

Health Overview and Crime Reduction Scrutiny Committee Committee: Statement to Council - 29 April 2010

The Health Overview and Crime Reduction Scrutiny Committee has a wide ranging remit covering the NHS and the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

Co-opted members support the work of the Committee through their knowledge and experience as well as different perspectives which reflect the remit of the Committee. Representatives are from CInCH Shropshire's Local Involvement Network, Shropshire Association of Local Councils, Shropshire Senior Citizens Forum and the West Mercia Police Authority Board.

Health Overview and Scrutiny

The NHS provides a different model of operation to Local Authorities. Members have taken the opportunity to learn more about the NHS developing their understanding of the services and how decisions are made, as well as how the NHS benefits Shropshire People now and in the future.

Fulfilling the role of Health Overview and Scrutiny, Committee Members have considered issues directly related to the provision of NHS services, and health inequalities and public health issues in Shropshire.

Continuing the improvement in **Oral Health** in Shropshire is a priority area for partners including the Primary Care Trust and the Council. Members considered the issues affecting Shropshire; how the county compares to other similar areas and local neighbours, action taken to promote good oral health to local families and people, and future plans. Members supported the initiatives underway to promote good oral health ranging from work with parents and young children in Children's Centres and supervised tooth-brushing in nursery settings, to encouraging primary school aged children to take responsibility for their oral health and work in senior schools and Stoke Health Young Offenders Institute to encourage young people to make healthy choices.

Members have looked at **Obesity** in adults and children and young people, taking account of related health issues such as type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease (CHD), hypertension, cancers and osteoarthritis, and actions being taken by partners in Shropshire relating to healthy eating and physical activity. Whilst it was recognised that further work was required nationally for clearer identifiable food labelling, Members believed that this could be done within the Council by asking Shire Services to include calorie content on its produce.

Obesity was considered alongside **Healthy Lifestyles**: Opportunities and options through Shropshire Council Culture and Leisure Services. Members learned that the contribution of these services in enabling vulnerable groups such as older people, people with physical disabilities, mental health clients and adults with learning difficulties to take part in services and activities which in turn have stimulated physical, mental, emotional or indeed community

wellbeing. Members requested that data was analysed down to specific wards in order to find out what the barriers and triggers were for getting people to increase their physical activity.

The **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)** is a joint document between the Council and the Primary Care Trust that underpins strategic service design and planning, and informs the evidence behind the Sustainable Community Strategy. It identifies key emerging needs and priorities for Shropshire people. Members reviewed the messages arising from the JSNA, highlighting the priority areas. As a result of considering the JSNA, the Committee identified a range of topics to be included in the work programme for 2010/11 including further work on Alcohol Misuse and Drug Misuse, Suicides, Dementia, and End of Life care.

A significant focus for the Committee is the development **of changes to NHS services in Shropshire** provided through the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust Acute Hospital Trust and **changes to Mental Health Services** provided by the South Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Trust. These high priority areas are being taken forward with Members from Telford and Wrekin Council on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Joint Committee have been keeping up to speed on plans and developments as they come forward, with the Shropshire Council representatives focus being to ensure that the best services and therefore outcomes are achieved for Shropshire residents and visitors. This will be ongoing work that is expected to include formal consultation on changes to services.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

The Committee also looks at how the partners in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership work together to deliver their priorities. This area is changing and developing on a regular basis moving forward with new initiatives and responding to the findings of service reviews.

Members scrutinised **Alcohol Misuse** and progress with implementing the **Alcohol Strategy** for Shropshire. Through their work Members heard about the need to have better data systems in order to understand the rates of alcohol related hospital admissions and provide a clearer picture of the impact of alcohol on people's health and health services. Members were surprised at the age groups with the highest number of alcohol specific admissions (55-64 years, 65-74 years and 75+ years), as it was usually assumed to be younger people.

Although Members were reassured that the data on alcohol misuse was linking into service planning and design, they expressed frustration that the data could not be tracked in the long term to check whether any interventions were successful.

Following their scrutiny Members identified that young people should receive more support and education about the dangers of alcohol abuse with the aim of reducing the likelihood of future problems. Members also support the need for a full systems review of the current system to reduce alcohol related harm

including current treatment; identifying current gaps in order to target resources more appropriately.

Drug Misuse

Members considered the services provided in Shropshire to support people who misuse drugs through treatment and beyond. They were informed about plans to expand the provision of services across the county to six market towns, supporting local access to services that were previously only available in Shrewsbury.

Members looked at the development of services including the change of focus from treatment to recovery through improved pathways to housing, employment, skills and training, and noted the treatment planning activity priorities for 2010/11.

The role of the Committee in scrutinising the work of partners in the Crime and Disorder Partnership and the impact that they are having is being developed through the Committee's work programme. During the coming year the Committee will be considering the following Crime and Disorder Partnership related topics:

- Annual Community Safety Plan
- Integrated Offender Management - doing things differently
- Community Cohesion
- Vulnerable members of society affected by antisocial behaviour
- Implementing the Drugs Strategy Alcohol Strategy: Better Data from A and E (Links System) and the Arrest Referral project