

## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care held at County Hall, Lewes on 13 March 2006.

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39. PRESENT - Councillor Mrs Tidy (Chairman)  
Councillors Forster, Taylor (Vice-Chairman), Tunwell,  
Webb 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 - Rita Stone, Assistant Director, Resources (for minutes  
45 and 46)  
Barry Sugg, Policy Officer, Strategy and Commissioning  
Unit (for minute 51)

### 40. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

40.1 RESOLVED – to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2005.

### 41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

41.1 Councillor Gubby.

### 42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 43. URGENT ITEMS

43.1 The Chairman reported that she proposed to take as an urgent item of business the Quarter Three Monitoring Report against the 2005/2006 Council Plan because the information it contained could not wait until the June Scrutiny Committee (see minute 47).

### 44. REPORTS

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

### 45. RECONCILING POLICY AND RESOURCES

45.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care setting out the different funding streams received by the Adult Social Care Department.

45.2 Under this item the Director of Adult Social Care also reported on the 2006/2007 Reconciling Policy and Resources (RPR) process and the further savings the Department had been required to make following the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. Members stressed the importance of their early involvement in future discussions on the policy steers to ensure that scrutiny had some impact on the 2007/2008 budget.

45.3 The Director of Adult Social Care recognised Members' concerns about the process. He explained that the Department was now working on a three year plan which

would set the framework of services for future years. It would be helpful to discuss the plan with the Scrutiny Committee and secure Members involvement at an early stage.

45.4 RESOLVED – to (1) note the updated position on the use of specific grants;

(2) request the Director of Adult Social Care to report on the Three Year Plan to the next Scrutiny Committee meeting on 13 June 2006; and

(3) request the Director of Adult Social Care to report on the impact of the savings made in this financial year to the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 21 September 2006.

#### 46. BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION CASE

46.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care setting out the progress made to date with the Business Transformation Programme and proposing that a Member of the Committee be nominated to serve on the Business Transformation Board.

46.2 The Director of Adult Social Care explained that not all assessments would be conducted over the telephone. If they were more complicated, or officers considered that a visit would be more beneficial, then they would be dealt with face to face. He confirmed that there would be a reduction in back office posts as a result of the introduction of the Business Transformation Programme.

46.3 Members noted that the Programme represented a fundamental change to the way in which the Adult Social Care Department conducted its business and considered that a progress report to their next meeting would be appropriate and useful.

46.4 RESOLVED – to (1) note the progress of the Business Transformation Programme to date;

(2) request the Director of Adult Social Care to report on further progress to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 13 June 2006; and

(3) agree that Councillor Mrs Tidy be nominated to serve on the Business Transformation Board.

#### 47. QUARTER 3 MONITORING REPORT AGAINST THE 2005-06 COUNCIL PLAN

47.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Performance Management summarising performance after nine months against the 2005/06 Council Plan.

47.2 Members requested that future reports would include a list of shortfalls on the front page.

47.3 RESOLVED – to (1) note the achievements in paragraph 2 of the report and the Quarter 3 comments in each Key Objective and Performance Service Agreement shown in Appendix 1; and

(2) express concern at the amount of slippage on some of the performance targets which may be exacerbated in the future as the result of the workload involved in the Business Transformation Programme impacting adversely on performance.

48. REPROVISIONING OF 47A WESTERN ROAD, LEWES: A MENTAL HEALTH DAY SERVICE

48.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care setting out the latest position in respect of the reprovisioning of the Mental Health Day Service at 47a Western Road, Lewes.

48.2 RESOLVED – to note the report.

49. REVIEW OF BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TARGETS

49.1 The Committee considered a report by the Chairman of the Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) Project Board which had carried out a review of the BVPI targets within the remit of the Scrutiny Committee, set for 2006/2007, 2007/2008 and 2008/2009.

49.2 RESOLVED - to (1) note the report and support the targets set as shown in Appendix 1 to the report; and

(2) note the points made by the BVPI Project Board and endorse the Board's requests for further information as set out in paragraph 2.3.

50. IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL CARE DIRECT

50.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care setting out the updated position on the implementation of the contact centre "Social Care Direct" into Adult Social Care Services.

50.2 The Director of Adult Social Care explained that, whilst he was confident that the contact centre was the right way forward, there had been significant problems in ensuring sufficient staff were in place to answer all calls. Currently there was no system in place to log missed calls, making it difficult to monitor the level of demand.

50.3 RESOLVED – to (1) note the information contained within this report and endorse the proposed developments of Social Care Direct;

(2) agree that a visit to the call centre be included in the itinerary for the Committee visit to Adult Social Care establishments later in the year; and

(3) request the Director of Adult Social Care to report back on progress to the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 12 September 2006.

51. REVIEW OF RESPITE CARE STRATEGY

51.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care reviewing the original Respite Care Strategy in the light of developments since May 1999 and the recent report by consultants from the University of Brighton looking at the needs of carers and services provided for carers in East Sussex.

51.2 Members noted that that the reference to statutory services running below 100% occupancy in Paragraph 3.1(e) of the consultants' report, related to staffing levels and transport. Measures were being taken to address the imbalance and distribute resources slightly differently.

51.3 The Director of Adult Social Care confirmed that the Commissioning Strategy would include a look at the services provided by the voluntary organisations which are grant-aided by the County Council. In the past, outcomes had not been measured and the

intention now was to measure the services delivered and ensure that value for money was being achieved.

51.4 RESOLVED – to (1) note the results contained in the report of the consultants from the University of Brighton; and

(2) agree the proposal to develop a Commissioning Strategy for Carers' Services.

## 52. FUTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROGRAMME

52.1 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.

52.2 Members noted that, following decisions made at this meeting to bring reports to the June Scrutiny Committee, some of the items listed on the programme might need to slip and the work programme would be amended accordingly.

52.3 The Committee discussed the setting up of a Scrutiny Review to look at the proposals contained in the White Paper entitled "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" which set out a new direction for Community Services. The Director of Adult Social Care explained that the White Paper had implications for the future working of local authorities, in partnership with health partners and with voluntary organisations. Further consultation papers would be issued in due course and, as there would be considerable pressure for the Department in achieving a balanced way forward, Scrutiny could make a real contribution in this area.

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

(2) agree that a Scrutiny Review be undertaken in July into the proposals contained in the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say", the membership of the Project Board to be agreed at the next Committee meeting on 13 June 2006.

## 53. FORWARD PLAN

53.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 14 March to 11 July 2006.

53.2 The Director of Adult Social Care offered to set up a briefing session for Members on the issue of Fair Access to Care Services: Review of Eligibility Thresholds.

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

(2) welcome the offer of a briefing session on the issue of Fair Access to Care Services: Review of Eligibility Thresholds and request the Director of Adult Social Care to arrange accordingly.