



Cllr Ellen Cargill
Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT

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

APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2010

As Chair of the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board I would like to thank all the members of the Board for their contribution to the Board's work during this year. I would particularly like to thank Cllr Lowe for her support as vice chair to the Board. I would also like to thank all those who contributed to the work topics for their commitment and time. The Board has looked in detail at many of Halton's Health and Social care priorities during this period. As in the previous year this has been a busy and challenging period and a number of important consultations were undertaken during this year, particularly a proposal for Foundation Trust status for the 5Boroughs Partnership Trust. My thanks must also go to Audrey Williamson Operation Director for Adults of Working Age and her Team for all the support given to the Board Members over the year.

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2009/10 the Board comprised nine Councillors – Councillors Ellen Cargill, D Austin, R Gilligan, M Horabin, M Lloyd-Jones, J Lowe, G Philbin, E Ratcliffe, and P Wallace. LINK representation is through a co-optee Paul Cooke. 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 aims and objectives outlined in the Council's Corporate Plan in relation to the Healthy Halton priority.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Board met seven times this year; one meeting was a special meeting to consider transport to the hospitals. As in previous years there were full agendas for each of the planned meetings. The Board received reports and presentations on a wide range of Health and Social Care issues. These included:

Transforming Community Services

The Board received two reports on Transforming Community Services including one presentation from the Chief Executive of Halton and St Helens NHS. It was noted that Halton and St Helens NHS had recommended a number of services should be managed and transferred to the two relevant local authorities Halton and St Helens.

Transforming Community Services (cont'd)

At the time of writing this report, the Board awaits more details and ratification for these proposals from the Department of Health; once this is forthcoming the Board will seek to look at the proposed changes in more detail.

Halton Health Campus

The Board has taken a close interest in the Health Campus in Runcorn and has continued to receive regular reports on the development of services in Halton within the Health Campus, and will continue to do so in the forthcoming year. The Board recognises the importance of Halton Health Campus and the need to fully utilise the resource to improve the health of Halton residents, which remains a key priority for the Council.

Commissioning Strategies

The Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board has increasingly prioritised the scrutiny of proposed commissioning strategies both from Health and Social Care. A number of draft strategies have been presented to the Board throughout the year for comment and amendment. These include:

- Dementia Strategy – Prediction of the increasing numbers of people in Halton suffering from dementia was noted. The plans to improve early diagnosis and support were particularly welcomed.
- Stroke Service – This has been of particular interest to members who are keen to ensure that good services at the earliest stage are available to people in Halton. It is expected that this Strategy will be further scrutinised in the forthcoming year.
- Dual Diagnosis Strategy – This was presented by the Halton and St Helens NHS Commissioner for Mental Health. The need for a Dual Diagnosis Strategy had been identified last year and the development of the Strategy will ensure that Halton residents with a mental health and drugs alcohol misuse problems will have their needs more fully met.
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – This has been refreshed 2009/10 and serves as the over-arching document to inform specific commissioning strategies. The Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board recognised its importance and the need to scrutinise the refreshed document.

Learning Disabilities

Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board received the 'Valuing People Now' National Three Year Strategy and noted the need to continue to enhance opportunities for people with learning disabilities to enter mainstream community life. Later in the year the Board also received a report on progress on the Ombudsman report. Halton, through the Learning Disability Partnership, has taken its responsibilities seriously in this area and both Health and Social Care work closely to ensure that the health needs of people with learning disabilities are met.

Adults Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

A number of reports have been received throughout the year on this important area of work, including the Annual Report which gave detailed information on numbers of referrals, partnership working and outcomes for vulnerable people, and further information on the Anti-Bullying Policy.

Special Meetings

Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Boards held one special meeting in September 2009 to scrutinise the proposals from the North Cheshire Hospital Trust to implement bus charges on the shuttle bus between Warrington Hospital and Halton General Hospital. The Chief Executive from North Cheshire Hospital Trust gave a verbal presentation and a detailed discussion took place on potential implications for people on low wages or income support should they need to use the bus on a regular basis.

Joint Health Scrutiny Task Group – Burn Care Services

Councillors from Halton, Knowsley and St Helens came together as a Scrutiny Task Group to review NHS proposals relating to Burn Care Services nationally. If confirmed, the proposals for the North of England would have meant that the most major and complex burn care cases would have been transferred for part of their treatment to a 'supra-regional' centre intended for Manchester. This would have changed the status of Whiston hospital's well-regarded burns service covering Greater Merseyside, N Wales and beyond, which was scheduled to transfer to 'state of the art' facilities standing ready in the new Whiston hospital building.

Members' concerns, including what they saw as unconvincing evidence of the need for change, the loss of a valued local service, risks to complementary services, flawed consultation and option appraisal, the absence of a business case and the apparent duplication and waste of constructing new facilities in Manchester while Whiston's new facilities went under-exploited, were raised and considered by the Task Group in a series of evidence-gathering meetings.

This scrutiny review raised awareness and shone a critical light on the proposals, prompting the Strategic Health Authority (NHS North West) to conclude 'that there was no compelling evidence to demonstrate that the new supra regional service would improve on existing outcomes for those patients with the most severe burns'. Also, the proposals would only be re-examined if it could be demonstrated that the NW was achieving significantly lower survival rates for major and complex burns than other regions. Referring to the NHS North West conclusions, the Health Secretary commented: 'this statement draws a line under the recent debate and takes these proposals off the agenda'.

WORK TOPICS

The Board received two Work Topic reports this year. In April 2009 services for younger adults with dementia was presented and approved by the Board with a number of recommendations. The second topic Review of Adaptations for Disabled People was presented to the Board in March 2010 and subsequently taken to the Executive Board. This review was seen as an example of Best Practice within Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board.

Forthcoming Work Topics 2010/11

The Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board has prioritised one work topic this year in recognition of the need to scrutinise in depth a very wide ranging subject.

PERFORMANCE ISSUES

Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board has received quarterly monitoring reports on Social Care performance, and also received the report on the Care Quality Commission rating on Halton. Halton Adult Social Care was judged to be excellent during this year.

Performance has continued to remain strong in many areas including the following:

- Joint Intermediate Care Services between Halton and St Helens NHS and Halton Borough Council
- Numbers of Older People and Adults continue to be supported at home
- Good shared service with St Helens for Emergency Duty Team offering emergency services to residents both in Halton and St Helens
- Numbers of carers receiving services to support in their caring responsibilities

WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11

Healthy Halton Policy & Performance Board has agreed one Work Topic for this year, which is wide ranging and recognises the importance of quality of services received by those people needing support.

- Dignity and Respect
Our Dignity Champion has been appointed this year to promote quality in service delivery and including the rights to respect privacy and dignity in the care that they receive. The Terms of Reference have been agreed and members will be scrutinising dignity particularly in care in Halton. The Dignity Champion will provide officer support for this important topic.

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