



Cllr Ellen Cargill
Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT

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

APRIL 2006 – MARCH 2007

My first priority in this report is to express appreciation for all the support I have received over the past twelve months from my vice Chairman Cllr Kath Loftus and all of my colleagues who have served with me on the Board. Their enthusiasm has been infectious. Officer support has also been vital to the Board and my thanks go to Audrey Williamson, Martin Loughna, Peter Barron Nigel Parker and Dwayne Johnson.

Once again, this has been a challenging year for the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board, particularly in relation to work with Health partners. A number of important consultations were undertaken during this year including North Cheshire Hospital Trust on services to be provided in both Halton and Warrington Hospitals, and Mental Health proposals from the 5Boroughs Partnership Trust in 'Change for the Better'.

As part of the Board's response to these consultations a Joint Statutory Committee was established with St Helens and Warrington to enable the three Borough Councils' to look in detail at the changes proposed for Mental Health Services. I would like to thank all Members, Officers and health colleagues for their efforts and support during this year. I had the privilege of chairing the Joint Committee with the support of vice Chair Cllr Andy Bowden, from St Helens also Cllrs Loftus and Inch, from Halton, McGuire and Stephanie Topping from St Helens and Councillors Hoyle, Johnson and Banner from Warrington.

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2006/07 the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Councillors Ellen Cargill, Loftus, Blackmoor, Howard, Hodgkinson, Horabin, D Inch, Jones, Lloyd-Jones, Swift, and 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 seven times in 2006/07 and received reports on a wide range of both Health and Social Care issues, which affected Halton residents. These included:

Short-term Respite Care for People with Learning Disabilities

The Board looked at a model of short-term breaks, which offered increased choice and opportunities for adults with learning disabilities to participate in activities within the community. The Board supported this model and it is hoped this will be implemented later in the forthcoming year.

Carers Strategy

Services for carers have had an increasing focus for the Council during this year. It was noted that the new Carers Strategy had been developed with the valuable input of carers themselves identifying priorities and areas for development.

Vulnerable Adults

The Board received the Annual Report of Halton's Multi-Agency Adult Protection Committee. The Council is the lead agency for this important area of work. The growing awareness of vulnerability of some adults who need additional support has led to an increase in the number of referrals and strengthening Multi-Agency arrangements.

Local Area Agreements which were established this year and which the Council plays an important role alongside its partners.

Changes within the Health Service

The changes within Health Services and reconfiguration of organisations remained a strong focus for the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board this year. The Board contributed to the Annual Health Care Assessments of the Primary Care Trust, 5Boroughs Partnership Trust and North Cheshire Hospital Trust. The Board received reports from all three health organisations, which chartered progress on government set standards. Contributions were made by the Policy and Performance Board, which were incorporated into the final Health Care Self Assessments.

Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust application for foundation status. A special joint meeting was held with the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board to receive consultation on the foundation status application. While only a few children actually access this hospital based in Liverpool, nevertheless it was important that consultation took place because the services provided are specialist and valuable.

'Better Care Sustainable Services'

The Board received a presentation by North Cheshire Hospital Trust on their new model of service delivery. The proposals affected both Warrington and Halton hospital and are potentially very significant in Halton. They were the subject of detailed debate by the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board. Regular reports on the development of the changes have been requested by the Board.

'Change for the Better'

This model for Mental Health Services was proposed by the 5Boroughs Partnership Trust. There will be a significant impact on Mental Health Services, particularly within Halton, which has traditionally relied on a large number of beds for people with Mental Health problems and fewer community resources. The model seeks to reverse this and support more people within the community. In recognition of the significance of the proposed changes, a Joint Scrutiny Committee was established with members from St Helens and Warrington Scrutiny Committee. Halton was pleased to host and chair this Committee. The Joint Board met regularly and looked in detail at the proposals submitted by the 5Boroughs Partnership Trust. This process ensured that changes were made to the original proposals improving the model of change; for example, single sex wards were identified and accepted as necessary rather than the original model of mixed gender wards.

The Policy and Performance Board noted that the reconfiguration of the Primary Trust now covering both St Helens and Halton local authorities will lead to an increased need to work jointly with Scrutiny Committees, particularly from St Helens. Changes to services are likely to affect both residents within St Helens and Halton. Positive relations were established through the Joint Scrutiny process, which will facilitate further working arrangements. Members from St Helens and Halton Policy and Performance Boards attended two seminars to examine the establishment of a protocol between the two Councils. The protocol will identify when joint working arrangements are required and how such arrangements will be established. A full draft protocol will be considered by the Board in Autumn 2007.

WORK TOPICS

In addition to the Board meetings, Members participated in two work topics:

- 'Choosing Health' in Halton was explored in some detail and while there has been some delay due to the reconfiguration of the Primary Care Trust a valuable presentation was made by the Director of Public Health looking at the priorities for Halton in improving Halton residents' health. The Board will receive a full report of the outcome of this work during the next Committee cycle.

- Day Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities
Three members looked at this area of service. There has been a significant change in the way that services are delivered in Halton with the closure of Astmoor this year and increasing use of local community centres. Visits took place to other Councils to explore the services as well as the scrutiny of services within Halton. A full report will be submitted to the Policy and Performance Board in May 2007.

PERFORMANCE ISSUES

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

- No delays in hospital discharge due to Social Care since fines for delays were introduced three years ago
- The opening and development of Dorset Gardens, Halton's first extra care scheme
- Development and roll-out of new telecare services linked to further expansion of wardens and lifeline
- Modernisation of Independent Living Team has improved waiting times for assessment
- Joint End of Life service established with Halton and St Helens PCT
- Contractual arrangements with Warrington, St Helens and Knowsley to establish an Advocacy Service as required under the Mental Capacity Act
- Significant increase and support for carers of people with mental health problems. This support was recognised by the recent Mental Health Inspection
- Establishment of a Bridge Building Service to increase access for mainstream services for people requiring additional support

WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08

Healthy Halton Policy & Performance Board has not yet formally agreed work topics for the following year, but will consider the following two areas:

- Health of Carers
There are a large number of carers within Halton and their health needs are important given their additional responsibilities
- Services for People with Sensory Disabilities
The carers has a small number of contract providers to meet the needs of this group of people. The work topic, if agreed will offer the opportunity to scrutinise these in detail and seek any potential improvements identified

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