



Cllr Ellen Cargill
Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT

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

APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009

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. 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 proposal for Foundation Trust 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 2008/09 the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Councillors Ellen Cargill, D Austin, R Gilligan, T Higginson, M Horabin, M Lloyd-Jones, J Lowe, G Philbin, E Ratcliffe, 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 six times this year with full agendas for each meeting. The Board received reports and presentations on a wide range of Health and Social Care issues. These included:

Ambition for Health Strategy

This is a five-year strategy identifying six key themes to improve the health of Halton residents. Themes include, supporting healthy start in life, tackling major killers through prevention and modernising services for vulnerable people. Improving the health of Halton residents continues to be a priority for the Council and its partners and this strategy will shape the work to be undertaken to meet this priority.

New Developments in Health Services

Equitable access to primary medical care; the Board was informed of new GP practices to be developed within Halton. As part of the National Programme there was plans for one GP led Health Centre based in Widnes and one new practice based in Windmill Hill in Runcorn. The Board supported these developments recognising the high level of need within Halton.

Oral Health

The Board has expressed interest in Dental Services and consequently received two presentations from NHS Halton and St Helens, which set out the plans to improve dental health in Halton.

Halton Health Campus

Work started on developing new services to fully utilise spare capacity on the Campus in 2007/08. Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board has continued its interest in this area and received further reports on plans and developments. The Chair of Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board is a member of the Project Management Board, which ensures that Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board is fully involved.

Annual Health Checks

Once again, the Board has fully contributed to the health checks for North Cheshire Hospital Trust, 5Boroughs Partnership Trust and NHS Halton and St Helens (Primary Care Trust). To ensure that members were fully appraised of each Trust's position when measured against the Health Care 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 the improvements in compliance in the standards by the Hospital Trust and the 5Boroughs Partnership Trust. The Care Quality Commission notes the importance of the contribution of Scrutiny Committees to Health Checks and while the Health Checks demand additional time from members the work is valuable and informative.

Social Care

Again, the Board received a number of reports on developments within Social Care and monitored performance. Reports included:

Extra Care Housing

It was noted that while Dorset Gardens provided excellent extra care for those people who additional needs while living in the community more such developments were urgently needed. The Board supported the work that has been undertaken to-date and the need for further development.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

This assessment was jointly undertaken by the Directors of Adult Social Services Public Health and Children & Young People's Services in every Local Authority and Primary Care Trust. Since April 2008 there has been a statutory duty for these bodies to work together to develop a JSNA for their area, so people put Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Health (JSNA). The Board noted that this was not a single one off exercise but was an ongoing piece of work and would continue to receive reports on further progress.

Review of Direct Payments

The Board received a report at the June 2008 and at the March 2009 meeting on proposals for some changes to the Direct Payment Policy and Procedure. A number of options were put forward and recommendations went to the Executive Board Sub Committee

Complaints and Compliments on Adult Social Care

As in the previous year the Board received the Annual Report on complaints and compliments noting that such complains and compliments were used as a learning tool to improve services. The complaint procedure will be changing in the following year and will be subject to a further report.

WORK TOPICS

The Board received four completed Work Topic reports this year; **Choosing Health** which had been an outstanding report from 2007. The Board accepted the report and recommended that the Health SSP should monitor the action plan.

Physical and Sensory Disabilities Contracts with the Voluntary Sector;

Members had participated in scrutinising a small number of contracts with specialist services to meet the needs of people with, for example, Hearing Impairment. The recommendations were endorsed and the Board will be monitoring the action plan.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults was received by the Board, a joint piece of work undertaken with Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board, this had been a valuable Work Topic in recognition of the importance of this area of work. The Chairs of Healthy Halton and Safer Halton PPB presented the report to the Executive Committee, which accepted the report and its recommendations.

The fourth Work Topic that was received was on **Health of Carers**. The needs of carers continue to be a priority for Halton and this Work Topic sought to explore ways to ensure that carers health needs were recognised at the earliest possible stage.

Special Meeting: A special meeting was held in January 2009 to ensure that Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board could fully consider and contribute to Health and Community Service Plans. This was a useful meeting offering members an opportunity to understand new priorities with the Preventive Agenda and Personalisation, and new service areas such as services for People with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Formal Consultation: Formal consultation took place in March when the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board received a presentation from a representative from the 5Boroughs Partnership Trust on its application for Trust status. This application was supported and the improvements in service delivery by the 5Boroughs Partnership Trust were recognised by Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board.

PERFORMANCE ISSUES

Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board has received quarterly monitoring reports on Social Care performance, and also received the report on the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate's star rating on Halton. Halton Adult Social Care is judged to be Three Star (excellent).

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

- No delays in hospital discharge due to Social Care since fines for delays were introduced five years ago
- Establishment of an emergency respite service for carers
- Joint Intermediate Care services between NHS Halton St Helens and Halton Borough Council
- The development of a Housing Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities
- The development of the Personalisation Agenda within Halton, particularly for Adult Social Care

WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09

Healthy Halton Policy & Performance Board has agreed two Work Topics for 2009/10:

- Joint working with the Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board: **Employment opportunities for disabled people**, this was selected in recognition of the need to increase the opportunities for people known to Adult Social Care to gain employment and to fully participate in mainstream life in Halton.
- **Disabled Facilities Grant**: This grant and its use will be fully reviewed by members of Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board.

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