

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, 5th June, 2013

Present: Cllr Ms S V Spence (Chairman), Cllr A W Allison, Cllr T Bishop, Cllr D Keeley, Cllr Miss J L Sergison, Cllr Miss S O Shrubsole, Cllr C P Smith, Cllr A K Sullivan, Cllr R Taylor and Cllr D J Trice.

Councillors Mrs Anderson, Ms Atkinson, Baldock, Cure, N Heslop, Luker, Miss Moloney, Mrs Murray, Rhodes and Mrs Simpson were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Evans and Mrs Gale.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**CH
13/001**

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

However, Councillor C Smith advised of a potential interest in any items relating to public health due to his new responsibilities at Kent County Council as Deputy Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Public Health.

Councillors Mrs Anderson and Mrs Murray advised that they were Trustees of Tonbridge and Malling Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor Trice advised that he was employed by West Kent Debt Advice.

It was noted that none of these potential interests had financial implications and it was not necessary for the Members to withdraw from the meeting.

**CH
13/002**

SHORT TERM LENDING

Members received a presentation from Mr Leo Hopkinson, who on behalf of the Tonbridge and Malling Citizens Advice Bureau, had undertaken research into short term lending. The presentation focused on the reasons why people took up short term loans and the psychological effects that could emerge.

The research demonstrated why people preferred to apply for payday or doorstep loans rather than dealing with banks or other financial

organisations. The main reasons were linked to feelings of shame, belittlement and lack of respect perceived during face to face contact. The anonymity of applying for financial help over the internet was attractive to many people whilst the friendly and social interaction with those selling doorstep loans was less stressful and embarrassing.

Practical solutions being considered by the Citizens Advice Bureau, as a result of the findings, included the development of different ways of communicating which recognised the stress and shame of face to face advice. Live chat, email and text services offered non-confrontational and non-judgmental ways of communication.

Members were advised that the local telephone advice service had been extended to 5 days a week and there had been a large growth in calls. It was noted that this service was staffed on a voluntary basis and it was sometimes difficult to resource sufficiently to meet the increased demand.

Members thanked Mr Hopkinson for his informative presentation which made it easier to understand why payday and short term lending was so popular, despite the risks.

Angela Newry, of the Tonbridge and Malling Citizens Advice Bureau, took the opportunity of advising Members of a successful Big Lottery bid for 'advice services transitional funding' and set out how this would be used to establish better ways of working together between advice agencies. The main aim was to achieve better outcomes for clients and to benefit communities by sharing resources, where possible, and providing targeted provision of services.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

**CH
13/003**

MIND THE GAP HEALTH INEQUALITIES ACTION PLAN

Decision Notice D130072MEM

The Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health provided an update on the progress of the development of the Borough Council's 'Mind the Gap' Action Plan for addressing Health Inequalities and outlined the next steps to complete and implement the action plan.

It was also reported that the final version of the Borough Council's local 'Mind the Gap' would be completed by the end of June. It was proposed that Members receive a briefing on its content and how the Plan would be implemented to achieve the best possible outcomes for health improvement in the borough.

Members were assured that key partners, such as social housing providers, would be actively engaged with in the near future particularly as there were many important issues that could be addressed together.

The close working relationship with the Leisure Services Business Unit

was also noted and it was anticipated that this would continue with the Leisure Trust.

Other queries raised and answered by officers related to the collation and context of the data in the mapping exercise and current funding. Members agreed that it would be beneficial to have a Kent County Council public health representative participate at a future meeting of the Advisory Board.

Finally, Members were pleased to note the excellent wealth and range of activities and services provided by the Borough Council.

RECOMMENDED: That

(1) the proposed approach to developing a local 'Mind the Gap' Health Inequalities Action Plan be endorsed; and

(2) the proposal to provide a more detailed Member briefing in July on the final draft of the Mind the Gap Health Inequalities Action Plan and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, with a Kent County Council public health official present, be supported.

**CH
13/004**

LOCAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2013-14

Decision Notice D130073MEM

The report described the range of Health Improvement projects for which Kent County Council funding had been awarded for the current year and reviewed the performance of these initiatives in 2012/13.

The new structures for local health delivery as from 1 April 2013 were summarised and it was noted that responsibility for public health had transferred to Kent County Council, returning it to a statutory function.

Members recognised that the services commissioned by Kent County Council and delivered by the Borough Council were fully dependent upon the health improvement funding currently provided by the County.

Members were disappointed to note a lack of improvement in the current level of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. In response, it was reported that these had been re-commissioned and that the new service was meeting current demand for referrals, although a significant historical backlog remained.

In addition, Members commented that it was difficult to see if value for money had been demonstrated by the other health agencies as outcomes of projects were not identified in the performance information. It was noted that this issue had been highlighted before and it was difficult for the Borough Council as a referral service to identify the outcomes.

Finally, Members were assured that programmes would be focused across the whole borough.

RECOMMENDED: That

(1) the performance information provided at Annex 1 of the report be endorsed; and

(2) the proposed range of projects for 2013/14, as set out in the report, delivered by the Borough Council and partners with funding from Kent County Council be approved.

**CH
13/005**

VOLUNTEER DRIVER SERVICES - MALLING AREA

Decision Notice D130074MEM

The Chief Executive set out proposals to enhance provision of volunteer driver services in the Malling area.

It was reported that the lack of a 'general' dedicated volunteer driver scheme operating in the Malling area had been a cause of local concern. Members welcomed the new proposal to address this gap in service and recognised it as an excellent opportunity to provide a quality scheme in the Malling area.

RECOMMENDED: That the Voluntary Action Maidstone's offer to extend their Volunteer Driver Scheme to the Malling area be accepted and a one-off grant of £1,000 be offered to support the recruitment of additional volunteer drivers.

**CH
13/006**

NHS 111 HELPLINE

Decision Notice D130075MEM

The report highlighted a number of local concerns with the new NHS 111 service and its impact on local Accident and Emergency services.

RECOMMENDED: That

(1) the concerns outlined in the report be drawn to the attention of NHS Direct, the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, the West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group and the South East Coast Ambulance Service;

(2) copies of these concerns also be sent to Kent County Council given their wider role in health scrutiny; and

(3) comments from the above agencies, when received, be circulated and, if necessary, considered again at a future meeting of the Advisory Board.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

CH 13/007 DELIVERING BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR KENT

The report of the Chief Executive presented a discussion document on future health care recently published by Kent County Council. The document set out the County's ambitions for future health care services in Kent and was attached as Annex 1 to the report.

CH 13/008 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP - MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership held on 22 March 2013 were presented for Members' information.

It was noted that the minutes of the West Kent Partnership would now be reported to the newly created Economic Regeneration Advisory Board.

The Leader reported that Kent County Council had recently announced the end of Locality Boards and that there would be a review of engagement with local authorities to identify ways of improving local involvement and communication.

CH 13/009 VOLUNTARY ACTION WEST KENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE - HANG ON IN THERE!

Members noted the key points arising from the Voluntary Action West Kent Annual Conference held on 12 April 2013. These included issues related to the Localism agenda, successful commissioning of services by voluntary sector groups, health engagement and the role of the Clinical Commissioning Groups and resilience within the voluntary sector in the face of ongoing cuts in public sector budgets.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

CH 13/010 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 2110 hours

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

**Decision Taken By: CABINET MEMBER FOR
Communities and Health**

Decision No: D130072MEM

Date: 5th June 2013

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Mind the Gap Health Inequalities Action Plan

**(Report of Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health)
(Annex 1)
(Annex 2)**

The report provided an update on the progress of the development of the Borough Council's 'Mind the Gap' Action Plan for addressing Health Inequalities and outlined the next steps to complete and implement the action plan.

It was also reported that the final version of the Borough Council's local 'Mind the Gap' would be completed by the end of June. It was proposed that Members receive a briefing on its content and how the Plan would be implemented to achieve the best possible outcomes for health improvement in the borough.

Following consideration by the Communities and Health Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Health resolved that:

- 1) the proposed approach to developing a local 'Mind the Gap' Health Inequalities Action Plan be endorsed; and
- 2) the proposal to provide a more detailed Member briefing in July on the final draft of the Mind the Gap Health Inequalities Action Plan and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, with a Kent County Council public health official present, be supported.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Communities and Health Advisory Board of 5 June 2013.

Signed Cabinet Member for B Luker
Communities and Health:

Signed Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 07 June 2013

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

**Decision Taken By: CABINET MEMBER FOR
Communities and Health**

Decision No: D130073MEM

Date: 5th June 2013

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Local Health Improvement Programme 2013-14

**(Report of Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health)
(Annex 1)**

The report described the range of Health Improvement projects for which Kent County Council funding had been awarded for the current year and reviewed the performance of these initiatives in 2012/13.

Following consideration by the Communities and Health Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Health resolved that:

- 1) the performance information provided at Annex 1 of the report be endorsed; and
- 2) the proposed range of projects for 2013/14, as set out in the report, delivered by the Borough Council and partners with funding from Kent County Council be approved.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Communities and Health Advisory Board of 5 June 2013.

Signed Cabinet Member for B Luker
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RECORD OF DECISION

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Communities and Health**

Decision No: D130074MEM

Date: 5th June 2013

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Volunteer Driver Services - Malling Area

(Report of Chief Executive)

The report set out proposals to enhance provision of volunteer driver services in the Malling area.

Following consideration by the Communities and Health Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Health resolved that:
The Voluntary Action Maidstone's offer to extend their Volunteer Driver Scheme to the Malling area be accepted and a one-off grant of £1,000 be offered to support the recruitment of additional volunteer drivers.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Communities and Health Advisory Board of 5 June 2013.

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Communities and Health**

Decision No: D130075MEM

Date: 5th June 2013

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

NHS 111 Helpline

(Report of Chief Executive)

The report highlighted a number of local concerns with the new NHS 111 service and its impact on local Accident and Emergency services. It was recommended that these issues be raised with the providers and other local health representatives.

Following consideration by the Communities and Health Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Health resolved that:

- 1) the concerns outlined in the report be drawn to the attention of NHS Direct, the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, the West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group and the South East Coast Ambulance Service;
- 2) copies of these concerns also be sent to Kent County Council given their wider role in health scrutiny; and
- 3) comments from the above agencies, when received, be circulated and, if necessary, considered again at a future meeting of the Advisory Board.

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Signed Cabinet Member for B Luker
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