

SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 14 MAY 2002

Present (for all or part of the meeting):

Councillors:

R M Baggaley

T J Reeves

D M Byrne

W R Reid

Mrs E A Croxall

J A Russell

J S Francis

Mrs J E Tabernor

J H Kennedy

Mrs D A Wakefield

Also in attendance:-

Councillor Mrs E Kidney - Cabinet Member - Environment Portfolio

Councillor B McKeown

ES1 LEAD OFFICER/APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Mr S Cripps, Strategic Director, informed the meeting that this was to have been the first meeting of the Scrutiny Committee at which advice was to be given by the responsible Strategic Director, Mr D Pinnock.

Mr Pinnock was, however, absent due to a family bereavement.

The Committee was also informed that Councillor J S Highfield had been appointed Chairman of this Scrutiny Committee at the meeting of the Council held on 13 May 2002 but he had, unfortunately, submitted his apologies for this meeting and in the circumstances it would be necessary to appoint a Chairman for this meeting.

RESOLVED:- that Councillor T J Reeves be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

COUNCILLOR T J REEVES (CHAIRMAN) IN THE CHAIR

ES2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs A P Edgeller (substitute Councillor J S Francis) and Councillor J S Highfield (substitute Councillor T J Reeves).

ES3 SCRUTINY OF THE NHS

At the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 15 January 2002 it had been decided that representatives of the Stafford Primary Care Group be invited to a special meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to discuss the overall situation in Stafford Borough relating to the provision of primary care services.

Since that meeting of the Committee, it had been established that the Borough area was provided for by the Stafford Primary Care Group (which became the South Western Staffordshire Primary Care Trust on 1 April 2002) and the South Stoke Primary Care Trust and, accordingly, both Primary Care Trusts had been invited to attend this meeting and the following representatives of the Trusts attended:-

South Western Staffordshire Primary Care Trust

Jenny Cornes - Chair

William Price - Chief Executive

Dr Zafar Iqbal - Director of Public Health  
Dr Roger Beal - PEC Member

South Stoke Primary Care Trust

Mike Tappin - Chairman  
Tony McGovern - Chief Executive

At the meeting of the Committee held on 23 April 2002 it was decided that in addition to the two organisations being afforded the opportunity to outline their current service provision and service development, the following issues would be appropriate for discussion:-

- 1 Joint Working/Planning/Financing
- 2 Structures and Responsibilities
- 3 HIMP Development
- 4 Health Promotion/Ill Health Prevention
- 5 Communicable Disease Control
- 6 Primary Care Services
- 7 Patient Forums

William Price of the South Western Staffordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) gave a presentation to the meeting on the following issues:-

- recent revisions to the structure of the NHS
- the key functions of the various Agencies of the NHS
- the role and key functions of the PCTs including:-
  - the geographical area covered by the Trust
  - the PCT's Governance arrangements, including details of its structure and Board Members
  - details of the Professional Executive Committee (PEC) membership

Dr Zafar Iqbal concluded the South Western Staffordshire PCT's presentation with details of the following:-

- improving health and reducing inequalities
- communicable disease - health protection
- patient and public involvement
- the development of primary and community based health services, together with commissioning of hospital services

Tony McGovern of the South Stoke PCT outlined to the meeting the relatively small geographical area of Stafford Borough falling within his Primary Care Trust's area and continued with a presentation on the following issues:-

- the PCT's funding position
- services provided
- the health needs of the population
- details of his PCT's structure

The Chairmen of the PCTs took the opportunity to comment on the Government's strategy on health care provision as contained in the "Shifting the Balance from Acute to Primary Care" document and assured the Committee that the PCTs in Staffordshire and Shropshire were closely working together in areas of mutual interest.

The Scrutiny Committee then proceeded to discuss with the representatives of the PCTs the following points which individual Members raised:-

- the provision of primary care services, particularly access to GPs in the rural areas and the recent structural changes in the NHS
- the possibility of the provision of a GP's surgery in the Blythe Bridge area (South Stoke PCT)
- budgetary and staffing aspects of primary care services
- accountability of the PCT Boards
- the location of GP services in Stafford, particularly in the eastern part of the town
- the provision of NHS dentistry services
- the emphasis on health improvement and the benefits of joint working with the local authority
- the importance of public consultation and the effectiveness of PALS and patient forums
- reconsideration of the name of the South Western Staffordshire PCT
- the participation of the PCT in the Stafford Borough Partnership
- the joint financing of projects, such as health promotion.

Councillor B McKeown attended the meeting and, at the invitation of the Chairman, spoke on this matter.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee:-

- (i) the representatives of the PCTs be thanked for attending the meeting;
- (ii) the Head of Environmental and Health Services to investigate, in conjunction with the Directors of Education and Social Services at the

County Council, the possibility of a joint approach to health issues, particularly the promotion of ill health issues;

- (iii) the Officers explore the feasibility of the relevant PCTs giving presentations regarding their role, at the Round 6 of the Borough Council's Area Forums due to be held in the autumn of 2002.

The Chairman concluded with thanking the representatives of the PCTs for attending this meeting and discussing with the Committee the issues raised.

Proceedings commenced at 6.30 pm and terminated at 8.30 pm.

