

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

REGIONAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP MEETING

**Notes of Meeting held on Thursday 26 April 2007
at Government Office, West Midlands**

Present:

Councillor Steve Eling (Chair)	- West Midlands Regional Assembly
Janet Baker	- Department of Health (West Midlands)
Councillor David Beechey	- West Midlands Regional Assembly
David Clarke	- West Midlands Regional Assembly
Rob Cooper	- West Midlands Deanery
John Glassbury	- University of Birmingham
Marie Greer	- Advantage West Midlands
Karen Keates	- Commission for Racial Equality
Donald McIntosh	- NHS West Midlands
Dr Ian McPherson	- Care Services Improvement Partnership
Kate O'Hara	- Care Services Improvement Partnership
Allison Orchard (Notes)	- Department of Health (West Midlands)
Rose Poulter	- West Midlands Local Government Association
Elaine Russell	- Midland Heart
John Sharp	- BMI The Priory Hospital
Mamoona Tahir	- Health Protection Agency
Dagmar Waller	- West Midlands Regional Assembly

ACTION

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Julie Burgess, Steve Fitzgerald, Sue Holmyard, John Kemm, David Roberts, Rashmi Shukla, Gary Saunders, Catherine Smith and Chris Spencer-Jones.

2. **MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2007
AND MATTERS ARISING**

These were agreed as a correct record and there were no matters arising.

3. **CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION: PROPOSALS**

David Clarke from West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) spoke to this item and a report had been circulated prior to the meeting. This report was presented to and supported by the full WMRA at their meeting on 25 April 2007. It outlines a process for producing the action plan and proposed governance

arrangements.

At the Regional Assembly conference held in October 2006, climate change was accepted as the most significant challenge to the future development of the region and ten commitments were made.

David updated the RHP on three of these commitments:

- Declaration on climate change.
- Producing an Action Plan on climate change.
- All Assembly lead partners to consider the contribution that they can make to climate change.

3.1 **Declaration and Action Plan on Climate Change**

In November 2006, WMRA signed a Declaration on climate change and one of the commitments in the Declaration, was to produce a climate change action plan. A regional Climate Change Task Group has been set up to produce the action plan. This group is chaired by Michael Barker from Telford & Wrekin Council. The Chief Executive of the WMRA is very keen that there is representation from health on this Task Group.

A draft action plan will be presented to the next WMRA meeting on 18 July 2007 and it will go out for consultation during the Summer. The final action plan will be presented to the WMRA in October 2007.

The action plan will try to:

- Ensure that climate change is in both the Regional Economic Strategy and Regional Spatial Strategy.
- Co-ordinate existing initiatives and resources on climate change.
- Develop some regional, sub-regional and local targets for carbon reduction.

The first milestone with the action plan is to encourage all Local Authorities in the region to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration (or equivalent) by November 2007. The second milestone is to develop some proposals for the governance and accountability arrangements and a climate change executive group will be established to take forward the actions in the plan.

3.2 **Assembly lead partners to consider the contribution that they can make to Climate Change**

WMRA have recently commissioned Consultants to do some work

ACTION

on looking at all the Partnership's aims and objectives and if they are aligned to climate change. They will also be looking at

what other regional partnerships are doing on climate change.

The Consultants have also been asked to speak to Zena Lynch (WMRA) and Rowena Clayton (Department of Health, West Midlands) about what is already happening and what other work could be done on climate change in the region.

It was agreed by the RHP that Rowena Clayton would be asked to be a member of the Task Group. (Please note, Rowena has agreed to be the representative).

Zena commented that other regions do not have Regional Health Partnerships but instead, they have Social Inclusion Partnerships which includes health.

Janet stated that through the Department of Health, an NHS as a Good Corporate Citizen Network has been set up and this group has done a lot of work on climate change.

It was agreed that both the WMRA and NHS West Midlands jointly work together to encourage NHS organisations to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration.

ACTION

**D Clarke/
D
McIntosh**

4. **PRESENTATION – SCRUTINY ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY**

Dagmar Waller, Regional Scrutiny Manager from West Midlands Regional Assembly did a presentation on the Scrutiny Role of the Assembly. A copy of the presentation was circulated at the meeting.

The main points to note were:-

- The scrutiny role is co-ordinated by the Strategic Review Group and is made up of Assembly members with representatives from Advantage West Midlands and Government Office for the West Midlands.
- There are two types of Review – Scrutiny and Strategic.
Scrutiny Review – The Assembly acts as AWM's "critical friend" and if partners have issues with AWM then they should tell the Assembly who will then talk to AWM.
Strategic Review – The Assembly has agreed to hold one strategic or thematic investigation each year to assess how a particular issue is being addressed at a regional level.
- Some of the planned activities for both Reviews are:
Scrutiny – Access to Finance (a paper will be presented to the Full Assembly meeting in July). Support for Skills. Marketing the Region (this commence in April 2008).

Strategic – Post 16 Education, Training and Skills (will commence on Monday 30 April 2007. A call for evidence has

already been sent but if any partners are interested in this, then they can contact Dagmar). Transport (this will commence in September 2007). Effectiveness of the Concordat (this will commence in early 2008).

- Case Study “It’s Only Brussels?” – A summary report was circulated on this at the meeting. The region’s relationship with Europe was identified as a topic for review by the Assembly’s Strategic Review Group. It’s aim is to assess the effectiveness of the region in securing and utilising European funding for the West Midlands region. The consultation responses were generally supportive. The recommendations in the report were endorsed by the Assembly on 25 April 2007. The full report can be accessed on the Assembly’s website (www.wmra.gov.uk).

A discussion then took place about the accountability of Regional Health Bodies?

Steve Eling stated that when the RHP and WMRA have adopted the Regional Health & Well-Being Strategy and the outcome measures are set, then this may be an opportunity for the WMRA to have scrutiny role in the monitoring and evaluation of these outcomes.

Donald McIntosh stated that it may be useful to have a look at the NHS Strategic Framework when it is available as this may enable the identification of strategic issues that the WMRA may want to look at.

John Glassbury referred to the reconfiguration of healthcare services and said that there needs to be a local democratic body across the region as a regional perspective would be more constructive than a solely local one.

The RHP agreed that it would be useful if Dagmar could advise them how they can participate in the scrutiny reviews in order to bring expertise as appropriate.

When the areas of the Reviews have been finalised, Dagmar agreed to circulate them to the RHP. As part of the Review process, there will be a series of workshops for the Skills Review. Dagmar to circulate dates of these workshops to the RHP.

5. THE REVISION OF THE REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY

Rose Poulter gave an update on the Revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy. A paper was circulated prior to the meeting.

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D Waller

D Waller

Rose referred to the presentation on this subject at the January meeting of the RHP and the issues raised at this meeting were followed through and included in a written submission as part of the consultation. Approximately 1,300 responses were received to the consultation.

The Preferred Option has to be completed by the end of December 2007. A draft of the Preferred Option will be available for the next meeting of the RHP in June.

ACTION

June Agenda

6. **PRESENTATION – COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

Dr Ian McPherson from CSIP, West Midlands gave a presentation on the Commissioning Framework for Health and Well-Being. The presentation is attached.

The consultation/discussion document was issued in March 2007 and it is about health and well-being and not the NHS. The emphasis is about health and social care working together. The joint appointments of Directors of Public Health across the PCTs and LAs gives the opportunity to develop joint strategic needs assessment.

The Framework identifies eight steps to more effective commissioning as follows:

- Putting people at the centre of commissioning.
- Understanding the needs of populations and individuals.
- Sharing and using information more effectively.
- Assuring high quality providers for all services.
- Recognising the interdependence between work, health and well-being.
- Developing incentives for commissioning for health and well-being.
- Making it happen – local accountability.
- Making it happen – capability and leadership.

The consultation opened on 6 March 2007 and will run until 29 May 2007. Comments can be made at www.commissioning.csip.org.uk. The Department of Health will analyse the responses received and report back in the summer. Discussions are currently taking place with frontline staff about how to put the framework into practice.

Following the presentation, there was a short discussion.

Donald McIntosh asked who the Framework is targeted at as there are currently a number of documents out for consultation. Ian

responded to say that CSIP West Midlands have co-ordinated the process within the region in close conjunction with NHS West

Midlands, Government Office, West Midlands and other Departments. A steering group has been set up to try and pull the issues together.

Elaine referred to the voluntary and community sector and that the funding for the majority of Healthy Living Centres will cease in approximately 12 months time. Healthy Living Centres have the expertise of delivering the recommendations in the Framework but a lot of them will not exist in 12 months time. Elaine expressed the need to ensure the voluntary and community sector are included in the process so this situation does not reoccur.

Elaine mentioned a report by the Birmingham Overview and Scrutiny Committee about scrutiny in the voluntary and community sector. Janet stated that it would be useful to submit this report as part as the evidence for the consultation and also mention the work that CSIP are doing with the voluntary and community sector.

Marie Greer mentioned that AWM is being encouraged to develop social enterprises and asked how the Department of Health was relating to other Government departments at a national level.

Janet responded that there is a cross Government group for health inequalities which is trying to draw all of these together and they have been trying to persuade the Department of Health to be a funding group for RDAs. Marie stated that RDAs can fund the development and business support but cannot fund running costs.

It was agreed that either Janet/Zena would construct a draft response to the consultation for circulation to the RHP for comments. In the meantime, it would be useful if members could e-mail any comments that they want included in the response to Zena.

ACTION

**J Baker/
Z Lynch**

7. UPDATE ON THE DRAFT REGIONAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING STRATEGY

Janet and Zena gave an update on the Draft Regional Health & Well-Being Strategy.

7.1 Consultation

The draft Strategy is available on the WMRA's website (<http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=37>) and the consultation ends on Wednesday 11 July 2007. A consultation event will be held on 21 May 2007 at Austin Court, Birmingham. At this event, there will be workshops on the eight chapters of the document and they will

be run twice during the morning. The Equality and Diversity

Partnership have organised their own event on 17 May 2007. A separate workshop will take place on 22 May 2007 for people with an interest in rural affairs. They will also be looking at the Strategic Framework for the NHS at this workshop as well. The purpose of this workshop is to explore the issues and impact on rural communities and on those providing services in rural areas.

The outcomes of both these workshops will be put on WMRA's website.

7.2 **Timeline for the Production of the Strategy**

It is hoped that all the responses received during the consultation process will be summarised by the end of September. The summaries will then be sent to chapter leads and they will be asked to advise on how to respond to the points being made as to whether they should be included in the Strategy or not. The themes emerging from the responses will be discussed at the October meeting of the RHP.

An extraordinary meeting of the RHP will take place at the end of November/beginning of December to look at the re-draft of the Strategy and prepare an implementation plan.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 **Membership of the RHP**

Donald McIntosh raised the membership of the RHP as it may be necessary to review the membership to help deliver the Regional Health & Well-Being Strategy. Zena responded that the WMRA is also carrying out a review of all partnerships.

Steve Eling asked for membership to be discussed at a future meeting.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 28 June 2007 at 10am at Government Office, West Midlands.

ACTION

October Agenda

Future Agenda