

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTH**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Social Services and Health held on Thursday, 20 June 2002 at Pelham House, Lewes

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1. PRESENT - Councillor Webb (Chairman)  
Councillors Garvican, Mrs Leigh, McPherson and Whetstone
- Lead Officer - Bernardine Bacon, Scrutiny Lead Officer  
Legal Adviser - Andrew Ogden, Deputy Director of Legal and  
Community Services  
Financial Adviser - Raymond Hart, Assistant Director of Social  
Services

ALSO PRESENT - Roger Howarth, Best Value and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

### 2. MINUTES

2.1 RESOLVED – to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 27 March 2002 as a correct record.

### 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3.1 Councillors Chartier and Lock and David Archibald, Director of Social Services.

### 4. URGENT ITEM

4.1 The Chairman advised the Committee that he was proposing to take as an urgent item a request from the Director of Social Services that the Committee considers undertaking a scrutiny review of approved social workers with responsibility for the assessment and admission of people with psychiatric problems. The urgency arose from the difficulty in recruiting social workers in this field.

4.2 The Lead Officer expanded on the reasons for the Director of Social Services wishing to arrange for a review to be undertaken in this area.

4.3 RESOLVED – to agree to undertake a scrutiny review in relation to approved social workers with responsibility for the assessment and admission of people with psychiatric problems and to establish a project board comprising Councillors Garvican, McPherson and Webb.

### 5. REPORTS

5.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

### 6. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001 – 2002 : FINAL QUARTER AND OVERALL PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

6.1 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive.

6.2 The Lead Officer reported that there were a number of targets in the Plan where there was a lack of clarity as to whether the score assigned to it was justified. She provided some examples and the Chairman and other members of the Committee provided other examples of where they would like further information.

6.3 RESOLVED – (1) to ask the Lead Officer to obtain further information in relation to the achievement of those targets where questions had been raised over the validity of the scores assigned to them and to circulate this to members of the Committee; and

(2) to note the red targets in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

#### 7. FORWARD PLAN : 1 JUNE TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2002

7.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 1 June to 30 September 2002.

7.2 There were no items on the Forward Plan which the Committee particularly wished to consider before they were submitted to the Cabinet.

7.3 The Committee asked that, in future, those items which were within its purview were highlighted in the copy of the Plan circulated with its agenda.

#### 8. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF BUDGETARY CONTROL OF THE COMMUNITY CARE FUND

8.1 The Committee considered a report by the Project Board. The weekly control figure in the third column (Home Care) in Appendix B should be £600 rather than £1,000.

8.2 The Committee noted the sharp increases in expenditure on residential care for people with learning disabilities over the last three years. It was aware that a learning disability scrutiny review was due to start in March 2003. The officers would begin the preliminary information gathering for the review in January and make early progress on the identification of the project manager in order that a prompt start could be made on the review.

8.3 RESOLVED – to note the report of the Project Board and to approve the Director of Social Services' report on new arrangements for budgetary control of the community care fund.

#### 9. BEST VALUE AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURES

9.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Legal and Community Services.

9.2 RESOLVED – to endorse the proposals as to areas for further development as set out in Appendices 2 and 4 of the report to the Cabinet.

#### 10. JOINT REVIEW OF SOCIAL SERVICES - SPECIAL MEETING

10.1 The Director of Legal and Community Services explained that there would be a need for a special meeting of the Committee to comment on the action plan being produced by the Director of Social Services in response to the Joint Review of Social Services by the Social Services Inspectorate and the Audit Commission.

10.2 RESOLVED – to hold the special meeting on Thursday, 12 September at 10.00 am.