HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

22 MARCH 2005

Chair: * Councillor Bluston

Councillors: * Gate (4) * Myra Michael
* Ann Groves * Vina Mithani
* Lavingia * Mrs Joyce Nickolay

Advisor (non-voting): * Jean Bradlow

* Denotes Member present
(4) Denotes category of Reserve Member

[Note: Councillors Margaret Davine and Silver also attended this meeting in a speaking role].

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL

PART II - MINUTES

212. Declarations of Interest:
Councillors Ann Groves, Lavingia, Myra Michael and Mrs Joyce Nickolay declared personal interests in agenda item 11, “Concessionary Travel”, by virtue of being Freedom Pass Holders. Councillor Bluston also noted that a number of his relatives were Blue Badge holders, as did Councillors Lavingia and Mrs Joyce Nickolay.

In relation to agenda item 10, “Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust”, Councillors Bluston and Mrs Joyce Nickolay wished it to be noted that they would be sitting on Harrow Council’s Development Control Committee, which was due to consider the Royal National Orthopedic Hospital planning application in the near future.

RESOLVED: To note the declarations of interest set out above, and the following interests which were also declared:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Nature of Interest</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Gate</td>
<td>Declared a personal interest in that his spouse was a health professional employed by Harrow Primary Care Trust (PCT).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councillor Vina Mithani</td>
<td>Declared a personal interest in that she is an employee of the Health Protection Agency.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councillor Myra Michael</td>
<td>Declared a personal interest by virtue of her husband’s position at Mount Vernon Hospital.</td>
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213. Attendance by Reserve Members:

RESOLVED: To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Member:-

Ordinary Member Reserve Member
Councillor Mrs R Shah Councillor Gate

214. Apologies for Absence:

RESOLVED: To note that apologies for absence had been received from Andrew Morgan, Chief Executive of Harrow Primary Care Trust.

215. Welcome to Officers:
The Chair welcomed Penny Furness-Smith, Director of Community Care, and Lynne McAdam, Service Manager (Scrutiny), who were both attending their first meeting of the Sub-Committee.
216. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

RESOLVED: That (1) in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following agenda items be admitted late to the agenda by virtue of special circumstances and grounds for urgency detailed below:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda item</th>
<th>Special Circumstances/Grounds for Urgency</th>
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<tr>
<td>11. Concessionary Travel</td>
<td>The report was not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated. Members were asked to consider the report, in order to receive an update, as previously requested by the Sub-Committee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Annual Work Programme</td>
<td>The report was not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated. Members were asked to consider the report, in order to agree the Sub-Committee’s provisional work programme for the 2005/06 Municipal Year.</td>
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(2) item 11 be considered after item 9; and

(3) all items be considered with the press and public present.

217. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 6 December 2004 and of the Special meeting held on 17 February 2005, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as correct records.

218. **Public Questions:**

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

219. **Petitions:**

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

220. **Deputations:**

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

221. **Terms of Reference for the Adviser to the Sub-Committee/Introduction by the Director of Public Health:**

The Chair welcomed Ms Jean Bradlow, Director of Public Health and Adviser to the Sub-Committee. The Director of Public Health introduced herself to Members and outlined the role that she would fulfil on the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: That the terms of reference for the Adviser to the Sub-Committee be agreed.

222. **Public Health Priorities in Harrow:**

The Sub-Committee received a presentation from the Director of Public Health setting out the public health priorities for Harrow. The priorities were based on a combination of national and regional health priorities, and were underpinned by the characteristics of the local population. Members were informed that the Public Health White Paper, *Choosing Health*, was based on a recognition that the public needed to be given an informed choice about their lifestyle and healthcare. It was added that bringing about change in this area would require a sustained effort and a considerable level of local partnership working.

The Director of Public Health explained that Harrow’s priorities included increasing MMR immunisation rates, reducing the spread of MRSA, tuberculosis prevention and treatment, improving data quality on breastfeeding rates, sexual health, reducing teenage pregnancy, White Paper delivery, smoking cessation and a smoke-free NHS by December 2005. Following consultation, access to wheelchair services had also
been identified as an additional priority area. It was emphasised that a good evidence base was required in a number of the priority areas before significant progress could be expected.

The Chair enquired as to the resources available to tackle the many areas that demanded attention. In response it was noted that the way in which resources were used would be the key in ensuring that the priority areas were fully addressed. It was also recognised that prevention was key to successfully changing lifestyles, particularly children. The Healthy Lifestyles in Schools scheme was cited as an example of influencing lifestyles at an early stage. The Chair thanked the Director of Public Health for an informative presentation.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

223. Concessionary Travel:

Members received a report of the Interim Head of Environmental Services, which provided the Sub-Committee with an update on concessionary travel. In response to a query, it was clarified that free travel for old age pensioners would not adversely affect the level of service for other users. The Chair of the Association of London Government (ALG) had written to reassure London Boroughs that sufficient resources would be made available to cover the costs of free travel for old age pensioners.

Members were referred to paragraph 2.4 of the report and were advised that following a change of policy by Transport for London (TfL), Harrow, together with several other London Boroughs, had been left to resource its own mobility assessment scheme, although there was an expectation that TfL would provide some assistance.

The Sub-Committee discussed comparisons with Westminster City Council’s Taxicard scheme, which operated outside of the ALG administered scheme. It was also noted that the membership of Harrow’s Taxicard scheme represented the second highest among all London Boroughs.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

224. Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust:

Members welcomed Mr Andrew Woodhead, Chief Executive of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (RNOH) NHS Trust and Eric Fehily, Project Director for the Re-development of the RNOH. It was explained that the next key step for the re-development was for the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to approve the Trust’s Outline Business Case. The Trust would then seek outline planning permission by September 2005 in order to advertise for a private partner in October 2005. Before being approved the Trust was required to demonstrate to the SHA that re-developing the Stanmore site would be the preferred option in terms of finances and value for money. Mr Woodhead requested the Sub-Committee’s support for the re-development to remain in Stanmore.

Given the difficulty of accessing the site, a Member queried whether there were plans to improve access, particularly for non-car drivers. It was explained that these issues had been previously considered and would be addressed in the re-development project. It was anticipated that transport links would be improved and widened beyond Harrow.

The Chair thanked Mr Woodhead and Mr Fehily for providing the Sub-Committee with an update on the re-development.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

225. NSF Older People:

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Community Care, which detailed progress in implementing the NSF for Older People. Councillor Ann Groves, the Older People’s Champion, presented the report and explained that the initiative was a joint venture between the PCT and the Council. It was commented that a number of the targets designated as ‘Red’ were considered to be harsh and did not reflect the work being undertaken in those areas. Concern was expressed at the difficulty in making comparisons to previous reports. The Older People’s Champion commented that it was a developmental exercise rather than a comparative exercise, in order to ensure that the PCT and Council were making progress.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.
226. **Annual Work Programme:**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Organisational Performance, which asked Members to agree a provisional work programme for the forthcoming Municipal Year. Following discussions with officers, Members and key partners, a list of suggested topics had been compiled for the Sub-Committee to consider. Members recognised that given the considerable time and resources required for the Joint Committee on the re-development of Northwick Park Hospital, it was of crucial importance to ensure that the work programme was both manageable and focused on key areas. The North West London Cancer Strategy and Cancer Services at Mount Vernon Hospital was identified as another major review area. It was noted that a review of care pathways could be incorporated in the review of Northwick Park hospital although the scope would have to be limited. Members also suggested that the Sub-Committee receive individual reports on several areas, such as alcohol misuse, adoption and the improved educational attainment of children and young people in care.

A Member suggested that the Sub-Committee examine the PCT’s Local Delivery Plan and then focus on three or four of the most important and relevant areas, many of which would overlap with the topics listed in Appendix 1 to the officer report. It was also suggested that the Sub-Committee could co-opt experienced professionals in the local trusts and ask them to contribute to the work of the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee was referred to the suggested area for review entitled ‘Older People and Adults’. Upon being informed that recent figures indicated that the target had been met, the Sub-Committee agreed that the item would be taken out of the list of suggested topics.

Members requested an update on the Joint Committee on Northwick Park. An officer advised the meeting that information that would determine which other Boroughs would be appropriate participants in the Joint Committee was still being sought. The consultation document had also yet to be received. The Sub-Committee registered concern that the information required had not been produced. Attempts were being made to establish the identity of the main contact point at the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust.

**RESOLVED:** That the 2005/06 provisional work programme, as amended to include the suggestions set out above, be agreed.

227. **Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2004/05:**

**RESOLVED:** That the draft Chair’s report on the Sub-Committee’s work over the 2004/2005 Municipal Year be approved for inclusion in the scrutiny annual report.

228. **Scrutiny Officer:**

The Sub-Committee expressed their sincere thanks to Susie Schwartz, Scrutiny Officer, who was leaving the employment of the Council. Members stated their appreciation for her hard work and professionalism and wished her all the best for the future.

229. **Any Other Business:**

(i) **Progress with Implementing the Recommendations of the Home Care Review:**

The Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health introduced a tabled report detailing progress made on the recommendations arising from the Home Care Review. It was noted that the recommendations outlined in the Action Plan would be taken further following a meeting with the Home Care agencies on 23 March 2005. It was reported that no parking permits for Home Care workers had been issued to date but provision would be made in the Transport Improvement Plan. The Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health added that many of the issues raised in the Home Care Review had already been integrated into the Directorate’s Service Plans.

**RESOLVED:** That the above be noted.

230. **Extensions to and Termination of the Meeting:**

In accordance with the provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 6.7 (Part 4F of the Constitution) it was
RESOLVED: (1) At 10.00 pm to continue until 10.30 pm; and
(2) at 10.30 pm to continue until 10.40 pm.
(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.31 pm, closed at 10.40 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR HOWARD BLUSTON
Chair