

## **SCRUTINY BOARD (HEALTH)**

**TUESDAY, 15TH DECEMBER, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Dobson in the Chair

Councillors S Bentley, J Chapman,  
D Congreve, D Hollingsworth, J Illingworth,  
G Kirkland, A Lamb and L Yeadon

**CO-OPTEE:** E Mack

### **50 Late Items**

In accordance with his powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair admitted to the agenda the draft statement from the Board to the Secretary of State relating to Agenda Item 8 'Renal Services; Statement' (Minute No. 55 refers). The draft statement had been unavailable at the time of the agenda despatch and needed to be considered by the Board before their next meeting in January 2010.

The Chair also admitted to the agenda additional information which was relevant to Agenda Item 7 'Scrutiny Inquiry: The Role of the Council and its Partners in Promoting Good Public Health (Session 2)' (Minute No. 54 refers).

The late and additional material had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

### **51 Declarations of Interest**

In respect of Agenda Item 8 'Renal Services: Statement' (Minute No. 55 refers), Councillor Chapman declared a personal interest as a member of her family was about to start work in one of the children's renal units.

In respect of Agenda Item 7 'Scrutiny Inquiry: The Role of the Council and its Partners in Promoting Good Public Health (Session 2)' (Minute No. 54 refers), Councillor Yeadon indicated that, as she was a member of the Plans Panel (West) and could possibly be considering certain issues within the debate at a later date in that capacity, in order to avoid any perception of pre-determination when the matter came before the Plans Panel, she stated that she would not be taking part in the discussions on this particular issue at this meeting.

Later in the meeting during the consideration of Agenda Item 7 'Scrutiny Inquiry: The Role of the Council and its Partners in Promoting Good Public Health (Session 2)' (Minute No. 54 refers), Councillor Illingworth also declared a personal interest in this item as an employee of the University of Leeds.

### **52 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Iqbal and Wadsworth.

### **53 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

### **54 Scrutiny Inquiry: The role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health (Session 2)**

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report providing Members with information on the second session of the Board's inquiry into the role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health.

The second session of the inquiry was to consider issues associated with reversing the rise in levels of obesity and promoting an increase in the levels of physical activity. Attached to the report in this regard was the following information:

- Local Development Framework - (Appendix 4)
- Vision for Council Leisure Centres - (Appendix 5)
- Leeds Physical Activity Strategy - (Appendix 6)
- Parks and Green Space Strategy - (Appendix 7)
- Can't Wait – Leeds Childhood Obesity Strategy - (Appendix 8)
- Adult Obesity - (Appendix 9)

Also accepted at the meeting as additional information from Education Leeds was:

- Information on the Health Initiatives and Wellbeing Team, and
- Information on the School Meals Strategy

Attached at Appendix 3 to the report was a request for scrutiny received in early October 2009 on behalf of local residents of Hyde Park and surrounding areas, seeking the involvement of the Scrutiny Board (Health) to examine the health aspects of playing field provision in the inner-city areas of Leeds. As it was considered that this request was within the terms of reference of this inquiry, it was felt appropriate to invite representatives of the local residents to address the Board in this regard.

Other documents that were attached to the report as background information for this second session of the inquiry were:

- Action Plan for the Improvement Priorities in the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Plan (2009-2012) of the Leeds Strategic Plan (2008-2011) – (Appendix 1)
- NICE guidance CG43 (Quick reference guide 1: For local authorities, schools and early years providers, workplaces and the public) – (Appendix 2)

The Chair welcomed first to the meeting Sue Buckle, a local resident from the Hyde Park area of Leeds, who had submitted a request for the Board to look at the health aspects of playing field provision in the inner city areas of Leeds, with special reference to the Leeds Girls High School's planning application to develop their site in Hyde Park. Ms Buckle had also previously presented a deputation to Council in September 2008 regarding the lack of sports pitches for use by local schools and the community in the Hyde Park area.

Ms Buckle advised the Board that she was attending the meeting on behalf of parents and residents in Hyde Park and outlined the reasons for the scrutiny request, which she summarised as:

- Hyde Park was the second most densely populated area in Leeds.
- Primary schools in the area were woefully short of play space.
- There was no easily accessible swimming pool.
- The open space that was available was, in many cases, unsuitable due to dog walkers and rubbish and glass left by people taking part in picnics and barbecues.
- Student accommodation had been built on areas of open space that had been available.

Ms Buckle also stated that she believed that:

- Schools were crucial in instilling the skills and enjoyment of sport at a young age.
- When parents saw how much their children were enjoying themselves, they would be more likely to make sure that their children got involved and joined in themselves.
- Money, time and accessibility were also all very important limiting factors to exercise.
- There were competing pressures for children's time, particularly to sit indoors at the computer rather than playing out.

Ms Buckle concluded that what the Hyde Park area of Leeds needed was more sports facilities and play space and the former Leeds Girls High School's site presented an opportunity for this.

Discussion followed on the local issues raised by Ms Buckley and also on the broader concerns of providing sport and play facilities to the wider population of Leeds. These discussions included in brief summary:

- Issues surrounding the former Leeds Boys Grammar School, which had been bought by the University of Leeds and where the sports facilities had not been preserved for the use of the local community.
- The need to encourage local people to use the university sports facilities.
- The 'cinder moor' at Woodhouse – its past and present use.
- The previously proposed closure of South Leeds Sports Centre and its importance to the health and wellbeing of the people in and around the areas of Beeston Hill and Holbeck.
- That the inquiry should bear in mind other inner city areas which experienced similar levels of deprivation and provision to the Hyde Park area.

- The general loss of play space to housing.
- The inadequate transport infrastructure which caused sports facilities to be inaccessible to many.
- That there were a number of limiting factors that had an impact on people's ability to participate in physical activities and undertake exercise, including time, resources, access and culture.
- Agreement that schools were crucial in instilling a healthy lifestyle at an early stage.
- That having no school playing fields was not a recent phenomenon.

The Chair thanked Ms Buckley for her attendance and then welcomed the following Council officers to the meeting to respond to queries and comments from the Board:

- Steve Speak, Deputy Chief Planning Officer (Leeds City Council, City Development),
- David Feeney, Head of Planning and Economic Policy (Leeds City Council, City Development),
- Mark Allman, Head of Sport and Active Recreation (Leeds City Council, City Development), and
- John Freeman, Head of Service (Health Initiatives and Wellbeing Team), Education Leeds.

The Head of Service (Health Initiatives and Wellbeing Team), Education Leeds, clarified for the Board the arrangements for swimming tuition in schools: that all pupils in Years 4/5 received swimming lessons and additional lessons were given where children failed to reach the current nationally agreed 25 metre standard. He also advised that school swimming lessons, in common with other aspects of the physical education (PE) curriculum, were seen as a skills development rather than as a form of cardio vascular exercise. Development of skills could subsequently help children access a range of activities (through local clubs) outside the school environment.

Officers also advised that non-competitive activities such as dance and performance art also had a role to play in counteracting obesity.

Members then discussed the issues and raised, in brief summary, the following concerns with regard to physical activity within the school curriculum:

- The number of children who did not achieve the 25 metre swimming standard.  
*(The Head of Service (Health Initiatives and Wellbeing Team), Education Leeds, agreed to supply these figures to the Board.)*
- The increased range of activities being made available to young people, with the result that the curriculum was more about learning skills than just taking part in rigorous physical activity.
- Opportunities for using the new skills within the curriculum and outside the school day.
- Quality of teaching.

*Members were advised that extensive in-service training had taken place to improve the skills of primary PE teachers.*

Members also questioned officers on the imbalance of the availability of sport and play provision throughout the city and expressed their concerns that the gap between the poorer and wealthier areas of the city, with regard to health outcomes, was widening. Officers advised in brief summary:

- That improving the infrastructure of sports facilities in certain areas of the city was a long-term aspiration, in the meantime the Authority had to be creative and address transport and accessibility issues by for instance looking at partnership working with Metro.
- That best practice in other authorities was sought, however Leeds was the best performing city in Yorkshire and among the Core Cities in terms of adult participation.
- That with regard to the Core Strategy document and Policy N6, the Core Strategy was not intended to go into detail, this would be covered in other documents. There would also be ample opportunity for discussion on the Core Strategy as it was not expected to be published until autumn 2010.
- That with regard to PPG17 in the Core Strategy, a needs assessment had been carried out and the second part of the work would be completed early in the new year.
- That School Sports Partnership Managers and Co-ordinators from Education Leeds were working with other services and voluntary community clubs to increase take up in physical activities outside of and beyond school.
- That initiatives funded by the Government such as Sports Unlimited were helping to broaden the range of sports available.  
*(The Head of Service (Health Initiatives and Wellbeing Team), Education Leeds, agreed to provide the Board with information on this initiative.)*
- That the Healthy Challenge initiative had been in place for the past 3 years and the Be Healthy Family Challenge would start in 2010.
- That there would be a month devoted to sport within the Year of the Volunteer.
- That the use of school facilities by local communities in the evenings and weekends was inconsistent across the city.  
*(The Head of Service (Health Initiatives and Wellbeing Team), Education Leeds, agreed to provide the Board with information on the barriers to using schools out of hours.)*
- Work was underway to help identify particular successes and areas of best practice around a number of initiatives aimed at increasing physical activity and participation levels, that had been rolled out across the City.

Members also discussed the role that planning legislation could have in the provision of playing fields and sports facilities and requested that Members, who were best placed to advise on local issues, be consulted at an earlier stage in the planning decision making process.

There was also discussion around the role of planning officers in negotiations often associated with major planning applications. Officer stressed that the

aim of such negotiations was to secure 'the best available deal' for local communities. The importance and role of the locally agreed N6 policy (ie the identification and designation of open space provision) across the City was also discussed. Members of the Board stressed their desire to see such policies strictly and rigorously enforced and considered at an early stage in the process for proposed major developments. There was also some discussion around the Council's ability to purchase land to help preserve open space and the value of such purchases.

Members also discussed the importance of the parents becoming involved and the need to improve whole family attitudes to taking part in sports and concluded that this could only be resolved with partnership working and a whole Council approach.

The Chair summarised that the main issues to come out of this second session of the inquiry into the role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health were the need to:

- address inequality of sport and play provision across the city,
- improve access to facilities,
- focus limited resources on the needs of inner city children and adults,
- identify and examine best practice, and
- further develop partnership working and to adopt a whole Council approach.

The Chair thanked LCC officers for attending and apologised to the representatives from NHS Leeds for the meeting overrunning and not being able to hear their contributions. It was agreed that these officers would return to the Board's January meeting to continue this discussion. It was also agreed that officers would be requested to provide information around progress of the 'narrowing the gap' agenda.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) That the main issues to come out of this second session of the inquiry, and summarised by the Chair above, be included in the Board's final scrutiny inquiry report.
- (c) That the following information be supplied to the Board by the Head of Service (Health Initiatives and Wellbeing Team), Education Leeds:
  - The number of children who did not achieve the 25 metre swimming standard,
  - Information on the local sports alliances,
  - Information on Sports Unlimited,
  - Information on the barriers to using schools out of hours.
- (d) That the representatives from NHS Leeds be invited to return to the January 2010 meeting of the Board and that information around 'narrowing the gap' also be presented to that meeting.

(Note: Councillor Chapman left the meeting at 11.55am during the consideration of this item.)

## **55 Renal Services: Statement**

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report presenting the Scrutiny Board (Health) with a summary of the background to the issues regarding the provision of renal services (dialysis) across the Trust, particularly in terms of provision at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI). The statement, which it had been agreed to send to the Secretary of State for Health at the previous meeting of the Board on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009, had been accepted earlier in the meeting in its draft form as a Late Report.

The Chair stated that the draft of the statement to the Secretary of State for Health had previously been circulated to Members and apart from the inclusion of a timeline in Recommendation 1 and other minor amendments, it was agreed that the statement could be released.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That the draft statement to the Secretary of State for Health be amended as outlined above and released.

## **56 Health Proposals Working Group - Update**

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development had submitted a report to present the minutes of the first meeting of the Health Proposals Working Group held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009.

However, due to the fact that the minutes of this first meeting of the Health Proposals Working Group were not yet available, it was agreed to defer discussion on the proposed actions and recommendations to the January 2010 meeting of the Board.

**RESOLVED –** That this item be deferred to the January 2010 meeting of the Board.

## **57 Updated Work Programme 2009/10**

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report presenting an outline work programme for the Board to consider, amend and agree as appropriate.

Attached to the report was the following information:

- Scrutiny Board (Health) Work Programme 2009/10 – updated December 2009 - (Appendix 1)
- Minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009 - (Appendix 2)

Steven Courtney, Principal Scrutiny Adviser, advised that the Work Programme would be updated to include in the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010 meeting of the Board the concluding part of the second session of the Scrutiny Inquiry into public health and the update on the Health Proposals Working Group.

The following additions to the Work Programme were also requested by Members:

- Why the Narrowing the Gap initiative was not working in terms of improving healthy outcomes.
- In the light of NHS Leeds' decisions to withdraw from projects in Kirkstall and Holt Park, what was the PCT's long term strategy.

As the consultation deadline on the LTHT's application for Foundation Trust status was prior to the next meeting of the Board, it was agreed to circulate to Members a summary of the Board's conclusions via email.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) That, subject to the above comments and additions, the Work Programme be updated as agreed.
- (c) That a summary of the Board's conclusions on the LTHT's application for Foundation Trust status be circulated via email for Members' approval.

**58 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Noted that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 10.00am with a pre-meeting for Board Members at 9.30am.  
**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE.**

The Chair brought the meeting to a close by thanking Co-opted Member, Mr Eddie Mack, who was retiring from the Board, for his valuable contribution to the Board's discussions over the years and wishing him well for the future.

The meeting concluded at 12.20pm.