

## 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 June 2006.

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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: Angela Reid, Head Of Legal Services  
Scrutiny Lead Officer: Gillian Mauger, Scrutiny Lead Officer

ALSO PRESENT - Rita Stone, Assistant Director (Resources) (for item 6)  
Mary Dunne, Personnel and Training  
Andrew Bruce, Policy Officer

### 1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1.1 RESOLVED – to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2006.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2.2 Councillor Taylor declared a personal non-prejudicial interest by virtue of being an owner of a residential care home.

### 3. REPORTS

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

### 4. ADULT SOCIAL CARE THREE YEAR PLAN

4.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care setting out the Adult Social Care Department's Three Year Plan and policy, resource and performance commitments to 2008/09.

4.2 The Director of Adult Social Care explained that the Three Year Plan set out a very different way of working for the Department and a framework for the provision of services for future years. He referred Members to the Executive Summary appended to the agenda which set out the key challenges: planned improvements in performance; increases in funding from 2006/07 to 2009/10; key risks in delivering the Plan; and the action to be taken in delivering the Plan. A seminar was planned to take place shortly for key departments and a robust annual cycle would be put in place for taking the Plan forward and updating it each year. Productivity was key and the targets set were seeking to reflect ways of measuring improvements in services.

4.4 Members noted that the Strategic Health Authority was developing a three year Sustainability Plan which would be subject to consultation over the summer. It would be an opportunity for Adult Social Care to contribute and develop joint working on older peoples' services.

4.5 RESOLVED – to (1) note the content of the Three Year Plan; and

(2) agree that the commitments in the Plan should be monitored closely over the next three years and request the Director of Adult Social Care to report back to the Committee on an annual basis.

## 5. BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

5.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care setting out the progress made to date with the four streams within the Business Transformation Programme. A copy of the Programme Milestone timetable was circulated to Members.

5.2 Members noted, in respect of the support provided by the Change Management and Communications Team, that some general training could be carried out now to enhance skills and that agency staff would be used to backfill posts where necessary.

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

(2) request the Director of Adult Social Care to report back regularly to the Committee with further updates and monitoring information.

## 6. REVIEW OF SICKNESS ABSENCE IN THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE DEPARTMENT

6.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care setting out the current position on the review being undertaken by the Adult Social Care Department to establish a greater understanding of the sickness absence trends and the action that is being taken to address staff sickness absence levels.

6.2 Members considered that it would be useful if future information could differentiate between the sickness absence figures for (a) office-based staff and front line staff; and (b) short and long term sickness, as the latter could skew the figures. They suggested that monitoring the sickness absence levels for staff who were home-based could provide a helpful indicator of the possible benefits in terms of avoiding undue stress.

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

(2) request the Director of Adult Social Care to take account of Members' suggestions and report back to the Committee in six months on progress in achieving improvements in the levels of sickness absence.

## 7. DIRECT PAYMENTS

7.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care detailing the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Direct Payments Scrutiny Review dated November 2004, including a summary of other related developments designed to promote the take-up of Direct Payments.

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

(2) request the Director of Adult Social Care to report back to the Committee in October 2007 with an update on progress in the take-up of Direct Payments.

## 8. VISITS TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE ESTABLISHMENTS

8.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Performance Management confirming the planned visit to Milton Court and Social Care Direct and proposing future visits to Adult Social Care establishments during 2006. A programme for the scheduled visit was circulated.

8.2 Members suggested that it would be beneficial if future visits related to specific matters on the work programme, such as the accommodation issues, which would form part of the agenda for their September meeting. Thought should also be given to the services provided by voluntary organisations: a visit by the Committee to one or more of those organisations would no doubt be valued.

8.2 RESOLVED - to (1) note that the visit to Milton Court and Social Care Direct in Eastbourne is taking place on 12 July 2006;

(2) agree that a further Committee visit take place on Friday 29 September; and

(3) request the officers to consider possible venues for the September visit, in the light of the Committee's discussions, and notify Member accordingly.

## 9. FUTURE SCRUTINY REVIEW ON AN ASPECT OF THE WHITE PAPER "OUR HEALTH, OUR CARE, OUR SAY"

9.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Performance Management proposing that the Committee carries out a review of the provision of preventative services in the community.

9.2 RESOLVED – to agree (1) that a scrutiny review be undertaken into the provision of preventative services in the community; and

(2) that the Scrutiny Project Board comprises Councillors Mrs Tidy, Forster and Woodall.

## 10. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

10.2 Members welcomed the proposal for the Committee to spend some time outside the formal meeting setting reviewing their work to date and planning for the forthcoming year. They suggested that an Away Half Day, which had a very specific and focussed agenda, would be valuable.

10.3 The Committee was advised that the PCTs would be discussing the Local Health Sustainability Plan at the end of June and that a report on the implications of the Plan could be brought to the next meeting on 12 September.

10.4 RESOLVED – to (1) note the work programme; and

(2) agree that a Committee Away Half Day be arranged to be held on Thursday 3 August 2006;

(3) request the Director of Adult Social Care to report back to the meeting on 12 September 2006 on the implications of the Local Sustainability Plan.

11. FORWARD PLAN

11.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 19 June to 30 September 2006.

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

(2) request the Director of Adult Social Care to ensure that the Adult Social Care Annual Complaints report for 2005/2006 is included on the agenda for the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 12 September 2006.