OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

31st October 2005

PRESENT:-

Labour Group
Councillor Harrington (Chair) and Councillor Lane.

Conservative Group
Councillor Bladen (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Mrs. Hood.

In Attendance
Vicki Price (Deputy Director, Public Health, Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT).

APOLOGY

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Councillor Murphy (Labour Group)

OV/13. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th September 2005 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

OV/14. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair reported that he had nothing to report under this item, although there were still IT issues to be discussed.

OV/15. **HEALTH AND CRIME AND DISORDER ISSUES THE PCT AND SDDC LEISURE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Chair introduced and welcomed Stuart Batchelor, the Council's Head of Leisure and Community Development. Debbie Chesterman, the Get Act Active Development Manager and Vicki Price the Deputy Director of Public Health at the PCT gave a presentation on the above issues.

The physical activity presentation commenced with a comparison of participation levels in England and other countries. It was pointed out that levels of participation in physical activity in England were very low. This was demonstrated both by age, and also by the number of times per week exercise was undertaken.

Obesity levels were also considered in England and other countries, with England having the second highest level of obesity amongst adults. Trends in participation in sport were also shown. Again, England was very low, with a decline in participation for young adults.

The presentation then moved on to looking at the work that had already been done in South Derbyshire. A GP Exercise Referral Scheme had been implemented, although it was reported that numbers of participants had declined over the last year. However, additional resources were being

dedicated to this area, in the hope of increasing usage. Other initiatives had also been undertaken, including "Walking the Way to Health", "Get Active in the Forest" and a Youth Needs Survey, where over 3,000 local young people were surveyed.

A slide showed the current funding levels; South Derbyshire District Council had committed £10,000 for the period 2000 to 2008 for "Walking the Way to Health" and "Get Active". SLM had funded the GP referral staffing costs, the PCT had funded £4,000 per annum for the "Get Active Scheme" and £4,000 per annum towards the GP Referral Scheme. The National Forest Company had committed £4,000 per annum to the "Get Active Scheme" with Sport England providing £40,000 over three years, for "Get Active". The Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership had given £50,000 over three years for the "Get Active" scheme.

Future items to be considered and developed included the Southern Derbyshire GP Referral Scheme, Open Space Development, funding a Partnership Health Development Officer, a Local Sports Network, sustaining the "Get Active in the Forest" Project and employing an additional Community Sports Coach. This would provide a good way forward for the future.

Debbie Chesterman expanded on the "Walking the Way to Health" project and confirmed that this was part of a national initiative, with forty walks each month taking place locally. Specific groups were targeted and examples included the local cardiac rehabilitation patients, Sure Start and adults with learning difficulties. Last year, there were approximately 3,000 participants in the scheme. Walking the Way to Health currently had a team of approximately thirty volunteers. The scheme had also been hailed as an example of good practice, and in May 2003 it achieved the Three Heart Accreditation. Funding for the scheme ended in October 2004, and volunteers had decided at this time that they did not wish to become a formally constituted group.

Get Active in the Forest was launched through the Active England Fund and at this time a Community Sports Coach was recruited. Examples of participants in this scheme were pupils from Pingle School, Afro Caribbean Groups and the Asian "Over 60s" group. Overall feedback for the project was positive, that it had been very well received and supported.

Vicki Price then gave a presentation on "Choosing Health – What is it?" This gave detail on the Government White Paper, setting out how health services would help to educate people about their health, to make healthy choices and to promote good health. She added that the underpinning principles for this White Paper were to enable people to make informed choices and partnership working. She then itemised the priorities for action - reducing the number of people who smoked, reducing obesity, a focus on children, increased exercise, supporting sensible drinking, improved sexual health and improved mental health and wellbeing. Other points raised in the White Paper were nutrition and activity for children and young people, physical activity, promoting walking and cycling, promoting smoke free public places and "Health as a Way of Life". The Chair asked if there had been any feedback on the GP referral scheme. Vicki Price responded that no specific feedback had yet been received, as it was an independently run scheme. However, this was considered a priority and Officers would discuss and evaluate this scheme.

The Chair understood that this scheme had been very positive and he would like to see the arrangements formalised.

The Head of Leisure and Community Development then continued with a short presentation on Crime and Disorder Funding. He pointed out that with the Local Area Agreement in place, money would go direct to the County Council and would then be distributed out to individual districts. South Derbyshire District Council could lose up to £150,000 of its current £170,000 allocation. There was a need to maintain current service provisions and funding issues would need to be considered.

OV/16. **PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Head of Policy and Economic Regeneration advised that a visit had now been arranged for 9th November 2005 for all Scrutiny Committee Members to attend a Derbyshire County Council Scrutiny Meeting. Members who wished to be included on this visit were asked to contact the Democratic Services section. In addition, it was reported that County Scrutineers were looking at the street scene and wished to set up a further meeting. Details would be confirmed at a later date.

K. HARRINGTON

CHAIR

The Meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.