

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTH

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Social Services and Health held at County Hall, Lewes on 17 March 2005

36. PRESENT - Councillor Webb (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Leigh, McPherson, Whetstone and Woodall

Chief Officer: Keith Hinkley, Acting Director of Adult Social Services
Legal Adviser: Richard Partridge, Assistant Director of Law and Performance Management
Scrutiny Lead Officer: Roger Howarth, Scrutiny and Best Value Co-ordinator

ALSO PRESENT - Councillor Mrs Waite, Lead Cabinet Member for Social Services and Health (for item 6)
Helen Davies, Assistant Director of Social Services (for item 1)
Beverley Hone, Head of Policy and Strategy (for item 6)
Judi Dettmar, Quality Officer, Performance and Quality (for item 5)
Vicky Lawrence, Development Manager, Quality and Change Team (for item 7)
Melanie Clayton, Support Services Manager, Quality and Change Team (for item 7)
Julian Fowler, Head of Occupational Therapy Services (for item 9)

Before the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman reminded Members that since their last meeting both the Director of Social Services, David Archibald, and his Assistant Director, Ray Hart, had left the Council. On behalf of the committee, the Chairman expressed Members' appreciation and gratitude for all their support and work for the committee. He welcomed Keith Hinkley to the meeting in his new role as Acting Director of Adult Social Services.

37. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

37.1 RESOLVED – to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2004.

37.2 Under this item the Assistant Director of Social Services updated Members on the implications of the Children's Act for the work in Children's Services and the progress of disaggregation of support services.

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

38.1 Councillors Dyason, Garvican and Tunwell.

39. REPORTS

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

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

40.1 The Committee considered a report by the Acting Director of Adult Social Services. It was noted that the date referred to in paragraph 4.1 of the appendix to the report should refer to September and December 2005 rather than 2004.

40.2 Members expressed concern that the proposed survey on the image and perception that older people in a healthcare setting have of Social Services (recommendation 2.2 on the Action Plan) was not progressing because the proposal had not been approved in its current format by the NHS East Sussex Research Ethics Committee.

40.3 It was noted that the review/evaluation of the multi-disciplinary hospital discharge team's approach to the Discharge Policy had now been completed and the report would be distributed in early April.

40.4 RESOLVED – to (1) note the progress on the action points and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Older People's Services: User and Carer Involvement in Services; and

(2) request the Acting Director of Adult Social Services to write to the Chief Executive of the East Sussex Hospitals Trust concerning the recent discussions held with the East Sussex Research Ethics Committee and seeking advice as to:

- what practical steps could be taken to move the survey forward;
- the perceived need by the Ethics Committee that interviews should take place in a confidential hospital area;
- the possibility of a professional officer from the County Council being invited to serve on the Ethics Committee.

41. CARER'S GRANT

41.1 The Committee considered a report by the Acting Director of Adult Social Services.

41.2 Members were advised that the grant allocations process had been inclusive, involving carers and carers organisations. The Acting Director of Adult Social Services confirmed that the proposals for funding Older People's Respite Care Beds and Policy Officer – Carers Strategy and Commissioning Manager (Appendix 3, numbers 24 and 25) were a legitimate use of the grant and had been endorsed by the Carers Strategy Group at their meeting on 17 January 2005.

41.3 RESOLVED – to (1) note the spending plans for the Carer's Grant set out in appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report; and

(2) note that the information contained in appendix 4 to the report will be updated once the proposed Carers' needs analysis is completed.

42. REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FINANCE GRANT

42.1 The Committee considered a report by the Acting Director of Adult Social Services. A paper from Councillor Tunwell was tabled for Members together with an updated summary paper from the Steering Group.

42.2 RESOLVED – to note the current position in respect of the review of the Community Partnership Finance Grant.

43. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TARGETS FOR 2005/2006

43.1 The Committee considered a report by the Chairman of the Project Board.

43.2 It was noted that, since the Project Board had met, BVPI 58 had been deleted by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister because it did not measure outcomes. However, the recommendations remained relevant because it would remain as a Department of Health PAF indicator for 2005/06.

43.3 RESOLVED – to (1) approve the recommendations relating to targets for BVPIs 58, 195 and 196; and

(2) agree to reconvene the Board later in the year to consider interim reports on performance against targets and report back to the November meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

44. DISABILITY SERVICES: IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROCESSING AND MONITORING OF HOME ADAPTATIONS

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

44.2 Members were reminded that a Complaints Review Panel had recommended that this report be brought to scrutiny committee. As outlined in the report, significant improvements had been made and the Acting Director of Adult Social Services would be writing to the original complainant to explain how the service was moving forward.

44.3 It was noted that the new Occupational Therapy Assistant post in the Physical Disability Teams would have an important supportive role and would help to free up the time of the qualified Occupational Therapists.

44.4 RESOLVED – to note the developments set out in the report.

45. PROGRAMME OF POTENTIAL SCRUTINY TOPICS

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

45.2 RESOLVED – to (1) request the Acting Director of Adult Social Services to report back to the next Scrutiny Committee meeting on 23 June with an update on the progress of the consultation relating to the possible closure of Western Road Mental Health Day Centre and the reprovisioning of the service;

(2) delete the topic relating the move of clients over 65 with learning disabilities in group homes to the independent sector; and

(3) agree the remaining list of topics for potential scrutiny for consideration by the new committee following the elections.

46. QUARTER THREE MONITORING REPORT AGAINST THE 2004-05 COUNCIL PLAN

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

46.2 The Acting Director of Adult Social Services pointed out, in respect of KST 1.2 (Support more people in their own homes whilst retaining the current low rate of admission

to residential care and reducing delayed discharge from hospitals), that the information in the report was only a snapshot of the current position.

46.3 It was noted, in relation to Adopter and Carer Recruitment (Appendix 2, paragraph 10) that the targets for adoptions had been achieved.

46.4 RESOLVED – to note the achievements set out in paragraph 2 and the recommendations for action in Appendix 1 to the report.

47. FORWARD PLAN

47.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 23 March 2005 to 30 June 2005.

47.2 Members noted that the review of services provided at 47A Western Road, which was listed to be considered by the Lead Cabinet Member for Social Services and Health on 20 June, would now be put to the following Lead Member meeting on 18 July 2005. An update report would be brought to the June Scrutiny meeting.

47.3 The Acting Director explained that Dr Steven Jones, Service Director, East Sussex County Healthcare NHS Trust and project director for the pan-Sussex initiative on Mental Health, Learning Disability, Substance Misuse and CAMHS Services had been invited to attend and make a presentation to the Cabinet on 14 June 2005. Dr Jones would be giving a presentation to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 March and formal public consultation would now commence on 9 May and end in August.

47.4 RESOLVED – to (1) note the Forward Plan; and

(2) note the information reported by the Acting Director of Adult Social Services and the Scrutiny and Best Value Co-ordinator.

48. THANKS

48.1 The Chairman reminded Members that this was the last Social Services and Health Scrutiny Committee of the present Council. He thanked them for all their support over the last municipal year and wished those Members who were not returning well in their lives away from the Council. The Chairman also thanked the officers for all their contributions and hard work over the previous year.