

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care held at County Hall, Lewes on 3 July 2007

PRESENT - Councillor Gubby (Chairman)
Councillors Forster, Taylor (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Tidy,
Tunwell 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 Member for Adult Social Care
Barry Atkins, Head of Service (Strategic Commissioning)
for item 5. (See Minute no 5)
Samantha Carr, Head of Performance and Engagement
for item 6. (See Minute no 6).

Before the start of the meeting the Chairman thanked Councillor Mrs Tidy for all her work as Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care and wished her well in her new role as Chairman of the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee.

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1.1 RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 15 March 2007.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Webb

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 Councillor Taylor declared a personal interest in item 5 in that he was a co-owner of a residential care home.

4. REPORTS

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

5. EASTBOURNE LOCALITY – OLDER PEOPLES HOUSING AND SUPPORT STRATEGY

5.1 The Committee received a report by the Director of Adult Social Care. Barry Atkins, Head of Service (Strategic Commissioning) was in attendance to answer any of the Members' questions.

5.2 The Members noted that this Strategy was a huge step forward and had brought local partners together. The Locality Group was made up of all key agencies and each

had brought with them their knowledge of user needs and outcomes from consultation work they have already carried out within their own organisations. It was acknowledged that it had been a difficult process to agree a single approach and that it had taken two years to reach this point. The Strategy was seen as a process to now take matters even further forward. It was hoped that by having a strategic approach, the partners would also be better placed to bid for additional funding.

5.3 The Members noted that work was still needed to establish who would be doing a particular piece of work as outlined in the Strategy and at what stage. This detail would be outlined in action plans which would be developed and then lie behind the Strategy. These plans would be used by the Locality Group to monitor progress and to hold to account the agencies who do not deliver. The Strategy was seen as a new approach and the Locality Group was therefore looking for validation.

5.4 In response to queries from Members it was confirmed that:

- The Strategy is a vision that all agencies have signed up to. It represents a direction of travel for all those involved and it ensures that services provided in the future are all heading in the same direction.
- Without the Strategy the department would not have the mandate to do any further work and commit resources in this area.
- The Strategy represents what is already in the department's three year plan.

5.5 The Committee also raised some general comments about the wording of the action plan and asked that all acronyms be in full. Members also requested that the wording around the Kent Telehealth pilot be made clearer.

5.4 RESOLVED – to (1) endorse the current consultation arrangements; and

(2) the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care to contribute to the consultation process and to be involved in monitoring the outcomes of this Strategy and all future Locality Housing and Support Strategies as they are developed; and

(3) to request Eastbourne Borough Council to be asked to consider bringing in a 40% minimum for affordable housing on new developments prior to national legislation in 2008.

6. CSCI INSPECTION OF OLDER PEOPLE'S SERVICES

6.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care detailing progress against the inspection action plan. Samantha Carr, Head of Performance and Engagement was in attendance to answer any queries from Members.

6.2 Members raised concerns about the high level of information within the action plan and how all the different areas would be monitored. Members were reassured that there would be links in with all the Project Managers from all the different pieces of work. For example with the Older People Commissioning Strategy there would be a link in with the project manager to provide evidence. It was further noted that each workstream had its own plans and objectives.

6.3 Members also noted that work had begun to start engaging more with hard to reach groups, such as the lesbian/gay community in East Sussex. At the moment this work was focusing on establishing what these communities experiences had been when dealing with Adult Social Care in the past.

6.4 The Members also noted that the Adult Social Care Department was aligning its business planning timetable with health. This shared timetable would be manageable for the Adult Social Care Department, but health partners were going to find this very challenging

6.5 RESOLVED – to note progress against the Inspection action plan.

7. FUTURE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 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.

7.2 The Members agreed that the report on direct payments should be delayed until next year and should include some form of consultation or discussion with users of direct payments. This delay would allow the views of some older people, who are starting to use direct payments to manage their own home care packages, to be included.

7.3 The process for aligning the ASC business plan with health was suggested as an area to scrutinise later in the year to assess how successful it had been and if any improvements to the process could be made. This would be added to the timetable at a suitable point.

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

8. FORWARD PLAN

8.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 1 July 2007 to 31 October 2007.

8.2 RESOLVED to note the Forward Plan.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.