

HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2004/05

INTRODUCTION

I am very pleased to present the Health Improvement Committee Annual Report for 2004/5.

The Committee has met formally on 10 occasions. Additionally a considerable amount of work has been undertaken by members outside meetings.

IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY DURING THE YEAR

The Committee has undertaken a wide range of improvement activities during the year, but 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 14 organisations / departments. In addition to the collection of written evidence three select committee 'style' hearing sessions have been held. The first focussed specifically on health interventions, the second on children, young people and their families and the third on community and participation. A fourth event was organised jointly with Airedale Primary Healthcare Public and Patient Involvement forum which was held in Keighley. The Review Group will present an interim report to the Committee in June 2005 with a further final report due in December 2005.

Health Services in Bingley

The Committee has received a number of presentations from Airedale Primary Care Trust's Director of Corporate Development about future provision of health services in Bingley. The trust reported back on the findings of the public consultation which focused on three options for service provision in the town. The trust agreed to give the Committee further updates before reaching a decision on the preferred option. A further report is due to be presented to the committee in May 2005.

Adult Mental Health Services

The NHS and Social Services have a joint responsibility for improving services and outcomes for individuals who experience mental health problems. The committee received the joint commissioning strategy which provided an update of the current position in relation to adult mental health services and their commissioning across the district. The Committee will continue to monitor the strategy in view of the current review that is taking place.

Reconfiguration of Services at Bradford NHS Teaching Hospital

The Committee has received a number of reports and updates in relation to service reconfiguration at the Bradford Teaching Hospitals resulting from financial issues. The Committee has expressed its concern about ward closures that are occurring without having gone through a formal consultation process which has caused considerable public concern. The trust will be reporting back to the Committee in June (has this changed?) with their annual report and financial recovery plan.

Healthcare Commission Consultation: Assessment for Improvement – Our Approach

The Healthcare Commission has been developing new ways of promoting improvements in the quality of healthcare and public health in England. The views of local authorities have been sought and the Committee considered the proposals and responded on behalf of the Council. The Committee had several concerns, in particular that the proposed timetables for local authorities to comment on the targets did not fit with the municipal timetable. As a result of the Committee's response, and that of other local authorities, the Healthcare Commission has adjusted the timing to fit with the NHS business cycle and the election timetable for Local Authorities.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCESS

Over the year this Committee has worked in a variety of innovative ways including establishing a review group comprising not only elected members and council officers but also an independent adviser. The Committee has conducted its meetings in a number of different venues across the district in order to ensure wider public participation. Over 60 members of the public have attended the meetings during the year together with representatives from external organisations, officers and Councillors from other local authorities and representatives from the Patient and Public Involvement Forums.

The committee has also undertaken work outside the formal committee meetings through the establishment of the Obesity and Overweight Review Group.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

In June 2004, the Committee attended a learning session specifically focussing on health scrutiny. The event provided Members with an opportunity to hear from one of the District's Directors of Public Health who presented information on the health

of the local population, and from the Co-ordinator of one of the District's Patient and Public Involvement Forums. Early in 2005, a workshop was organised for Members involved in the Obesity and Overweight review group in preparation for undertaking formal evidence gathering 'hearings'. In addition, Members of the Committee have attended a number of seminars in relation to various aspects of health and health scrutiny and have also visited some of the Primary Care Trusts.

ISSUES FOR THE COUNCIL 2005/06

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
- Female life expectancy (?)
- Delivery of the health aspects of the Local Area Agreement

COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2005/06

There are a number of topics / issues that the Committee will need to continue to scrutinise and monitor throughout the year which include;

- Reconfiguration of acute and primary health care services in the District.
- Access to health services in rural areas
- Obesity and overweight
- Sexual health
- Alcohol abuse
- Dental health of children and young people.
- Progress of Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) projects

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

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.

Elaine Byrom
Chairman, Health Improvement Committee