

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

Date: 27 March 2002

Title: Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Social Services and Health held at 10.30 am at Pelham House, St Andrews Lane, Lewes, East Sussex

Subject: Minutes

Membership: Chartier Garvican Webb Whetstone

Chief Officer	-	David Archibald, Director of Social Services
Lead Officer	-	Bernadine Bacon, Scrutiny Lead Officer
Legal Adviser	-	Andrew Ogden, Deputy Director of Legal and Community Services
Financial Adviser-		Raymond Hart, Assistant Director of Social Services.

41. MINUTES

41.1 RESOLVED – to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 February 2002 as a correct record.

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

42.1 Apologies were received from Councillors, Leigh, Lock and McPherson.

43. REPORTS

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

44. PROMOTION OF KEY PRIORITY AREAS

44.1 The Committee noted the Best Value Performance Plan third quarter monitoring report (October to December 2001) for the Social Services Department's contribution to the Best Value Performance Plan.

45. THE FORWARD PLAN: 1 APRIL TO 31 JULY 2002

45.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 1 April 2002 to 31 July 2002.

45.2 The Committee agreed that the Forward Plan should be drafted in order to ensure items such as the Children and Young People's Strategic Plan are programmed to be considered by the Scrutiny Committee before being submitted to Cabinet.

46. REVIEW OF GRANT PROCESS.

46.1 The Committee considered a report by Director of Social Services which requested the Scrutiny Committee to make comments on the draft proposals for the review of the grants process before they were finalised by the Lead Cabinet Member for Social Services and Health in April.

46.2 The Scrutiny Committee expressed some concerns in relation to the cessation of three year funding as they proposed it would not allow voluntary organisations to engage in long term planning. The Scrutiny Committee also put forward that the Voluntary Sector should be involved more fully with the establishment of the criteria although it was acknowledged that the voluntary sector had been involved in a range of planning forums which would offer some opportunity for consultation.

46.3 The Committee also agreed that it was important to communicate both to the Voluntary Organisations and members that work in relation to the Compact was ongoing.

46.4 RESOLVED – (1) to note the report; and
(2) to ask the Director of Social Services to include the Committee's comments in relation to the draft proposals before being finalised by the Lead Cabinet Member for Social Services and Health.

47. FINAL YEAR MONITORING REPORTS ON THE ACTION PLANS ARISING FROM BEST VALUE AND SCRUTINY REVIEWS ALREADY COMPLETED

Best Value Review of Home Care Services

47.1 The Committee considered a report by Director of Social Services.

47.2 RESOLVED – to note the progress made.

Best Value Review of Services for Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairment

47.3 The Committee considered a report by Director of Social Services.

47.4 RESOLVED – to note the progress that had been achieved to date in response to the recommendations of the Best Value Review of Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Services.

Best Value Review of Adoption Services

47.5 The Committee considered a report by Director of Social Services.

47.6 RESOLVED – to note progress.
Best Value Review of Services for Disabled Children

47.7 The Committee considered a report by Director of Social Services.

47.8 RESOLVED – to note the progress.

Scrutiny Review of Review of Social Services Relationships with other Agencies

47.9 The Committee considered a report by Director of Social Services.

47.10 RESOLVED – to note the response and actions to be taken.

48. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, BUDGETARY CONTROL OF THE COMMUNITY CARE FUND.

48.1 The Committee received an oral update from the Assistant Director for Social Services (Finance and Business Support).

48.2 The Committee was informed that the Project Board had been considering how Social Services applied the Community Care Fund and how priorities could be established. The Committee noted that the Scrutiny Board would be meeting on 10th May 2002 and an update report would be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee at the meeting due to be held on 20 June 2002.

49. WINTER PRESSURES

49.1 The Committee received an oral update from the Assistant Director of Social Services (Adults).

49.2 The Committee was updated about delayed discharge within East Sussex and that a Performance Improvement Plan was being drafted together with the Health Authority. The Committee noted that delayed discharge was a national problem and remained an issue within East Sussex. The Assistant Director was able to report that the SSI (Social Services Inspectorate) had appointed a consultant to East Sussex in order to investigate the situation. The Committee noted that the post was funded by the SSI.