

## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care held at County Hall, Lewes on 22 September 2005

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14. PRESENT - Councillor Mrs Tidy (Chairman)  
Councillors Forster, Taylor (Vice-Chairman) and Webb
- Chief Officer: Rita Stone, Assistant Director of Adult Social Care  
Legal Adviser: Jonathan Ruddock West, Assistant Director, Law and  
Performance Management  
Scrutiny Lead Officer: Gillian Rickels, Scrutiny Lead Officer
- ALSO PRESENT - Councillor Bentley, Lead Cabinet Member for Adult  
Social Care  
Roger Howarth, Scrutiny Co-ordinator  
Andrew Bruce, Policy Officer

### 15. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

15.1 RESOLVED – to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2005.

15.2 Under this item (minute 10.3 (3) the Chairman reminded the Committee that (a) the tour of Adult Social Care Social Services establishments was scheduled for 4 October 2005; and (b) Members' induction training on Adult Social Care would take place on 7 October 2005. Members should confirm their attendance at both events as soon as possible. Councillor Bentley, as Lead Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, was invited to join the tour on 4 October together with Councillors Healy and Livings who were participating in the Best Value Scrutiny of the Learning Disability Service.

### 16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

16.1 Councillors Gubby, Tunwell and Woodall.

### 17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

17.1 Councillor Taylor declared a general personal non prejudicial interest as the owner of a residential care home.

17.2 Councillor Webb declared a personal non prejudicial interest by virtue of his work for the Mental Health Association.

### 18. REPORTS

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

### 19. RECONCILING POLICY AND RESOURCES

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

19.2 The Lead Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care reported that the Department faced an additional challenge this year as a result of the break up of the old Social Services Department and consequent disaggregation of the budget. The objectives of the

new Adult Social Care Department were to ensure that the current overspend was controlled; to deliver a balanced budget by the end of the financial year and to focus on this opportunity to recreate a zero based budget. The Department would be expected to make 2% savings and, as explained in the report, the Chairman would be meeting with the Lead Members and Director of Adult Social Care to discuss savings in the near future.

19.3 The Committee were advised that the guidelines allowed for inflation of £3m, standstill pressures of £3.5m and savings of £2.2m, and the aim was to present a budget with non cashable efficiencies of a further £2.7m. The Department was taking a performance based approach, looking at invest to improve options and a lot of work was being undertaken to take this forward over the next few months.

19.4 Members noted that whilst there was pressure in every area of the service, supporting elderly people in the community was a very key pressure. Performance on supporting people with a mental health problem to live at home was good, but the authority still had too many people in residential care and a longer term objective was to achieve intervention at an earlier stage.

19.5 RESOLVED - to inform the Cabinet that the Committee:-

(1) wishes to highlight the risks for Adult Social Care, set out in the Risk Management Log in Appendix 5 (risks 14-18); and

(2) requests the Director of Adult Social Care to report to the next meeting with more detailed budget and risk management information which the Committee will scrutinise and consider efficiency savings.

## 20. DIRECT PAYMENTS SCRUTINY REVIEW

20.1 The Committee considered an interim monitoring report by Director of Adult Social Care detailing progress on the implementation of the recommendations made in the Direct Payments Scrutiny Review of November 2004

20.2 Members noted that the Adult Social Care Department continued to support children who were covered by direct payments pending disaggregation. As this impacted on the Department's budget and needed to be clarified it was suggested that the issue be raised at the next Children's Services Committee.

20.3 RESOLVED – to (1) note the updated response of the Director of Adult Social Care to the recommendations approved by the Committee and submitted to the Cabinet on 1 February 2005;

(2) request the Director of Adult Social Care to report back to the Committee in March 2006 on the outcomes of further monitoring and the challenges and issues surrounding Direct Payments over the last year; and

(3) request the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to consider this Committee's concerns about the responsibility for direct payments in respect of children which are still being funded by the Adult Social Care Department.

## 21. SCRUTINY OF DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE IN PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK INDICATORS

21.1 The Committee considered the report of the BVPI Project Board which was circulated at the meeting. Members were advised that the recommendations should refer to future consideration of BVPI targets in November 2005, rather than January 2006.

21.2 RESOLVED – to note (1) the information contained in the report from the Project Board; and

(2) that the Project Board will consider future BVPI targets in November 2005.

## 22. FUTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROGRAMME

22.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Performance Management setting out the Committee's planned programme of work for 2005/2006.

22.2 Members noted that the report on respite services listed in the programme had not been brought to this meeting because the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee had requested a report to their meeting on 23 September. They were concerned, however, that a report on this issue should be made to their November meeting.

22.3 The Committee noted that Intermediate Care had been included as an item for discussion at the November 2005 meeting and agreed that they would wish to look at this issue, perhaps in conjunction with partner organisations and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

22.4 Members discussed suggested future topics for Scrutiny Review: Mental Health issues such as Occupational Therapy; Adult Protection; Carers; and Reviewing Care Plans. They were advised that an audit of the Adult Protection process was being undertaken, and a report on the outcomes could be made to the Committee's next but one meeting in March 2006. The remaining three suggested areas, however, could be the subjects of review.

22.5 RESOLVED – to (1) note the Committee's planned programme of work;

(2) agree that a report on Intermediate Care be brought to the November meeting and, in the light of the overlap of responsibility with the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee, request the Scrutiny Lead Officer to liaise with the Chairman and Director of Adult Social Care on the best way of reporting back on this issue;

(3) agree that a report on Direct Payments, to include both the outcomes of monitoring and current issues, be included in the programme and brought to the March Scrutiny Committee meeting;

(4) request the Director of Adult Social Care to report back to the March Scrutiny Committee meeting on the outcomes of the current audit of Adult Protection;

(5) agree that a Single Member Review, comprising Councillor Mrs Tidy, be set up to look at the role and effectiveness of occupational therapy services in helping people to become more independent; and

(6) agree that a Scrutiny Project Board, comprising Councillors Taylor and Webb (one vacancy to be filled following consultation with Members of the Scrutiny Committee) be set up to review the role and effectiveness of Mental Health Carers and Care Plans.

## 23. FORWARD PLAN

23.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 23 September to 31 December 2005.

23.2 RESOLVED – to note the Forward Plan.

24. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING

24.1 RESOLVED - to note the change of date of future Scrutiny Committee from 7 March to 13 March 2006.