

**Committee:** **Scrutiny Committee for Social Services and Health**

**Date:** 25 July 2001

**Title:** Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Social Services and Health held at 2.00 pm at Pelham House, St Andrews Lane, Lewes, East Sussex

**Subject:** Minutes

**Attendance:** Chartier Garvican Mrs Leigh McPherson Webb Whetstone

Chief Officer	-	David Archibald, Director of Social Services
Lead Officer	-	Roger Howarth, Education Department
Legal Adviser	-	Paul O'Sullivan, Assistant Director of Legal and Community Services
Financial Adviser	-	Ray Hart, Assistant Director of Social Services

2. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Councillor Lock

3. REPORTS

3.1 Reports on the matters dealt with in the minutes below are contained in the minute book .

4. [QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT \(APRIL TO JUNE 2001\) AND BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001- 2002](#)

4.1 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive, to which were attached the Balanced Performance Management Tables relating to Social Services Department targets in the Best Value Performance Plan for the quarter April to June 2001. The Director of Social Services responded to a number of queries raised by members on the progress made against specific targets.

4.2 The Lead Officer advised members that it would be helpful if notice could be given of any questions which might necessitate detailed research in order to provide a satisfactory response. The Committee accepted this point.

4.3 The Committee requested a more detailed report on Looked-After Children. The Director of Legal and Community Services would consider whether it was more appropriate for such a report to be considered by the Scrutiny Committee or by the Corporate Parenting Panel and advise members accordingly.

4.4 The Committee agreed that full monitoring reports, and not exception reports, should be made available for consideration by the Committee for the remainder of the year.

5. [THE SCRUTINY ROLE UNDER THE CONSTITUTION](#)

5.1 The Committee noted the report of the Director of Legal and Community Services.

6. [FOLLOW UP TO COMPLETED REVIEWS](#)

6.1 The Committee considered a report by the Scrutiny lead Officer and noted the proposed timetable for considering interim and final monitoring reports on the action plan for Scrutiny and Best Value Reviews.

7. [HOME CARE SERVICES AND BEST VALUE REVIEW](#)

7.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Social Services.

7.2 The Committee noted the progress made and also noted that a further report would be presented to Cabinet on 31 July, outlining proposals for the future direction of the service and for accelerating the pace of transfer of service activity to the independent sector. The Committee agreed to consider at its next meeting, the implications of the decision made by the Cabinet on 31 July and the potential impact this will have on Home Care services.

8. OVERVIEW OF KEY PERFORMANCE ISSUES FOR THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

8.1 The Lead Member for Social Services had been invited to attend the Scrutiny Committee for this, and the subsequent, item of business. However, Councillor Glazier was unable to attend because of a prior engagement and had submitted his apologies.

8.2 The Director of Social Services presented a summary of the key performance issues facing the Department at the present time and in the foreseeable future.

9. [FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CABINET](#)

9.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Social Services.

9.2 The Committee noted the report and the Forward Plan for Social Services for the period July to November 2001. There were no issues highlighted in the Plan about which the Committee requested further information at present.

10. [SCRUTINY REVIEWS FOR 2001-02](#)

10.1 The Committee considered a report by the Scrutiny Lead Officer.

10.2 The Scrutiny Lead Officer was asked to provide members with information about the 'Bridging the Gap' initiative, referred to in the appendix to the report.

10.3 A number of suggestions for possible Scrutiny Reviews were made by members and by the Director of Social Services. The Committee agreed that these should be considered alongside the proposals contained in the appendix and that more time was needed to make an informed decision about the Scrutiny Reviews to be pursued, in view of the imminent Social Services Inspectorate inspection. The Committee therefore asked the Scrutiny Lead Officer to circulate a revised list of possible reviews, incorporating the suggestions made at the meeting, for consideration at the September meeting. Any further suggestions for possible reviews should be submitted to the Director of Legal and Community Services.

11. [TRAINING ISSUES](#)

11.1 Members were invited to indicate whether there were further training requirements which may be necessary to carry out their scrutiny role. It was agreed that this subject should be considered in more detail at the September meeting of the Committee.