

HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06

1. INTRODUCTION

I am very pleased to present the Health Improvement Committee Annual Report for 2005/06.

The Committee has met formally on 11 occasions. Additionally a considerable amount of work has been undertaken by members outside meetings.

2. IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY DURING THE YEAR

The Committee has undertaken a range of improvement activities during the year, but I would like to highlight particularly the following major areas of work.

Scrutiny of Overweight and Obesity in the District.

The committee established a scrutiny 'review group' looking at obesity and overweight in the District. Since January 2005 the review group has received written evidence from numerous organisations / departments. In addition to the collection of written evidence three select committee 'style' hearing sessions have been held. In addition, since June 05, the following activities have taken place:

1. Meeting with representatives from nearly all the major supermarkets to determine their strategies with regard to the overweight and obese issues.
2. An event about food and exercise with representatives from the South Asian communities
3. Presenting the work of the review group at the Obesity catalyst event, organised by the SHA
4. Presenting the work of the review group at a national CfPS conference in London.
5. Presenting the work of the review group to SHIP in February 06

The first report of the review group was presented to the committee in July 05 and the initial recommendations were accepted. Considerable positive press coverage accompanied the recommendations. The final recommendations are due to be presented to the committee on the 28th March 06.

Health Services in Bingley & Ilkley

The Committee has over a period of time received a number of presentations from Airedale Primary Care Trust about hospital development proposals in Bingley and Ilkley and has been involved in public consultations. Further reports have been received but no improvements “on the ground” have taken place yet and the committee has been frustrated with the poor communications from the Trust.

Financial pressures and service delivery

The committee has concerns about the possible impact of financial pressures within some of the Trusts on service delivery. A meeting was held with the Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust with regard to their financial recovery plan and a number of joint meetings with the Social Care Improvement Committee with Bradford Community Care Trust with regard to their financial recovery plan.

MRSA

The committee has had an interest in this matter of public concern throughout the year and has discussed it with the hospital trusts in both formal and informal settings. Some of the particular suggestions from the committee about this matter have been, or are being, implemented by one of the hospital trusts

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust – Assessment of acutely ill children

A concern from the public about the experiences of children in the A&E process in Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust came to the attention of the committee. A discussion with the Chief Executive has resulted in a report from the Trust about this concern coming to the committee in late March. This, I believe, demonstrates the good working relationships that are developing between the committee and the Trusts.

NHS Dentistry

In response to a resolution of full Council, the committee held a formal public meeting in February which focussed entirely on NHS Dentistry in the District. Reports were received from the relevant PCTs and a representative of local dentists and a number of recommendations were made which were directed to a number of bodies including the Department of Health. Further reports and updates will be coming to the committee in the new municipal year.

Healthy Living Centres

The committee resolved to take an in depth look at the Healthy Living Centre in the District. Following discussions with relevant NHS officers and given the complex nature of this matter, the proposal is to hold a one day “scrutiny” in July 06.

NHS Re-configurations

The proposed NHS re-configurations have been the subject of much committee time, including attending a West Yorkshire conference (which was jointly arranged by the committee and the West Yorkshire SHA) and receiving a report from the Bradford NHS Lead Officer on the PCT reconfigurations.

West Yorkshire Joint Scrutinies

The Council has a formal agreement with the local authorities on how to undertake joint scrutinies of “substantial variations” proposed by NHS organisations that effect more than one local authority. The proposed new children’s hospital in Leeds is such a variation and three members of the committee will be involved with the Leeds Health O&S committee from March 2006 in the pre-formal consultation phase of this proposal.

Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check

The Healthcare Commission introduced the first Annual Health Check for NHS Trusts in England in 05/06. The draft declaration was to be submitted by the Trusts by the 31st September 2005 and the final version by 30th April 2006. O&S committees were invited to make any commentary they saw fit to make on the core standards that the trusts are required to meet.

The committee made a decision to fully engage in this process and met with all the Trusts in October to review the progress being made by the Trusts in meeting the standards and subsequently agreed the commentary for each Trust. A “de-briefing” session was held by officers with all the Trusts in December at which the process for Feb/March 06 was agreed as well as agreeing that the committee should meet with all the Trusts in June/July 2006 as part of the committee’s work planning process for 06/07.

The committee then meet all the Trusts again in Feb 06 to discuss the possible competencies that the committee may want to comment on for the final declaration for 05/06. The committee adopted their final commentaries for the Trusts at their meeting on the 28th March 2006.

The involvement of the committee in the Annual Health Check has resulted in closer working relationships with a range of staff in all of the Trusts, a deeper insight into the requirements made on the Trusts by the Healthcare Commission and the pressures that arise from these requirements.

3. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCESS

Over the year this Committee has continued to work in a variety of ways.

The review group (Scrutiny of Overweight & Obesity) comprising of elected members and council officers and an independent adviser has continued its work which has involved a number of meetings with local supermarkets and representatives of the South Asian Communities. An independent report on this

project has been undertaken by Bradford University and will be presented to the committee early in the new municipal year.

Meetings with the NHS Trusts have taken place in both formal and informal settings and a variety of formats, particularly in relation to the Annual Health Check process.

Three members of the committee will be formally involved in a Joint Scrutiny process about the proposed Leeds Children's Hospital and the Chair has been involved throughout the year in meetings of the Project Board. This Board is composed of the chairs of the health O&S committees in the region and meets to manage and agree joint scrutinies as they arise.

The Chair of the committee has held meetings with a number of key senior health staff and was invited to participate in inspection process undertaken by the Monitor when he visited Bradford Hospitals Teaching NHS Trust.

4. LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

The committee received considerable information and training through conferences and other inputs on a number of particular matters during the year:

- Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check and the role of O&S Committees
- Proposed reconfigurations of the NHS (ie the PCTs, the SHAs and the Ambulance Service)
- Joint Scrutiny Activity across West Yorkshire
- White Paper "Our health, our care, our say".
- Providing a presentation to a national event on the Scrutiny of Overweight and Obesity"
- Involvement in the Monitor inspection visit to Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

5. ISSUES FOR THE COUNCIL 2006/07

The Committee considers that there are a number of key issues and challenges that the Council will need to address in this next municipal year. The following gives an indication of those challenges:

- Strategic Health Improvement Partnership Priorities
 - Breastfeeding
 - Diet and Nutrition
 - Physical Activity
 - Smoking
- Infant Mortality
- Obesity and Overweight in the District
- Building on the opportunities presented by the NHS reconfigurations in the District and the recent White Paper "Our health, our care, our say"

6. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2006/07

There are a number of topics / issues that the Committee will need to consider for the 06/07 work plan.

- The implications and implementation of the reconfiguration of PCTs in the District and the SHAs in the region. (This could include particular issues such as the new commissioning process that PCTs will be implementing and the development of Public Health)
- Access to health services in rural areas
- Following up the recommendations of the Scrutiny of Obesity and Overweight
- Following up the recommendations on NHD Dentistry.
- Progress of Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) projects
- Trust finances in relation to service delivery
- Children's Hospital in Leeds
- Drugs as a health issue
- Healthy living centres

This list is not exhaustive and may need to be amended following discussions between the Committee, the NHS Trusts in the District and the Strategic Health Improvement Partnership.

7. CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Changes abound – restructures proliferate and the Health Improvement Committee is involved and working hard to fulfil it's duties as a full partner with all the different health organisations in the District.

The committee has consulted on reconfigurations affecting the Primary Care Trusts, the West Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority, West Yorkshire Ambulance Service and General Practitioner and Dentists contracts.

Our working relationship with Bradford Teaching Hospital NHS Trust is progressing well. They will attend committee in April to present their Corporate Plan and their future plans for the enhancement of children's services within Accident and Emergency.

The Bradford Hospitals Foundation Trust along with Airedale Hospital Trust, the PCTs, the Bradford District Care Trust and WYMAS have presented their updates to the committee for the Healthcare Commission Annual Health return and the committees commentaries will be forwarded to the Trusts in April.

Joint meetings held with Social Care Improvement Committee concerning Bradford District Care Trust finances have not yet concluded. Joint commissioning is to become more widespread and it is imperative that our arrangements are not detrimental to our Council budgets.

We have received reports from officers regarding LAA monies for health and we work closely with the Strategic Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP).

Despite a busy year, the Obesity Commission, chaired by Cllr Kelly, is now drawing to a close. My thanks go to everyone involved in this informative piece of work. **Don't miss the opportunity to see the final report.**

We will shortly be involved in a Joint Scrutiny process with members from the Leeds Health Overview and Scrutiny committee about the proposed Leeds Children's Hospital.

There are many issues which will be reserved for next year, not least Health Services in Bingley and Ilkley which have been very slow to materialise. Our recommendations with regard to NHS Dentistry require PCTs and dental organisations to report back on progress with the new dental contract and other related initiatives and concerns.

I have requested a report into the use of drugs as a Public Health issue and the committee will examine the use and financial sustainability of the Healthy Living Centres.

A busy year and a steep learning curve.

I wish to thank members for their attendance and considered comments and our officers for their endeavours on our behalf.

**Councillor Elaine Byrom
Chair, Health Improvement Committee**

April 2006