

- a) the update from the North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust be received,
- b) the Deputy Chairman of this Committee be asked to put forward the views of this Committee at the Cumbria Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee when it next meets.

CYPHC 04/09 Concessionary Travel

Consideration was given to a report advising the Committee on a Government consultation on possible changes to the administration of Concessionary Travel for the Department of Transport. Four options were discussed with regard the Statutory Scheme and three options with regard the Discretionary Scheme.

During consideration of this item it was noted that due to the remoteness of communities in the borough, some people had not taken up any of the schemes offered. It was also mentioned that the services provided were unreliable.

AGREED that in respect of the consultation on possible changes to the administration of Concessionary Travel for the Department of Transport, the Committee supported the Officer recommendations, being for the Statutory Scheme, Option two – Only upper tier authorities administer the concession and for the Discretionary Scheme, Option three – District Councils can only establish discretionary concessions jointly with the upper tier authority.

CYPHC 05/09 Presentation by Departments

P Tyas, Community Development Officer, presented an overview to Members of the work of Cultural Services and how this interacts with the children and young people of the Borough.

During the discussion that followed Members raised questions on the Cumbria Youth Games that had been so successful when they were held in Copeland and Carlisle, but were not taking place this year.

Members also asked about the recent Corazon de Angeles event in Whitehaven Harbour and requested details of visitor numbers and results of the initial evaluation.

J O'Reilly, Environmental Health Manager, then provided Members with an overview of the work of Environmental Health. This included partnership working with Cumbria Primary Care Trust, Healthy Communities, South Whitehaven Health Task Force, Millom Childrens Centre, South Whitehaven Neighbourhood Management and Cumbria Stop Smoking. Other activities included Food Safety, Health and Safety and Environmental Protection.

Members additionally expressed their concern regarding drug abuse in the Borough and were advised that smoking and alcohol were being concentrated on.

P Tyas and J O'Reilly were thanked for their presentations.

AGREED – that the presentations on the work of Cultural Services and Environmental Health be received.

CYPHC 06/09 County Health and Well-Being

The Committee received an update following the Cumbria Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee. Members were advised that further issues were to be discussed at the next meeting of that Committee.

RESOLVED – that the Cumbria Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee update be received.

CYPHC 07/09 Work Plan

The work plan for this committee was discussed and noted.

The Meeting Closed at 4:25pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....