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**REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**


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**MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2008**


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| Chairman:    | * Councillor Stanley Sheinwald  |   |
| Councillors: | * Mrs Margaret Davine<br>* B E Gate<br>* Mitzi Green<br>* Manji Kara<br>* Ashok Kulkarni (2)<br>* Barry Macleod-Cullinane | * Jerry Miles<br>* Mrs Vina Mithani<br>* Dinesh Solanki<br>† Yogesh Teli<br>* Mark Versallion |
| Voting       | (Voluntary Aided)   | (Parent Governors)  |
| Co-opted:    | † Mrs J Rammelt<br>† Reverend P Reece   | * Mr R Chauhan<br>Mrs D Speel   |

\* Denotes Member present  
(2) Denotes category of Reserve Member  
† Denotes apologies received

[Notes: (1) Councillor Rekha Shah, in her capacity as Scrutiny Performance Lead Member, Adult Health and Social Care, also attended this meeting to speak on the item indicated at Minute 260 below;

(2) Councillor Eric Silver, having been invited by the Committee in his capacity as Portfolio Holder, Adult Services, also attended this meeting to speak on the item indicated at Minutes 258, 259 and 260.]

**PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL**
**PART II - MINUTES**

248. **Councillor Dhirajlal Lavingia:**  
A minute of silence was observed in memory of Councillor Dhirajlal Lavingia. The Vice-Chairman of the Committee paid tribute to the work carried out by Councillor Lavingia, in particular the amount of voluntary work he had carried out. He would be sorely missed by his colleagues and the community of Harrow.
249. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**
- RESOLVED:** To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Member:-
- | <u>Ordinary Member</u>     | <u>Reserve Member</u>      |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Councillor Anthony Seymour | Councillor Ashok Kulkarni. |
250. **Declarations of Interest:**
- RESOLVED:** To note that the following interests were declared:-
- Agenda Item 10 - Healthcare for London: Consulting the Capital - Local Consultation Process
- The following Members declared personal interests as set out below and remained in the room to participate in the discussion and decision relating to this item and ask questions on the presentation received at the meeting:-
- (i) Councillor B E Gate stated that his wife and daughter worked for a local General Practitioner (GP);
  - (ii) Councillor Mrs Vina Mithani stated that she worked for the Health Protection Agency;

- (iii) Councillor Eric Silver, who was not a member of this Committee, stated that he was a contractor who dealt with the Primary Care Trust (PCT).

Agenda Item 11 – Final Report on CSCI Annual Review

The following Members declared personal interests as set out below and remained in the room to participate in the discussion and decision relating to this item and ask questions on the presentation received at the meeting:-

- (i) Councillor Mitzi Green stated that her son received benefits from the Council;
- (ii) Councillor Mrs Margaret Davine stated that her mother was in receipt of social care from the Council;
- (iii) Councillor Stanley Sheinwald stated that he was Chair of the Carers' Partnership Group.

251. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

The Chairman re-ordered the agenda of the meeting. For clarity, business is recorded in the order set out in the agenda.

**RESOLVED:** That all items be considered with the press and public present.

252. **Minutes:**

**RESOLVED:** That (1) the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2007, confirmed at the special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 11 December 2007, be further amended as follows:-

Minute 206, to delete the words 'and the Neighbourhood Housing Trust' from paragraph (ii);

(2) it be noted that a response on the query relating to the legal basis of the decision taken by the Council in relation to the pan-London JO SC, referred to in Minute 245 (a) (2), remained outstanding, and that, should the response not be received by the 11 February 2008 meeting of the Committee, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman write to the Director of Legal and Governance Services seeking a response to this matter.

(3) the minutes of the special meeting held on 11 December 2007 be taken as read and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:-

Minute 243 (i), paragraph 2 be amended to read 'Councillor Dinesh Solanki declared a personal interest in that he lived in Wealdstone';

Minute 243 (ii), paragraph 3 be amended to read:

- (i) Councillor Jeremy Zeid declared an interest in that he was a governor of Priestmead Middle School;
- (ii) Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared an interest in that he was a governor of Canons High School;
- (iii) Councillor Anthony Seymour declared an interest in that he was a governor of Pinner Park Middle School;
- (iv) Councillor Ashok Kulkarni declared an interest in that he was a governor of Roxbourne First and Middle School.

253. **Public Questions:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no public questions were put at the meeting under the provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 8.

254. **Petitions:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no petitions were received at the meeting under the provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 9.

255. **Deputations:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no deputations were received at the meeting under the provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 10.

256. **References from Council/Cabinet:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that there were no references from Cabinet or Council.

257. **Report from Scrutiny Policy and Performance Lead Members' Quarterly Briefings:**

The Committee received a report of Interim Divisional Director, Strategy and Improvement, which set out matters that had been considered by the Scrutiny Policy and Performance Lead Members between October and December 2007.

The Scrutiny Manager introduced the report and highlighted the key aspects of the report, and sought approval of the letter set out at Appendix 2.

The Scrutiny Policy Lead Member, Children and Young People, suggested that:-

- the letter at Appendix 2 be signed off by the Scrutiny Policy and Performance Lead Members, Adult Health and Social Care;
- the report on Children and Young People, which made reference to the target of developing more Children's Centres between 2008-2011, ought to include that, by 2011, Harrow would have a total of 16 Children's Centres.

**RESOLVED:** That (1) the reports of the Scrutiny Policy and Performance Lead Members be noted;

(2) the letter at Appendix 2 of the report, addressed to the Chief Executive of the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust on the future of the Brent Birth Centre, be approved and that it be signed off by the Scrutiny Policy and Performance Lead Members, Adult Health and Social Care.

258. **Healthcare for London: Consulting the Capital - Local Consultation Process:**

The Chairman welcomed, Sarah Crowther, Chief Executive of Harrow Primary Care Trust (PCT), and Karen Butler, Head of Patient and Public Involvement, Harrow PCT.

Sarah Crowther gave a presentation on Healthcare for London: Consulting the Capital. The consultation, currently being carried out by all PCTs in London and Surrey over a three-month period, was based on proposals arising from Healthcare for London: Framework for Action, also known as the Darzi Review. The proposals were aimed at making the best use of taxpayers' money, at the same time as delivering improvements and reducing inequalities in healthcare in London in the context of a projected growth in demand for services. A shift in the balance between community and hospital care was being proposed, together with the establishment of polyclinics, offering a wide range of high-quality services over extended hours. There would be a range of hospitals - local, major acute and specialist, with effective centres carrying out high-volume elective surgery. Feedback from a public consultation "roadshow" event held at Harrow Civic Centre on Saturday 26 January 2008 demonstrated that a priority for local people was that all the services worked well together. Sarah Crowther emphasised that the consultation related to a framework for action, not individual services or buildings. The consultation would end on 7 March 2008, with recommendations to be drawn up in summer 2008. PCTs would then develop detailed proposals, which would be subject to discussion, scrutiny and consultation, and Harrow PCT looked forward to working with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on this process.

Sarah Crowther and Karen Butler then responded to Members' questions as follows:-

- partnership working, for example, with social care providers, was important to Harrow PCT, although at this stage much more work needed to be done on finance to ensure there was adequate funding, with a view at a later stage to setting out a year-on-year plan on which the PCT would work closely with the Council;
- the 26 January 2008 "roadshow" had attracted over 50 people, there had been events at two local supermarkets, and documents and posters had been circulated throughout the local community. While the number of responses was not yet high, it was important to note that the quality of the feedback received had been good. Unfortunately, it had not been possible to hold the

“roadshow” in Harrow Town Centre because of the IT requirements which could not be met by the two shopping centres. Feedback from other PCTs was that the quality of responses from “roadshows” in shopping centres had not been good;

- in order to make effective use of Information Technology (IT) systems and guarantee security of patients' records, the PCT would need to make some changes to systems, but also to make better use of what was already available, and every PCT Chief Executive was conducting a review of data security. There existed different levels of access to patients' records and amendments to records needed to be tracked. She acknowledged that the systems needed to be robust;
- the Council had supported the consultation process by publicising it in Harrow People and distributing information through the public libraries. The support provided would be reviewed and further assistance would be sought, if necessary. The PCT was open to suggestions on different consultation methods. However, the PCT was charged with carrying out local consultation and would feed back any views should the consultation methods used fail to ensure the right levels of returns;
- the PCT had invited online responses to the consultation, and had asked for a link to [www.healthcareforlondon.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcareforlondon.nhs.uk) to be placed on the Council's website;
- the introduction of polyclinics would be done in a phased way, with account taken of the potential of existing buildings and ease of access. Existing buildings would be converted and savings delivered through the use of the polyclinic models. The PCTs would also lobby for improved public transport facilities to polyclinics;
- work was being done to improve dedicated stroke services, in which London was currently not performing as well as it should, and the Chief Executive of the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust, Fiona Wise, was aware of this. Sarah Crowther was of the view that a single dedicated stroke unit at Northwick Park Hospital was the way forward. Members were keen to ensure that all avenues were explored, including partnership working with private hospitals in the area to ensure the best possible outcomes for stroke patients;
- pragmatic discussions would need to take place about the Local Area Agreement.

Sarah Crowther also agreed to provide a written answer to a Member's question on a report of low levels spending on cancer treatment in Harrow.

The Interim Corporate Director, Adults and Housing, stated that the proposals would also create new opportunities. He added that an integrated approach to Health and Social Care provision was essential. Joint consultations were a way forward, particularly during the second consultation stage. The Council would also be willing to work jointly with the PCTs in relation to the management of assets available for polyclinics. A definition of what constituted a community was also necessary.

The Chairman thanked Sarah Crowther for the presentation, and Sarah Crowther and Karen Butler for their responses to Members' questions.

**RESOLVED:** That (1) the presentation be received and noted;

(2) that a link for online responses to the Healthcare for London: Consulting the Capital be provided on the Council's website on behalf of the Committee and the PCT as a matter of urgency, the matter being referred to the Portfolio Holder, Strategy and Business Support;

(3) that the Committee's response to the consultation be signed on behalf of the Committee by the Chairman and Vice Chairman;

(4) that the Scrutiny Performance and Policy Lead Members, Adult Health and Social Care, examine the response, when received, on the low levels of special cancer treatment in Harrow and how this affected outcomes.

**Final Report on CSCI Annual review:**

The Portfolio Holder, Adult Services, introduced the summary report of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) on its annual assessment of Harrow's performance in

social care services for adults in 2006/07. The CSCI's overall judgement was that the Council had provided adequate delivery of outcomes during the period, with a star rating of one (on a scale of zero to three), with uncertainty about the services' capacity to improve.

The Interim Corporate Director, Adults and Housing, gave a presentation on measures being taken to address this assessment and improve adult social care services, reporting that this area now had a higher profile, with a focus on well-being, self-directed support and safeguarding vulnerable adults. Cabinet had agreed that adult services/intermediate care were a priority, and these services now featured strongly in the new Local Area Agreement. The officer welcomed involvement from Scrutiny in relation to the safety of vulnerable adults. In response to a Member's question, he reported that both the Council and the PCT had agreed to put more money into intermediate care services.

Answering questions about the implications of the recent judicial review of the Council's decision to change the criteria of eligibility for adult social care, in which a judge had found against the Council on one of five counts, the Corporate Director and the Portfolio Holder informed Members that steps were being taken to ensure that any relevant lessons might be learned from this challenge.

A Member was concerned that Cabinet had not received sufficient advice in this regard. He was of the view that Scrutiny might want to examine the process to identify problem areas. The knock-on effect of the decision needed to be realised and it was important that the process was robust. He was of the view that such decisions ought to be taken by full Council.

The Director stated that should Council decide to move to provision of critical care only in the future, the vulnerable would be safeguarded.

Members noted a new will to improve adult services and were confident of a higher assessment in the future.

**RESOLVED:** That the report and the comments above be noted.

260. **Scrutiny Review of Obesity in Harrow - Final Report of the Obesity Review Group:**

The Scrutiny Performance Lead Member, Adult Health and Social Care, and the Scrutiny Policy Lead Member, Children and Young People, introduced the report, which set out the findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Obesity in Harrow.

The Scrutiny Policy Lead Member, Children and Young People, informed the Committee that Recommendation 7 had been addressed. In relation to Recommendation 3, she agreed to send details of the MEND programme to the Scrutiny Policy Lead Member, Adult Health and Social Care. She also drew attention to various Recommendations where the support of the PCT was crucial.

The Portfolio Holder, Adult Services, welcomed the opportunity to serve on the Diabetes Partnership Board (Recommendation 11 refers) but requested that the Scrutiny Policy Lead Member, Children and Young People, and the Scrutiny Performance Lead Member, Adult Health and Social Care, act as Co-Board Members. In relation to recommendation 12, the Portfolio Holder agreed that the communications teams of both Harrow and the PCT ought to work together.

Sarah Crowther, the Chief Executive of Harrow PCT, agreed that the PCT would be happy to work with the Council with a view to making joint bids for funding in this area (Recommendation 6 refers) and stated that Recommendation 13 would be addressed. She agreed in principle to all the review recommendations relating to the PCT. Members discussed the need for more children to walk to school and for adults to take responsibility for their own health. They also agreed that the 2012 Olympics should be used to enthruse more people to take exercise.

The Review Group and supporting officers were thanked for the excellent report.

**RESOLVED:** That (1) the report and its recommendations be endorsed, subject to adding a reference to the 2012 Olympics;

(2) the report be referred to Cabinet and the Harrow PCT Board for consideration and agreement;

(3) the monitoring of progress against the report's recommendations be placed on the Scrutiny Work Programme.

261. **Scrutiny Review of Partnership with Accord MP:**

The Chairman of the Review Group introduced the report, which set out the Group's findings and recommendations on the first year of the partnership between Harrow Council and Accord MP in the delivery of public realm services.

Unusually, and in order to avoid excessive delay in allowing Cabinet to see the report, it had been presented to Cabinet prior to coming to Overview and Scrutiny. Cabinet had endorsed the recommendations. Asked about specific success measures and measures of impact of the review, the Chairman of the Review Group said that there would be an update after six months, with implementation of the recommendations to be monitored on a "by exception" basis by the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee. The Vice-Chairman stated that the matrix at pages 150-151 of the agenda ought to have a time limit and that bench monitoring was also essential. Members agreed that the report was very positive, demonstrating a good partnership relationship. They also suggested that the Portfolio Holder, Environment Services, be kept informed of the results of the review.

It was noted that whilst the conclusions from this Review could be applied to the partnership with Kier, it would be looked at separately after the partnership was in operation for at least six months.

Officers were thanked for their support.

**RESOLVED:** That (1) the findings of the review be noted;

(2) the recommendations be endorsed;

(3) the implementation of the recommendations be monitored by means of an update after six months and on a "by exception" basis by the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.34 pm, closed at 10.45 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR STANLEY SHEINWALD  
Chairman