

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care held at County Hall, Lewes on 12 September 2006

PRESENT - Councillor Mrs Tidy (Chairman)
Councillors Gubby, 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 - Councillor Bentley, Lead Cabinet Member for Adult
Social Care
Rita Stone, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care (for
items 5 and 7)
Judi Dettmar, Quality and Consultation Manager (for
item 6)
Melanie Clayton, Quality and Consultation Officer (for
item 6)
Jenny Tuck, Strategic Commissioning Manager (for item
8)
Emma Marshall, Client and Democratic Support
Services Officer (for item 10)

12. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

12.2 Under this item the Director of Adult Social Care explained that a written report on the Local Health Sustainability Plan (minute 10.3) would now be brought to the Scrutiny Committee at a later date. The new East Sussex PCT Chief Executive had only just taken up his post and would be leading a presentation on the Sustainability Plan to Members on the 18 September 2006. Public consultations would start in October and the implications of the Plan, and what was being considered, would become clearer in due course.

13. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

13.1 Councillor Forster

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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

15. URGENT ITEMS

15.1 The Chairman reported that she intended to take, as an urgent item, the report by the Director of Adult Social Care entitled Reconciling Policy and Resources: Developed

Policy Steers 2007/2008 (item 5(b)) which had been circulated after the despatch of the Committee agenda. It was important that Members of the Committee had the developed Adult Social Care policy steers before them in considering the Reconciling Policy and Resources item.

16. REPORTS

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

17. RECONCILING POLICY AND RESOURCES

17.1 The Committee considered:

- (a) a report by the Chief Executive and all Chief Officers seeking the Committee's views on the policy steers for the services under its purview;
- (b) a report by the Director of Adult Social Care setting out proposed amendments to the 2006/2007 Adult Social Care policy steers;
- (c) a report by the Director of Adult Social Care detailing progress with the Reconciling Policy and Resources 2006/2007 budget implementation.

17.2 Members were advised that (a) above was, at this stage, a generic report to all the Scrutiny Committees setting out the framework for the Reconciling Policy and Resources process and further input would be made by the Committees over the coming months.

17.3 In noting the aims of the Community Health and Social Care White Paper, *Our Health, Our Care, Our Say*, and the development of a strategy for improving healthcare across Surrey and Sussex by the Strategic Health Authority (Appendix 2 to the report), Members suggested that it would be helpful to consider the feasibility of inviting partners to participate in Board and Committee meetings to improve joint working and shared accountability. It was agreed that the legal position in taking forward this proposal should be investigated.

17.4 The Director of Adult Social Care explained that, in addition to the two proposed changes to the policy steers set out in his report on (b) above, a further amendment was proposed in respect of the final policy steer set out in Appendix A ("Continue to improve joint working with Health, Housing, Independent and Voluntary sectors"). That steer would be replaced by the final policy steer set out in Appendix B to the report – "Lead improvements to the well-being of local communities across East Sussex through joint working with all our partners." At Members' request the Director of Adult Social Care undertook to amend the wording of the policy steer "Ensure effective transition from Children's Services to Adult Social Care" to clarify that it referred to **all** clients.

17.5 In response to concerns expressed by Members, the Director of Adult Social Care stressed that the policy steers would be broken down, where required, into very specific, measurable actions and outcomes which would be monitored and form the Adult Social Care contribution to the Council Plan.

17.6 Members were also concerned about the lack of progress in some areas of the Reconciling Policy and Resources 2006/2007 budget implementation to date, as set out in the report on (c) above. In particular, it was noted that funding would not be released to the community care budget until savings were made. The Director of Adult Social Care undertook to report further on progress to their next meeting.

17.7 **RESOLVED** - to (1) note the State of the County report agreed by Cabinet on 1 August 2006 and, in particular, the architecture for the Reconciling Policy and Resources process this year;

(2) agree to set up a Scrutiny Board to be empowered to act on behalf of the Committee with regard to future input into the Reconciling Policy and Resources process this year and, in particular, to meet on 18 December 2006 (and possibly again in January 2007) to consider the emerging Three Year Plan;

(3) agree that the membership of the Scrutiny Board should comprise all Members of the Committee who wish to attend the Board meeting which is scheduled to be held at 10.00am on 18 December 2006;

(4) request the Officers to investigate the legal position in respect of inviting partners to participate in future Board and Committee meetings;

(5) agree the amended policy steers for 2007/2008 subject to adjustments to reflect the specific points made by Members;

(6) note the progress of the Reconciling Policy and Resources 2006/2007 budget implementation to date and request the Director of Adult Social Care to report further to the next meeting on the progress of the 2006/2007 budget implementation.

18. SURVEY ON IMAGE AND PERCEPTION THAT OLDER PEOPLE IN A HEALTH CARE SETTING HAVE OF SOCIAL SERVICES

18.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social detailing the findings, outcomes and recommendations arising from the Image and Perception Survey, carried out with the aim of ascertaining the part that image and perception of Social Services played in the apparent failure of older people to take up services.

18.2 Members noted that only a small sample of patients had been surveyed because of the difficulties involved in accessing them in a hospital setting. They suggested that take up of services could be increased by disseminating information on services in a variety of places, such as doctors' surgeries and hospital clinics, and by using a variety of methods, such as advertisement screens as well as leaflets.

18.3 RESOLVED – to (1) note and endorse the findings and recommendations of the Image and Perception Survey; and

(2) request the Director of Adult Social Care to take account of the suggestions made by Members for improving the take up of services by older people.

19. BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

19.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care detailing the progress made on the Business Transformation Programme to date.

19.2 RESOLVED – to note the progress of the Business Transformation Programme to date and thank the staff involved in working on this initiative.

20. SUPPORTED HOUSING UPDATE

20.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care explaining how the Council is maximising the potential of supported housing to meet strategic aims and individuals' needs

20.2 RESOLVED – to note the progress made by the Department to increase the supply of housing based options and housing related support for vulnerable adults in East Sussex.

21. QUARTER FOUR MONITORING AGAINST THE 2005-06 COUNCIL PLAN

21.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Personnel setting out an end of year summary of performance measures which had scored red in the fourth quarter against the 2005/2006 Council Plan.

21.2 The Director of Adult Social Care explained that, within the Department, a colour coded summary of information on performance indicators was collated annually. He suggested that Members might find the summary useful and undertook to circulate it to the Committee.

21.3 RESOLVED – to (1) note the achievements during 2005/06 and the end of year performance results;

(2) agree to establish a Scrutiny Review Board to investigate in detail a number of critical performance indicators and report back to the next meeting with findings and recommendations; and

(3) agree that the membership of the Scrutiny Review Board should comprise Councillors Mrs Tidy, Gubby and Webb.

22. FUTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROGRAMME

22.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Personnel setting out the Committee's planned programme of work for the forthcoming year.

22.2 The Client and Democratic Support Services Officer circulated copies of the itinerary for the Members' visits to Adult Social Care establishments on 29 September 2006. It was noted that the last visit of the day, scheduled for William Daly Centre in Polegate, might not now be possible because the flat was likely to be occupied. It was, therefore, agreed to defer visiting William Daly Centre to a future date. Members confirmed their attendance and final travel and pick up arrangements.

22.3 RESOLVED – to (1) note the work programme;

(2) agree that the report on the Age Well project should be brought to the March 2007 meeting, rather than in November 2006; and

(3) note the arrangements for the Members' visits to Adult Social Care establishments on 29 September 2006.

23. FORWARD PLAN

23.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 12 September to 31 December 2006 and noted that the Adult Social Care Annual Complaints report would be brought to the next Committee meeting on 21 November 2006.

23.2 The Director of Adult Social Care explained that the report on the review of the Day Centre at Avis Way, Newhaven, listed on the Plan to be considered by Cabinet on 16 September 2006, had been deferred and would now be put to Cabinet on 12 December 2006. It had been decided to defer the report to enable a longer formal period of

consultation to be carried out and ensure that all parties were involved in the consultations before any decisions were made.

23.3 RESOLVED – to note the Forward Plan.