

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

<i>Name of Committee</i>	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<i>Date of Committee</i>	28th September 2005
<i>Report Title</i>	Air Quality & Health - Responses
<i>Summary</i>	The Committee to note the updates on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the report of the Air Quality & Health Panel attached.
<i>For further information please contact:</i>	Phil Maull Senior Committee Administrator, Tel: 01926 412834 philmaull@warwickshire.gov.uk
<i>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?</i>	No.
<i>Background papers</i>	None

Air Quality and Health – Implementation of recommendations

Rugby Primary Care Trust

- 7.1 *That the PCTs, NHS Trusts, Borough and District Councils, Warwickshire County Council note that indoor air quality is just as important as outdoor air quality and continue to work towards a smoke/pollution free environment.*

RUGBY PCT CONTINUES TO WORK WITH SOMEKFREE WARWICKSHIRE TO REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF SMOKING. LOCAL DELIVERY PLAN SETS OUT PLANS TO TACKLE SMOKING IN THE WORK PLACE ESPECIALLY AMONGST MANUAL WORKERS AND IN PUBS FOLLOWING GOVT LEGISLATION. ALSO WORKING WITH SMOKING IN PREGNANCY, AND CLEAN AIR AWARDS

- 7.2 *The review supports the work of the National Respiratory Training Centre in the promoting awareness of lung disease. However, it recognises that more national research is needed to identify sources of indoor pollution, which is considered a contributory factor in the increase of Asthma in Britain.*

- 7.3 *There are increasing numbers of pupils with asthma in school. Recommend that Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee review whether Warwickshire policies on asthma in schools are sufficient to meet the needs of pupils and their families.*

- 7.4 *That the PCTs and NHS Trusts in Warwickshire should develop a working protocol with the Borough and District Councils on how best to disseminate air quality information.*

THIS HAS STILL TO BE TAKEN FORWARD. MAIN PROBLEM IS CAPACITY IN THE PCT TO UNDERTAKE THIS WORK

- 7.5 *That Planning Transport and Economic Strategy conduct health risk assessment when making traffic management decisions that may lead to increased traffic congestion, an increasing cause of air pollution.*

- 7.6 *That Planning Transport and Economic Strategy work more closely with the Borough and District Councils to take corrective action to help reduce pollution in existing Air Quality Management Areas. This to be reflected in the Local Transport Plan.*

- 7.7 *That the Borough and District Councils, Primary Care Trusts, NHS Trusts and Warwickshire County Council consider holding an annual one day conference. The aim of this annual event would be to develop a strategic view on Air Quality and Health and to establish if air quality is improving through AQMA. Suggest that the portfolio holder for 'Supporting Communities' should take to lead on this.*

I ATTENDED A WORKSHOP EARLIER THIS YEAR COORDINATED BY WCC AT RBC ON AIR QUALITY ON BEHALF OF THE PCT, ALSO SOME NONEXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF THE PCT

- 7.8 *That training courses for health professionals should include professionals involved in air quality matters to find ways of ensuring that information about summer and winter smog is passed on to those affected by poor air quality. (Health professionals and others could then advise patients on how to monitor air quality so they can take extra medication and in extreme cases stay indoors until air quality improves. This will help patients manage their health condition and may help reduce emergency admissions).*

THE PCT WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN A NATIONAL WEATHER AND HEALTH PROGRAMME WHICH WILL BE TAKEN FORWARD BY NEW MODERN MATRONS WORKING INITIALLY WITH COPD PATIENTS. THIS WILL BE PHASED IN AS WE DEVELOP MORE CAPACITY AMONGST OUR MODERN MATRONS AND HAVE CLEAR PATHWAYS BY WHICH TO ADVISE AND MANAGE PATIENTS

- 7.9 *That GP Practices/Surgeries should review how their information is displayed, to ensure that patients can easily obtain information about support organisations that could help them manage their health.*

PRACTICES DISPLAY A RANGE OF INFORMATION ON A NUMBER OF HEALTH CONDITIONS. UNDER THE NEW GMS CONTRACT ANNUAL STRUCTURED REVIEWS OF PATIENT PROGRESS ARE UNDERTAKEN INCLUDING ASTHMA CLINICS AND COPD. IT IS A CLINICAL DECISION AS TO WHETHER INFORMATION IS PROVIDED FROM EXTERNAL AGENCIES WHICH OFTEN VARY IN QUALITY AND UNDERSTANDABILITY. WHAT A PATIENT IS GIVEN WILL DEPEND UPON THE TYPE OF CONSULTATION WITH GP OR HEALTH WORKER AND THEIR CONDITION.

- 7.10 That health professionals and staff at the GP Practices/Surgeries should be more proactive in distributing leaflets about relevant support organisations to patients with lung conditions and chronic health needs. Also GP Practices/Surgeries to consider using alternative ways of providing information such as the Web or the media.

South Warwickshire PCT

Response to Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee report on Air Quality and Health

Recommendations

- 7.1 That the PCTs, NHS Trusts, Borough and District Councils, Warwickshire County Council note that indoor air quality is just as important as outdoor air quality and continue to work towards a smoke/pollution free environment.**

The PCT recognises the importance of indoor air quality, particularly in relation to second hand tobacco smoke, as a contributory factor to poor health. The PCT, in collaboration with partner organisations, is taking action to ensure smoke free public buildings (including NHS facilities) and smoke free workplaces as part of its tobacco control programme. The importance of smoke free households in protecting the health of families and children is also being promoted. The PCT is promoting uptake of the National Clean Air Awards scheme. The tobacco and smoking cessation programme of work is described in more detail in the PCT's Local Delivery Plan. This recommendation is therefore supported.

UPDATE: PCT, NHS Trusts and Local Authorities are implementing smoke free policies in accordance with the Choosing Health White Paper.

- 7.2 The review supports the work of the National Respiratory Training Center in the promoting awareness of lung disease. However, it recognises that more national research is needed to identify sources of indoor pollution, which is considered a contributory factor in the increase of Asthma in Britain.**

The PCT supports the Committee's call for further research to better understand the increase in the incidence of asthma, the role of air quality and what interventions are effective in reducing incidence. This recommendation is therefore supported.

UPDATE: No PCT action required.

- 7.3 There are increasing numbers of pupils with asthma in school. Recommend that Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee review whether Warwickshire policies on asthma in schools are sufficient to meet the needs of pupils and their families.**

Policies on the management of asthma in schools have recently been reviewed as part of the review of the 'Warwickshire School Health Directory'; this will shortly be the subject of consultation. It is suggested

that the Leaning Overview and Scrutiny Committee should take this into consideration if it takes on this recommendation.

UPDATE: No PCT action required.

- 7.4 That the PCTs and NHS Trusts in Warwickshire should develop a working protocol with the Borough and District Councils on how best to disseminate air quality information.**

The PCT would welcome the opportunity to work with Borough and District Councils to develop methods for the effective dissemination of air quality information. This initiative would support work that the PCT is currently engaged with to improve the management of chronic diseases, including asthma and chronic pulmonary disease, by patients, their carers and health professionals. The use of weather reports to predict cold periods and to instigate preventative measures is already being assessed; this project already includes the distribution of wide ranging information to patients on how to keep healthy (further details available on request). This recommendation is therefore supported.

UPDATE: South Warwickshire PCT has signed up to the weather project for winter 2005/06, continuing patient education and trying to prevent hospital admissions.

- 7.5 That Planning Transport and Economic Strategy conduct health risk assessment when making traffic management decisions that may lead to increased traffic congestion, an increasing cause of air pollution.**

The PCT strongly supports this recommendation.

UPDATE: No PCT action required.

- 7.6 That Planning Transport and Economic Strategy work more closely with the Borough and District Councils to take corrective action to help reduce pollution in existing Air Quality Management Areas. This to be reflected in the Local Transport Plan.**

The PCT strongly supports this recommendation.

UPDATE: No PCT action required.

- 7.7 That the Borough and District Councils, Primary Care Trusts, NHS Trusts and Warwickshire County Council consider holding an annual one day conference. The aim of this annual event would be to develop a strategic view on Air Quality and Health and to establish if air quality is improving through AQMA. Suggest that the**

portfolio holder for ‘Supporting Communities’ should take to lead on this.

The PCT would welcome a local conference on air quality and health and would support this event. This would be an opportunity to review progress with the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee. This recommendation is therefore supported.

UPDATE: No response so far received from the ‘Supporting Communities’ portfolio holder.

- 7.8 That training courses for health professionals should include professionals involved in air quality matters to find ways of ensuring that information about summer and winter smog is passed on to those affected by poor air quality.** (Health professionals and others could then advise patients on how to monitor air quality so they can take extra medication and in extreme cases stay indoors until air quality improves. This will help patients manage their health condition and may help reduce emergency admissions).

Training of health professionals (in addition to patients/carers) is a key element of the chronic disease management programme referred to in response 7.4. This recommendation is therefore supported.

UPDATE: As above, the PCT’s commitment to be part of the weather project for this coming winter will ensure that key health professionals know about air quality and COPD.

- 7.9 That GP Practices/Surgeries should review how their information is displayed, to ensure that patients can easily obtain information about support organisations that could help them manage their health.**

The PCT would be willing to support primary care teams in the dissemination of information to patients about how to improve and manage their health. This approach is consistent with the chronic disease management programme referred to in 7.4 but is also consistent with the PCT’s health improvement strategy more generally (as documented in the PCT’s Local Delivery Plan consultation ‘The Vision for Healthcare in South Warwickshire’). A variety of communication methods and formats are being pursued. This recommendation is therefore supported.

UPDATE: The Pulmonary Rehabilitation programme has developed a respiratory infection booklet, which includes information about support organisations.

- 7.10 That health professionals and staff at the GP Practices/Surgeries should be more proactive in distributing leaflets about relevant**

support organisations to patients with lung conditions and chronic health needs. Also GP Practices/Surgeries to consider using alternative ways of providing information such as the Web or the media.

See response 7.9

UPDATE: As above

Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy Department

Warwickshire Provisional LTP 2005 – Update on Air Quality Issues, September 2005

1. In 2002, a set of seven Shared Priorities was agreed between Central and Local Government. Within these seven priorities, transport was identified as a key area for improvement with a specific focus on:

- Improving accessibility;
- Reducing congestion;
- Improving air quality; and
- Making roads safer.

2. Guidance issued by the Department for Transport in December 2004 on the preparation of the second round of Local Transport Plans reiterated the need to address the Shared Priorities for transport. The guidance suggested that in preparing the Provisional Local Transport Plan 2005, local authorities should consider preparing an Air Quality Strategy.

3. To respond to this requirement, the County Council commissioned Arup to help produce an Air Quality Strategy for the Local Transport Plan. The Strategy was prepared in close consultation with the five District/Borough Councils in Warwickshire, and other organisations such as the Highways Agency.

4. The Strategy highlighted the following air quality issues within the County that are directly related to road traffic emissions (Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)):

- North Warwickshire Borough – an existing Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared in 2001 near Coleshill, at the interchange of the A446/M42/M6. The Highways Agency is responsible for addressing air quality issues at this location, as all roads concerned are either Trunk Routes or Motorways.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough – there are a number of locations around the inner Ring Road where NO₂ emissions are close to breaching safe levels, however there are currently no AQMAs declared in the Borough. This is likely to change however unless measures are put in place to stabilise or reduce traffic levels from their current thresholds.
- Rugby Borough – An AQMA was declared in December 2004 covering the whole of the urban area of Rugby. This extends from the M6 in the north to the A45 in the south. Within this area, NO₂ exceedences are currently occurring at four locations around the Warwick Road gyratory. An exceedence in NO₂ levels is also predicted to occur in the near future in the village of Dunchurch.

- Warwick District – three AQMAs were declared in the District in December 2004, covering Bath Street/High Street/Clemens Street in Leamington Spa, High Street/Jury Street in Warwick, and the village of Barford. The imminent construction of Barford Bypass will address air quality issues within the village.
- Stratford District – there are currently no AQMAs in the District. Monitoring and modelling studies are ongoing to identify future issues.

5. As part of the development of the Strategy, Arup undertook some modelling of air quality levels to establish the scale of reduction in NO₂ that would be required to bring exceedences within an acceptable level. This work assisted in identifying the scale and nature of interventions that would be required through the implementation of the Local Transport Plan over the next five years, and what reasonable targets should be set to monitor progress.

6. The Air Quality Strategy was included in the Provisional Local Transport Plan 2005, which was submitted to the Department for Transport in July. A Final Plan is now being developed which is due for completion by the end of March 2006. Some further work to refine the air quality targets and modelling assessment is currently being undertaken for the March submission.

7. North Warwickshire Borough Council prepared an Air Quality Action Plan for their AQMA in 2002. Work has begun in developing Air Quality Action Plans for Rugby Borough and Warwick District, in order to identify the measures that need to be put in place to address the air quality issues described above. The relevant District/Borough Councils and the County Council are jointly involved in preparing these Action Plans.

AH. 9/9/05