

## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care held at County Hall, Lewes on 15 March 2007

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PRESENT - Councillor Mrs Tidy (Chairman)  
Councillors Forster, Murphy, Taylor (Vice-Chairman),  
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 - Nick Yeo, Chief Executive East Sussex Downs and  
Weald PCT and Hastings and Rother PCT for item 5  
(see Minute no 42 below).  
Councillor Healy  
Marion Johnson, Head of Service (Safeguarding Adults)  
for item 6 ( see Minute no 43 below)

### 37. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

37.1 RESOLVED to (1) confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 21 November 2006 and 16 January 2007 and (2) note the minutes of the Reconciling Policy and Resources Board meeting held on 18 December 2006 and the Directly Provided Services Board held on 26 January 2007.

### 38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

38.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Gubby and Tunwell.

### 39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

39.1 Councillor Taylor declared a personal interest on any item on the agenda relating to residential care homes due to the fact that he was involved in running and managing a residential care home. Councillor Taylor did not regard the interest as prejudicial.

### 40. URGENT ITEM

40.1 The Chairman agreed to take as an urgent item the Quarter 3 update of the IDeA Corporate Peer Review. The Chairman agreed to take this as an urgent item because it needed to be considered alongside the Quarter 3 Monitoring report against the Council Plan which was already included on the agenda.

### 41. REPORTS

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

42. LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK – UPDATE ON THE HEALTH ECONOMY

42.1 The Committee received a presentation by the Nick Yeo, Chief Executive, East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT and Hastings and Rother PCT. The presentation concentrated on joint commissioning arrangements and practice based commissioning.

42.2 The PCT Chief Executive explained to the Committee that together with Adult Social Care there was now a clear sense of joint strategic priorities and that the aim between the partners was also to continue to improve upon joint planning and working arrangements.

42.3 The PCT Chief Executive and the Director of Adult Social Care also informed the Committee that together they were concentrating on the needs of the local communities and further developing commissioning arrangements. Throughout this process the partners were monitoring and making decisions about how further integration may actually work between them. It was also hoped that a joint commissioning strategy would increase transparency.

42.4 The Committee expressed some concern about how joined up performance targets were between Adult Social Care and Health. The PCT Chief Executive explained that at present only a few targets were linked, particularly around delayed transfers of care. It was recognised that in the future targets would not be the only tool against which services are judged.

42.5 The Committee acknowledged that the working relationship between Adult Social Care and Health was much improved.

42.5 RESOLVED to note the presentation.

43. AUDIT OF SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS SERVICE (ADULT PROTECTION)

43.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care which proposed an audit of the service and made recommendations in relation to the future development of the service in light of the increased referrals. Marion Johnson, Head of Service (Safeguarding Adults) was also in attendance for this item.

43.2 The Committee suggested that when collecting data on vulnerable adults the range of 18-64 was too wide to have any significance. The Committee requested that some work be carried out within the audit around the breaking down of this data into more specific age ranges.

43.3 The Committee noted the different amounts of referrals per head of population at different authorities and it was recognised that this could be due to different thresholds and ways of reporting these matters. The Director of Adult Social Care explained that the audit would be investigating these issues and looking at best practice in other authorities.

43.4 The Committee also requested that the Director of Adult Social Care make it clear within the Project Initiation Document that the statistics collected also included incidents against unpaid informal carers.

43.5 RESOLVED – to (1) note the appointment of a Project Manager with administrative support to undertake a review of the present position in safeguarding services; and

(2) receive a further report in November 2007 detailing future recommendations to enable Adult Social Care to respond appropriately to the increase in demand for investigation where a vulnerable adult is alleged as having been abused.

44. ADULT SOCIAL CARE DEPARTMENTAL SICKNESS ABSENCE LEVELS

44.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care which updated the Committee about the current sickness levels within the department and what impact policies and initiatives have had on previous levels of sickness.

44.2 The Committee suggested that some of the statistics should be broken down even further in order that difference in sickness levels could be seen between office based workers and those workers who worked within the community. The Director of Adult Social Care informed the Committee that this work was being done and the results would be forwarded to the Committee.

44.3 RESOLVED – to (1) note the content of the report and the progress made to date in relation to the Department's sickness absence levels;

(2) request that a further report come back to the Committee in a years time.

45. A REVIEW OF THE SECTION 31 AGREEMENT AND POOLED BUDGET ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

45.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care which reviewed the benefits of the Section 31 agreement and pooled budget arrangements for community placements for people with a learning disability.

45.2 RESOLVED – to note the report and support the continuation of the Section 31 agreement.

46. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING (Q3) REPORT AGAINST THE COUNCIL PLAN

46.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Policy and Communications which provided an update on performance against the Council Plan for the third quarter of 2006/07. The Committee also considered the quarter 3 update on the IDeA corporate Peer Review Action Plan which was circulated as an urgent item at the meeting.

46.2 The Committee sought further clarification concerning the indicator about the percentage of new older clients who had their assessment started within 48 hours and completed within 4 weeks of contacting the Department. The Director of Adult Social Care informed the Committee that this was a target which was monitored on a fortnightly basis and was confident that this target would be reached. Business Transformation would address this area and the new Care Management Strategy which was due to come in next year would also help with this target.

46.3 RESOLVED – to (1) note the achievements made by the Adult Social Care Department; and

(2) note the progress to date from the IDeA Corporate Peer Review Action Plan.

47. FUTURE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

47.1 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.

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

48. FORWARD PLAN

48.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 26 March 2007 to 10 July 2007.

48.2 RESOLVED to note the Forward Plan.