

Questions for Cllr Denise Capstick, Executive Member for Health & Adult Care for Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Meeting on Mon 4th Dec 2006

1. In the Southwark Health and Social Care Integrated Performance Report for quarter 1 the main area of weakness appears to be in relation to our performance around preventative targets such as reducing smoking, MMR and flu immunisations and cervical screening. What more does the Executive Member think we can and should be doing to improve our performance? DN
2. In the Southwark PCT Annual Health Check one of the three areas for improvement on national targets that led us to receiving a fair rating was smoking cessation. Can the Executive Member say what additional measures she and senior officers are considering to improve performance and whether or not any further resources will be committed to this important target area? DN
3. Can the Executive Member tell the committee what she considers to be the 3 biggest challenges in her portfolio over the next 6 months? DN
4. Can the Executive Member detail what actions she has taken to encourage the Secretary of State to reconsider the formula to balance London PCT's budgets, leading to a reduction in Southwark's budget of approximately £22 million? DN
5. What priority does the Executive Member think should be given to combating rising levels of alcohol consumption among women, binge drinking and under-age drinking and does she have any ideas or thoughts about what Southwark can and should be doing to reverse these trends? DN
6. How far has Health and Social Care progressed in addressing the issues highlighted in the Southwark Pensioners Forum Manifesto, in particular:
 - Publicising the work of the Housing Arbitration Unit to older people and people with disabilities
 - Consulting with Asian, Somali and other BME groups about suitable care homes and sheltered housing
 - Reviewing the time it takes to put in adaptations to housing when residents have increased mobility problems
 - Concerns about isolation and depression among older people: Is Health and Social Care actively seeking social, leisure and educational stimulation for older people known to be isolated ? Is information about internet access being promoted to this group of residents ?
 - Are the problems with hospital transport being sorted out ?
 - Do you consider that there is sufficient feedback from users about the Homecare services ? Do residents from all community groups access the service and understand the terms e.g. "charging system". VW
7. What is the total number of (i) older people and (ii) disabled people in Southwark receiving some form of social care from the council and how many older and disabled people referred to social services in the past (a) 3 months and (b) past 6 months not yet assessed or receiving all the services they should be getting. AG
8. Given the concerns raised about the NHS cuts and the possible effects on council service could you say what area/s of the department or services are most likely to be cut, if any. AG

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9. Can the Executive member confirm what percentage of Southwark residents currently access NHS dental services and outline what work is being done to identify and address hard to reach groups ? DN
10. Can the Executive member detail what work and investment is being undertaken or considered to improve the compatibility and accuracy of recording systems for health and social care ? DN
11. In the light of the current integration of Southwark social services and Primary Care Trust as Southwark Health & Social Care, can the Executive member clarify the boundaries of her role and responsibilities in relation to this integrated service ? DN
12. What impact are the cuts in Southwark PCTs funding having on social services, in particular waiting times for assessment and those with 'low-level' needs in the current year and what are you doing to address this impact? How many users of these services are likely to be affected and what is their spread, in terms of age, ethnicity and geographic location? What changes, if any will be made to the provision of services next year, given the greater reduction in the PCTs funding next year? MH
13. Can you outline the range of services that will be provided by the new Dulwich Community Hospital? MH
14. What proportion of the population in Southwark has HIV/AIDs? What is the projected rate of increase over the next 5 and 10 years and how is the council preparing deal with the needs of these individuals? MH
15. Through the partnership with Southwark PCT you set out several key areas in which the partnership would benefit the people of Southwark, laid out below. Can you explain how improvements in these services have been measured and provide evidence that these key areas have benefited from the delivery of services through a partnership? MH
 - * Reducing the maximum wait in Accident and Emergency
 - * Reducing the number of hospital beds occupied by people ready for discharge
 - * Improving Mental Health services, particularly in areas of untreated psychosis, 24 hour crisis resolution, assertive outreach and improving service provision for carers and older people with mental health problems
 - * Improving services for older people
 - * Tackling drug misuse