

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 June 2008

PRESENT - Councillor Gubby (Chairman)
Councillors Forster, Taylor (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Tidy, 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 Healy
- Councillor Bentley
- Jessie McArthur - Head of Policy and Service Development
- Janet Colvert – Chair of LINK Interim Core Group
- Susanne Crosby – Performance Manager
- Jan Tree- Project Manager - Safeguarding Adults
- Marion Johnson - Head of Service Safeguarding Adults

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1.1 RESOLVED to (1) confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 27 March 2008.

(2) confirm the notes of the Directly Provided Services Board held on 30 April 2008.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Tunwell.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 Councillor Taylor declared a personal non prejudicial interest as he was involved in the re-launch of Occupational Health and Physiotherapy (at his care home?) in Eastbourne.

3.2 Councillors Healy and Woodall declared personal non prejudicial interests as they were Age Concern trustees.

4. REPORTS

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

5. TRANSPORT ELIGIBILITY POLICY

5.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care on the creation of an eligibility criteria for the provision of transport to and from services for Adult Social Care users.

5.2 Members were advised that the formal consultation for the Policy had run for 12 weeks and had included service users, carers, key stakeholders and representative voluntary organisations. A total of 280 responses had been received, with the largest group of respondees being older people.

5.3 The Committee was informed that demand for transport will increase in future years. This was not just as a result of an ageing population requiring more services, but also due to a broadening of the range of services being provided. The aim of the eligibility criteria was not to make savings, but to rationalise provision in future years in a fair and consistent way.

5.4 The Putting People First (PPF) agenda also meant that as services became more personalised, and clients moved away from traditional day services to attend different activities, the demand for transport would also increase. It was acknowledged that personalised budgets may need to contain an element of resources to be used for transporting a client to activities.

5.5 Members raised the following points:

- If carers were required to transport their cared for person to activities this could impinge on their respite break. This could have a knock on effect to their ability to care for the person in the long term.
- Flexibility needed to be included within the criteria to ensure that clients would not be denied services due to the withdrawal of transport provision.
- Concerns were raised about how this eligibility criteria would fit in with the Green agenda, as it was likely to lead to more cars on the roads transporting clients to separate activities.
- It was suggested that where the criteria made reference to a £1 charge, it should also state that it would be subject to a regular review.

5.6 RESOLVED that the following changes be made to the document before it is considered by the Lead Member on 15 July 2008:

- Summary - to include a statement saying that 'a decision on the eligibility for transport would be made during an Adult Social Care Assessment or Review'
- Transport to day centres - to read 'The department will provide transport when it would place an unreasonable additional responsibility on family or other carers. It will also take into account...' and then list the remaining three bullet points contained within the report.

6. CSCI INSPECTION

6.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care that informed Members of the forthcoming CSCI inspection in July 2008.

6.2 It was reported that the inspection would focus on two main themes: access to preventative services and safeguarding. In addition the inspection would also be looking at leadership and commissioning.

6.3 In comparison to previous years, there would be a different emphasis with this inspection. The inspectors would want to see how the County Council was working across departments and would be looking at what people know about the services that the department provides.

6.4 RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

7. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PREVENTATIVE SERVICES

7.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care that provided information on the progress of recommendations following the scrutiny review on Preventative Services in 2007. Jessie McArthur was in attendance to address any questions from Members.

7.2 A wellbeing handbook called 'Forward from 50 – A guide to later life in East Sussex' had been finalised in March 2008. There was a comprehensive distribution of the booklet planned, to include libraries, agencies distributing community information and GP surgeries.

7.3 An independent evaluation of the Telecare service was currently being conducted and Members were provided with the phase 1 report, which gave an overview of activity and stakeholder views to date.

7.3 RESOLVED to note the progress of the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review.

8. PERFORMANCE UPDATE – CSCI INDICATORS

8.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care that provided an overview of performance during 2007/08. Susanne Crosby was in attendance to address any questions from Members.

8.2 Performance had previously been raised as an issue by CSCI and the department was able to demonstrate that there had been significant improvements in performance over the past year. The ability to make these improvements had been due to an improvement in information systems monitoring performance and better clarity with staff on what the department was aiming to achieve.

8.3 RESOLVED to note the contents of the report and to congratulate staff on their hard work.

9. SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS AUDIT

9.1 The Committee considered a report from the Chairman of the Tabletop Scrutiny Review Board of Improvements to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults. Jan Tree and Marion Johnson attended the meeting and answered any questions from Members.

9.2 It was acknowledged that the subject area was particularly challenging and that greater publicity was needed to increase awareness of what constituted abuse and how people could guard against becoming an abuser.

9.3 Members were assured that the Safeguarding Service worked closely with other departments to avoid abuse taking place, such as through rogue traders and taxis providers.

9.4 RESOLVED to (1) note the work of the tabletop review board and

(2) request an update report back to the Scrutiny Committee in 12 months on the development of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Service.

10. RESPITE REVIEW UPDATE

10.1 The Committee considered a report from the Chairman of the Tabletop Scrutiny Review Board for the Provision of Short Term Residential Respite Care that provided an update on the work of the review board.

10.2 RESOLVED to (1) note the work of the tabletop review board and

(2) request an update report on respite provision to the November 2008 committee meeting.

11. FUTURE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

11.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Personnel setting out the Committee's work programme.

11.2 Members were reminded that the Directly Provided Services visits would be taking place on 19 June 2008.

11.3 RESOLVED to (1) carry out a table top review on the Integrated Community Equipment Services (ICES). Membership of this review board to be Councillors Taylor, Tidy and Woodall and a co-opted Member, possibly Janet Colvert from LINK;

(2) carry out a table top review of employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities. Membership of this review board to be Councillors Forster, Tunwell and Webb

12. FORWARD PLAN

12.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 1 June 30 September 2008.

12.2 RESOLVED to note the Forward Plan.

13 ANY OTHER NON EXEMPT ITEMS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED

REVISED STRATEGY FOR CARERS

13.1 The Committee considered a verbal report from the Director of Adult Social Care that provided an update on the revised strategy for carers.

13.2 Members were advised that the Strategy focussed on the next 10 years and that the Government had allocated new money to this: £150m for short term breaks, £38m to support carers return to work and £6m to young carers. It was not clear yet how funding would be drawn down, although East Sussex could expect to receive £1.2m.

13.3 RESOLVED to have an update report to the September meeting on this issue

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.30 pm.