

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

**Date:**                 17 March 2004

**Title:**                 Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Social Services and Health held at 10.00 am at County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex

**Subject:**             Minutes

**Attending:**           Garvican McPherson Tunwell Webb Whetstone

Chief Officer           -   David Archibald, Director of Social Services  
Legal Adviser           -   Angela Reid, Head of Legal Services  
Scrutiny Lead Officer   -   Peter Davidson

ALSO PRESENT         -   Fiona White, Head of Quality and Change Management Unit, Social Services (for items 1-9)

Judi Dettmar, Quality Officer (for items 1-9)

Kate Dawson, Head of Mental Health Services (for item 10)

40.    MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

40.1   RESOLVED – to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2003.

41.    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

41.1   Councillors Lock and Neighbour.

42.    REPORTS

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

43.    LOCATION OF RESIDENTIAL HOMES

43.1   At the last meeting the Committee had requested that the Director of Social Services give a presentation concerning the electronic map being developed which showed the location of residential homes in East Sussex. The Director of Social Services informed the Committee that the system referred to above was developed by an outside provider and was currently being updated. The Director of Social Services therefore suggested that it would be more appropriate to have a full presentation and demonstration of the system at the Committee's next meeting in June.

43.2   RESOLVED – to receive a presentation and demonstration of the system at the next meeting of the Committee in June.

44.    RELOCATION OF RESIDENTS AS RESULT OF THE HOMES REVIEW

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

44.2   RESOLVED – to note how the residents have resettled following moves made as a result of reviews of individual homes in East Sussex.

45. CASTLEHAM INDUSTRIES

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

45.2 The Director of Social Services updated the Committee about the present position of the supported employees who had previously worked at Castleham Industries. The Committee agreed that it would be helpful to receive a report at their next meeting which focused more on how individuals were doing. The Committee agreed that the report should focus on reassuring members that everything had been done to support the supported employees who had worked at Castleham.

45.3 The Committee also requested that the Director of Social Services confirm by email the details of the cost of re-provision compared to what was estimated in the report to Cabinet in June 2003.

45.4 RESOLVED – to ask the Director of Social Services to submit a further update report to the next meeting of the Committee in June. The report should focus on the employees' perspective of the closure.

46. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF OLDER PEOPLE'S SERVICES: USER AND CARER INVOLVEMENT IN SERVICES

46.1 The Committee considered an introductory report by the Chairman of the Project Board, Councillor Tunwell and also the final report of the Project Board.

46.2 The Committee noted that the report would now be submitted to Cabinet on 6 April 2004 for a formal response from the Director of Social Services and would then be submitted to County Council for approval. The Committee also noted that a monitoring report concerning the progress of the recommendations would be submitted to them in six months' time. (22 September 2004 meeting).

46.3 RESOLVED – to (1) receive and agree the findings and recommendations of the Project Board; and

(2) submit the report to Cabinet on 6 April 2004 for comment and to County Council for final approval on 25 May 2004.

47. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF CHILDREN IN PUBLIC CARE : FINAL MONITORING REPORT

47.1 The Committee considered a joint report by the Director of Social Services and Director of Education and Libraries.

47.2 RESOLVED – to note the report and note that the Corporate Parenting Panel would continue to oversee activity and outcomes highlighted by the review.

48. MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT : MONITORING OF SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

48.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Social Services. The Head of Mental Health Services, Kate Dawson was in attendance to answer members' questions.

48.2 The Committee agreed that it would be useful to receive a revised plan on the Mental Health Act Assessment Scrutiny Review and with remaining targets at their next meeting in June 2004. The Committee also requested that a copy of the Approved Social Worker Annual Report be circulated to all members of the Committee by email.

48.3 RESOLVED – to (1) note the progress made; and

(2) request the Director of Social Services to submit a further update report to the next meeting in June.

49. ESTABLISHMENT OF A REVIEW BOARD TO SCRUTINISE DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE IN SELECTED BVPIs

49.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Performance Management.

49.2 RESOLVED – to agree the report and appoint a Project Board comprising Councillors McPherson, Webb and Whetstone.

50. PROGRAMME OF SCRUTINY ACTIVITIES FOR 2004

50.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Performance Management.

50.2 The Committee put forward the following suggestions for possible scrutiny reviews:

- (i) Direct Payments;
- (ii) Social Services Buildings – are they being utilised appropriately;
- (iii) Pressures on Residential Care Market/Bed Pressures.

50.3 RESOLVED – to (1) agree a scrutiny review into the area of Direct Payments; and

(2) establish a Review Board comprising Councillors Tunwell and Webb.

*(Note A third member was needed and it was agreed to approach Councillor Lock for his availability).*

51. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE VISIT TO SOCIAL SERVICES ESTABLISHMENTS

51.1 The Chairman reminded Members that, earlier in the year, dates had been canvassed with them for a Committee visit to Social Services establishments. Unfortunately it had not been possible at that time to identify a date that was convenient for the majority of Members.

51.2 RESOLVED – to agree dates at the Committee's next meeting in June to allow for possible new membership following Annual Council.

52. COUNCIL PLAN 2003-04 MONITORING : QUARTER THREE

52.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Performance Management.

52.2 RESOLVED – to note the Council Plan for Quarter Three.

53. FORWARD PLAN

53.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 23 March to 30 June 2004. The Committee noted the Chairman's concerns that the Cabinet meeting on 6 April 2004 had a very full agenda and this might mean the Social Services items would not get the appropriate consideration needed as they would have done when there was a separate Social Services Committee. The Director of Social Services reassured the Committee that all business was dealt with effectively at Cabinet.

53.2 RESOLVED – to note the Forward Plan.

54. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

54.1 The date of the next meeting was changed and it was agreed it would now be held on Monday, 21 June 2004 at 10:00 am.