

**GERALD DAKIN  
CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND CRIME  
REDUCTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Topics considered at the 24 March 2010**

**Tackling Drug Misuse in Shropshire**

Members considered the strategic themes of the national drug strategy and how it was being implemented in Shropshire, receiving a presentation from the Joint Commissioner. A key development of Drug Misuse services has been the development of hub and spoke model in Market Towns which is making access to services easier; previously service users had to travel to Shrewsbury. Members also explored the provision of housing and identified that they would need to consider progress with the Drug Strategy Action Plan.

**Shropshire County PCT Investments and Disinvestments 2010**

The Director of Strategic Planning and Commissioning, Shropshire County PCT returned to the Committee to present the areas that PCT identified for investment and disinvestment during 2010. Members were interested to hear about the areas where resources were being moved to and from in order to understand the implications for existing services and patients. A comprehensive presentation and questioning session identified that investments included smoking cessation and health checks to support people to manage their own health; and disinvestments included reducing IVF treatment to 1 cycle instead of 2 which was a return to the situation 2 years ago.

**Topics considered at the 7 June 2010**

**Suicide rates in Shropshire**

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identified that Suicides was an area for further work by all partners involved in Mental Health services. Members received a report from the Director of Joint Commissioning which provided detailed information on the prevalence of mental health nationally and how this related to estimated numbers for Shropshire. Members learned that:

- The suicide rate in men is significantly higher than in women; in Shropshire 84% of suicides are men compared to 74% nationally.
- On average there are 26 male and 5 female deaths from suicides per year in Shropshire.
- Shropshire's suicide rate has been in line with the national average since about 2005 having been above it for the first half of the decade.

Members were informed of the multi-agency approach to suicide prevention in Shropshire and that the Suicide Prevention Strategy is currently being reviewed. Their views and comments will be fed back to the Suicide Prevention Group.

## **Delivery of the Crime Reduction and Community Safety in Shropshire (2010-2011)**

Members received a presentation and report which set out the Safer Stronger Communities Partnership Delivery Plan for 2010/11 including four priority areas:

- Reducing offending and re-offending
- Supporting vulnerable people
- Increasing public confidence
- Tackling substance and alcohol misuse

The delivery plan was considered and Members were particularly interested in targets to improve performance, the initiatives that are being developed and implemented to make a difference and partners involved in delivering actions and achieving outcomes.

## **Work Programme for the July 2010 Committee Meeting**

### **Older People and Care Closer to Home**

Services provided to older people in the community help avoid hospital admission, reduce the need to receive care and promoting independence. For those people who do need to receive care, there are plans to provide that care closer to their home or in their home. This item will be an opportunity for members to hear more about the services currently available, plans for the future, and how NHS services and council provided services can and do link up.

### **Dementia**

This will be an opportunity for Members to learn about work to implement the Dementia Strategy and take forwards developments in services by the Council, Primary Care Trust and the Independent Care Sector. This topic is identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and a high priority for the Council and Health Partners, particularly with the aging population and the nationally published figure that 1 in 3 people aged over 85 years could have dementia.

### **Other news**

- The Chairman has been working with the IDeA peer Member, Cllr Mike Appleyard (Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny, Buckinghamshire County Council) who observed the March meeting. Identifying approaches to tackling key scrutiny topics including considering issues from different perspectives e.g. Ambulance Service performance is always assessed on response times but what about time spent at the scene and the journey to hospital – what is the experience of the patient?
- The Committee is waiting to hear about possible changes to NHS services in Shropshire. Previous plans are being revisited by local Health Trusts. The Committee expects there to be formal consultation and will be responding to the proposals, and in doing so working with the Borough of Telford and Wrekin because hospital services are provided across both

areas. A similar position exists with proposals to modernised inpatient mental health and community based care, including the redevelopment of Shelton Hospital.