

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care held at County Hall, Lewes on 25 November 2005

25. PRESENT - Councillor Mrs Tidy (Chairman)
Councillors Forster, Taylor (Vice-Chairman), Tunwell and Woodall

Chief Officer: Keith Hinkley, 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
Rita Stone, Assistant Director, Resources (for minute 30)
Melanie Clayton, Support Services Manager (for minute 32)
Mark Stainton, Assistant Director, Older People's Services (for minutes 33 and 34)
Janette Lyman, Complaints Officer (for minute 35)
Debbie Endersby, Head of Learning Disability Service (for minute 36)

26. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

26.1 RESOLVED – to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2005.

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

27.1 Councillor Gubby.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

28.2 Councillor Mrs Tidy declared a general personal, non prejudicial interest as the parent of a son with disabilities in residential care.

28.3 Councillor Forster declared a general personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of his work for the St. Mary's Children Education Trust.

28.4 Councillor Tunwell declared a general non prejudicial interest in respect of his role as an observer on Eastbourne Age Concern.

29. REPORTS

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

30. RECONCILING POLICY AND RESOURCES

30.1 The Committee considered a joint report by the Chief Executive and all Chief Officers. Councillor Bentley, Lead Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, was in

attendance to answer Members' questions on the Reconciling Policy and Resources exercise. The following additional information was circulated to Members prior to the meeting:-

- details of the proposed budget savings
- a glossary of the terms used in the report.

30.2 The Director of Adult Social Care explained the background to the Reconciling Policy and Resources exercise and the general departmental context against which the savings were suggested. A significant cash increase was proposed for Adult Social Care, but it was still anticipated that demand for services would exceed the available budget, particularly in respect of services for older people and people with learning disabilities. The total savings proposed for 2006/2007 exceeded the 2% efficiency target set out in the planning guidelines and the additional savings would contribute to meeting the identified service pressures. Work was currently underway to identify further savings and would be completed in January 2006.

30.3 Members noted that a Business Case was being developed to review and modernise the Department's processes and systems with the intention of identifying further savings for 2007/2008 and 2008/2009.

30.4 RESOLVED – to inform the Cabinet that the Committee generally endorses, albeit with regret, the savings proposals for Adult Social Care services, but has specific recommendations and comments on some of the areas as set out below:

General

- the Committee is concerned that the review of eligibility criteria in the service areas of Older People, Learning Disabilities, Physical Disabilities and Mental Health is going to be difficult to manage and will need to be treated very sensitively;
- the business case is supported in principle, but the Director of Adult Social Care is requested to report back with the updated position to the Scrutiny Committee in March 2006;
- papers for future Reconciling Policy and Resources exercises should include information on the grants received by the Department and how they are used to offset the savings required so that a total budget picture is available. The Director of Adult Social Care has undertaken to report to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee with that information.

Learning Disabilities

- the proposed savings on the review of eligibility criteria should be reduced by £100,000 and recouped from the Physical Disabilities Service where there is scope for more savings.

31. QUARTER 2 (Q2) MONITORING REPORT AGAINST THE 2005-06 COUNCIL PLAN

31.1 The Committee considered an interim monitoring report by the Director of Adult Social Care.

31.2 RESOLVED – to (1) note the achievements in paragraphs 2 and 3 and the Q2 comment in paragraph 4 of the report and in each Key Objective shown in Appendix 1; and

(2) agree to re-establish the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) Review Board to consider BVPI targets for 2006/07 with membership comprising Councillors Gubby, Webb and Woodall.

32. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FINANCE GRANT 2006-007

32.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care presenting the recommendations of the Community partnership Finance Panel on the allocation of the grant to voluntary organisations in 2006/2007.

32.2 Members noted that the recommendations would be considered by the Lead Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care and Children's Services.

32.3 RESOLVED – to note the provisional recommendations made for the allocation of the Community Partnership Finance Grant in 2006/2007.

33. INTERMEDIATE CARE

33.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care concerning the effectiveness of the Intermediate Care Service provided by the Adult Social Care Department or jointly with Primary Care Trusts.

33.2 RESOLVED – to endorse (1) the Adult Social Care Department working with Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to agree consistent eligibility criteria across the county;

(2) the increased emphasis on monitoring and evaluating the impact of intermediate care services particularly the quarterly, bi-annual and annual reviews;

(3) regular reviews of residential care units to ensure consistency in procedures, workforce development and professional standards;

(4) that CareFirst is fully adopted as the complete management information system for the living at home programme including Firwood; and

(5) working in partnership with Acute Trusts and PCTs to develop effective integrated service models, particularly those that cater for older people with cognitive impairments.

34. INTEGRATED COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICE (ICES)

34.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care setting out the current position in respect of the Integrated Community Equipment Service.

34.2 RESOLVED – to (1) note the current position of the Integrated Community Equipment Service; and

(2) request the Director of Adult Social Care to report back to a future meeting on the waiting times for major adaptations.

35. SOCIAL SERVICES COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE ANNUAL REVIEW 2004-2005

35.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care concerning the functioning and effectiveness of the Complaints Procedure.

35.2 RESOLVED - to note the complaints procedure annual review report for 2004/2005 and look forward in 2005/2006 to a reduction in the numbers of complaints upheld.

36. THE PLANNING FOR AND SUPPORT TO CLIENTS, PARENTS AND CARERS DURING 'TRANSITION'

36.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care setting out the policy framework and protocols that are in place to support young people in transition between Children's and Adults' Services.

36.2 RESOLVED - to (1) note the arrangements of the East Sussex Joint Agency Transition Policy and Protocol for Disabled Young People; and

(2) commend the Head of Learning Disability Services on the excellent report.

37. FUTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROGRAMME

37.1 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.

37.2 RESOLVED – to note the Committee's planned programme of work.

38. FORWARD PLAN

38.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 21 November 2005 to 31 March 2005.

38.2 RESOLVED – to note the Forward Plan.