

Committee: Scrutiny Committee for Social Services and Health

Date: 21 June 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: Dyason Garvican McPherson Neighbour Tunwell Webb Whetstone

Chief Officer : Ray Hart, Assistant Director of Social Services

Legal Adviser : Angela Reid, Head of Legal Services

Scrutiny Lead Officers : Mary Hayler and Peter Davidson

ALSO PRESENT - Kate Dawson, Head of Mental Health Services (for minute 6 below)

Before the start of the meeting Councillor Webb welcomed both Councillor Dyason and Mary Hayler, the new Scrutiny Lead Officer, to the Committee. On behalf of the Committee Councillor Webb thanked Peter Davidson for all his support and work for the Committee over the past year.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

2.1 RESOLVED – to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2004.

3. REPORTS

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

4. LOCATION OF RESIDENTIAL HOMES

4.1 Following Members' request for a presentation/demonstration of the electronic map which indicated the location of residential homes in East Sussex, a presentation on the website currently being developed was given to the Committee. The website, which covered East Sussex and Brighton and Hove, was being piloted by Sussex Downs and Weald and would, in due course, be rolled out across the County.

4.2 Various suggestions were made by the Committee to make the website more user friendly and, in particular, a reminder of the need for Members to be able to search the site by District. This would assist them in locating residential homes in their ward and help to facilitate their constituency work.

4.3 RESOLVED – to (1) request the Director of Social Services to take on board the comments made by Members and refine the website further to accommodate their suggestions; and

(2) request the Director of Social Services to report back on progress.

5. CASTLEHAM INDUSTRIES

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

5.2 RESOLVED – to (1) note the information contained in the report;

(2) request the Director of Social Services to present the supporting information contained in the report in table format to be circulated with the Committee minutes; and

(3) request the Director of Social Services to report in twelve months' time with updated information on the position of those supported employees who had worked at Castleham Industries.

6. MENTAL HEALTH ACT ASSESSMENT: MONITORING OF SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 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.

6.2 It was noted, in respect of recommendation 4 of the Scrutiny Review, that the possibility of using large cars or adapted people carriers was being considered as part of delivering a cost effective conveyance service.

6.3 RESOLVED – to note the progress made in implementing the Scrutiny Review recommendations.

7. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE VISIT TO SOCIAL SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS

7.1 The Committee were reminded that it had not been possible earlier in the year to identify a date which was convenient for Members to visit Social Service establishments. It was now hoped that a visit could be arranged before the Committee met again on 22 September 2004.

7.2 RESOLVED – to request the Director of Social Services to make arrangements for a visit by the Scrutiny Committee Members to Social Service establishments on Friday, 10 September 2004.

(Note: Councillor Garvican apologised in advance that he would be unable to attend).

8. COUNCIL PLAN MONITORING: QUARTER FOUR

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

8.2 It was noted in respect of KST 1.5 that the up to date figure, subject to audit, was £395.

8.3 RESOLVED – to note the Council Plan for Quarter Four.

9. FORWARD PLAN

9.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 29 June to 30 September 2004.

9.2 RESOLVED – to note the Forward Plan.

10. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

10.1 RESOLVED - to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, namely Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority).

11. CASTLEHAM INDUSTRIES

11.1 The Committee considered an exempt report by the Director of Social Services.

11.2 RESOLVED – to (1) note the information contained in the exempt report; and

(2) request the Director of Social Services to report back to the Committee in twelve months' time with updated information on the position of those supported employees who had worked at Castleham Industries (see also minute 5).