



Cllr Ellen Cargill
Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT

***HEALTHY HALTON* POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

APRIL 2007 – MARCH 2008

As Chair of the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board I would like to thank all the members of the Board for the continued hard work as they have looked in detail at many of the challenges facing Halton particularly in relation to Health and Social Care.

Once again we have had a busy and challenging year, particularly in relation to work with Health Partners. A number of important consultations were undertaken during this year particularly proposals and options for the future use of Halton Hospital Campus.

I would like to thank Audrey Williamson Operations Director for her support over the past 12 months

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2007/08 the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Councillors Ellen Cargill, K. Loftus, R. Gilligan, T. Higginson, M. Horabin, C Inch, M. Lloyd-Jones, J. Lowe, K. Marlow, G. C. Swift, and P. Wallace . The primary function is to focus on the work of the Council (and its Partners) in seeking to improve health in the Borough and to scrutinise progress against the Corporate Plan in relation to the Healthy Halton priority.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Board met five times in 2007/08 with full agendas for each meeting. The Board received reports and presentations on a wide range of Health and Social Care issues. These included:

Carers Services

The importance of the role and needs of Carers was again recognised this year. The Board received a report outlining plans to transfer the Carers Centres from the Council to the Voluntary Sector, which will allow the recognised expertise of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers to enhance services and funding for Halton Carers.

Safeguarding Adults

As in previous years the Board received the annual report of Halton's Multi-agency Adults Safeguarding Committee. The Council retains the lead for this important area of work and continues to establish strong partnership arrangements with agencies including Cheshire Police and Halton & St Helens Primary Care Trust.

Complaints and Compliments

The Board plays an important role in receiving the Annual Report from the Health and Community Directorate on Complaints and Compliments. It recognizes and supports the importance of learning from complaints to improve services.

Mental Health Promotion Strategy

The Strategy which was lead by Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust was presented to the Board and warmly supported. Good mental health and well-being are increasingly recognized as important in Halton and requiring a Multi-Agency co-coordinated response.

Better Care Sustainable Services

Last years annual report noted the proposals for North Cheshire Hospital Trust for a new model of Service delivery. At that time the Board requested further updates on the development of these proposals. In September 07 the board was pleased to receive a further report and presentation from the Chief Executive of the North Cheshire Trust. It was clear that planned changes were being implemented e.g. Elective Surgery was taking place at the Halton site. The Board will continue to receive reports in the following year.

Halton Health Campus

Changes in Halton Hospital has led to spare capacity on the Campus. Presentation by Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust on future options led to agreement that it was important that wider consultation with all members of the council. Strategic Project Board has been established and includes the chair of Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board. A clear process has now been agreed to progress future options.

Annual Health Checks

This year the Board has again fully contributed to the health checks for North Cheshire Hospital Trust, 5 Boroughs Partnership Trust and Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust. To ensure that members were fully appraised of each Trust position when measured against the Health Check Standards an additional meeting was arranged prior to the Board Meeting in March. Each Trust gave a detailed presentation with sufficient time for a full debate and discussion on areas of significance. The Board noted for example the improvements in compliance in the standards by the Hospital Trust. Health Care Commission notes the importance of the contribution of OPs Scrutinies Committees to Health Checks and while the Health Checks demand additional time from Members the work is valuable and informative.

WORK TOPICS

In addition to the Board meetings, Members received the following report:

- The Redesign of Day Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities

It was noted that overall good progress had been made delivering Day Services in the Community. An Action Plan to further improve Services has been agreed and is being implemented.

- Two Work Topics were agreed for 2007/08

Health of Carers - As previously stated the needs of Carers in particular Health needs continue to be a priority for Halton. The report from the work topic will be presented in the forthcoming year and has explored ways of ensuring that Carers health needs are recognised at the earliest possible stage.

▪ Services for People with Physical and Sensory Disabilities

Halton Council has contractual arrangements with a small number of Agencies to provide specialised services. These services have been scrutinised by members to examine their effectiveness. The final report will be presented in the forthcoming year.

PERFORMANCE ISSUES

Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board has received quarterly monitoring reports on Social Care performance. Performance has continued to remain strong with the following:

- The establishment of a shared Emergency Duty Service with St Helens that commenced in October 2007.
- No delays in hospital discharge due to Social Care since fines for delays were introduced 4 years ago.
- Establishment of a Joint Transition Strategy for Young People with Complex Needs.
- Increase in preventive service for example the establishment of a new Women's Centre
- Agreement on Lead Commissioning Arrangements with Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust.
- Increase Social Care capacity in Mental Health Services through the appointment of Social Workers in Assertive Outreach and Crisis Resolution Teams.

WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09

Healthy Halton Policy & Performance Board has agreed Two (2) work topics for 2008/09

- Services for People with Early Onset Dementia
While numbers remain small this is an increasing issue and will benefit from an in depth review.

- Joint Working with Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board and Arrangements to Safeguard Vulnerable Adults

In recognition of the priority this area of work must be given the Two (2) Policy Boards will work together on this work topic

Councillor Ellen Cargill
Chairman, **Healthy Halton** Policy and Performance Board