

HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2006-07

Key activities carried out by the committee

1. Meetings with NHS Trusts Chief Executives

The Chair held useful meetings with the new chief executives of B&D tPCT and Bradford District Care Trust plus an important planning meeting with the Airedale Hospital Chief Executive.

2. Scrutiny of Obesity

The final report of this scrutiny was adopted. Two particular outcomes are a Keighley Action Plan on obesity with 9 key recommendations which is being implemented by the Keighley Area committee and key local partners and an "Obesity Champion" for the District, to be appointed shortly.

3. Scrutiny of Healthy Living Centres

This Scrutiny of some of the independent providers of health care in the District was undertaken, the report was adopted and the recommendations were welcomed by the PCT.

4. Bradford District Care Trust

The committee continued close monitoring of the financial situation of the Trust.

5. Consultation – Bingley Primary Health Care

The Committee undertook a statutory consultation on the proposed changes to primary health care in Bingley which involved running a well attended public meeting.

6. Bradford Hospitals – Acute paediatric pathways

The committee received a welcomed report from the Trust about the improvements they are putting in place with regard to acute paediatric pathways following the concerns raised early by the committee.

7. Bradford Health Participation Network

The committee is working with the Healthcare Commission and BACC on a pilot to involve more members of the public in improving standards of healthcare and the deputy chair took the chair for the first highly successful meeting of the network

Possible issues for the committee to look at in 07/08

1. Scrutiny of Alcohol as a health issue

A possible scrutiny which a number of health professionals have said they would welcome.

2. Bradford District Care Trust

A continuing focus on the trusts financial position

3. LIFT (NHS Buildings project)

A look at the LIFT programme in Bradford District

4. Airedale Hospital

The application of the Trust to acquire Foundation Status.

5. Briefings from the new Joint Director of Public Health and the new Director of Adult Care.

6. Review of the Obesity Scrutiny

Chair's Commentary

Last year we were awaiting changes within the National Health Service resulting from the re-configurations. These changes are now complete and as a result, our partnerships are better defined, with clearer objectives.

We endeavour to have a "protocol" which will make sharing of information an accepted norm and all newly appointed Chief Executives and Chairmen have agreed to this.

Due to the vast cultural difference between Bradford Council and the NHS we still have a long journey to travel and I have been successful in meeting most of the new officers and ensuring their attendance at HIC. An example of this is a visit by the committee members to Airedale Hospital on March 30th which should give us a better insight into their operational units. We will of course be available to offer advice on governance and other related issues when our partners are considering Foundation Status.

Bradford District Care Trust is now on a firmer financial footing but as commissioning looms large, we have to consider Bradford Council's budget and our services in general. "Health is everybody's business", but there are complicated issues where we must have ongoing conversations and understanding.

I wish to compliment my Deputy, Cllr. Kelly on chairing the meeting launching the Bradford Health Participation Network. Many complimentary comments have been made.

I am aware that HIC's schedule of meetings and the variety of subject matter is a daunting task but I wish to thank all members of the HIC for their considered comments and continued interest.

Last but by no means least, a big thank you to our officers for their hard work in producing reports and their ability to follow the NHS website!

Cllr Elaine Byrom
Chair Health Improvement Committee