

## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care held at County Hall, Lewes on 11 September 2008

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PRESENT - Councillor Gubby (Chairman)  
Councillors Forster, Taylor (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Tidy, 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  
- Janet Colvert – Chair of LINK Interim Core Group  
- Elizabeth Mackie – LINK Manager  
- Mark Stainton - Assistant Director Operations, Commissioning  
- Julian Fowler - Three Year Plan Co-ordinator  
- Sue Dean – Interim Head of Supporting People  
- Cheryl Bone - Project Manager, Commissioning

### 14. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

14.1 RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 12 June 2008.

### 15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

15.1 Councillor Taylor declared a personal non prejudicial interest as he was a residential care home owner and involved in the re-launch of Occupational Health and Physiotherapy in Eastbourne.

### 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 report from the Director of Law and Personnel that provided the detailed planning of the Reconciling Policy and Resources process for 2009/10 and beyond as outlined in the State of the County report.

17.2 Members were advised that ways were being explored to rework the current policy steers for Adult Social Care to ensure that they took account of the Governments Putting People First Programme. A first draft of these was provided to members for information.

17.3 It was noted that there had been a marked improvement in performance in 2007/08 and gains in efficiencies in services. However, the department had challenging targets to meet in the future within the national indicator set. Such as increased targets for uptake of direct payments and individual budgets and the provision of information and advice to carers.

17.4 The department was in a reasonable financial situation, owing to the efficiencies made in 2007/08. However, inflation and increased costs would have an impact on the budget for the forthcoming year. Care costs had already risen by 3.8% and would be even higher by the end of the financial year. Three year contracts for energy supplies were also coming to an end and there would be large rises in future bills.

17.5 The programme of change for the department in the forthcoming year was going to be bigger than previous changes they had managed. The risk to the department would be to maintain current services whilst developing future programmes.

17.6 RESOLVED - to (1) note the contents of the report

(2) establish a Scrutiny Board which is empowered to act on behalf of the Committee to provide input into the RPR process, and in particular to consider the proposed portfolio plan. This board would meet on 4 December 2008 at 2pm.

18. STAFF AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE PLANNING AND RECONCILING POLICY AND RESOURCES PROCESS

18.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care that updated Members on the progress made in staff and stakeholder engagement over the last year. Julian Fowler was in attendance to address any questions from Members.

18.1 Members were advised that there was an expectation from the ASC three year plan and CSCI for extensive stakeholder engagement. Consequently five locality based engagement events had been held in each district and borough of East Sussex in October and November 2007. Representatives including those from ASC, PCT staff, carers and service users and independent sectors providers were invited to attend.

18.2 Further events would be held in December 2008 where outcomes from last years events would feed back, as well as information around Putting People First.

18.3 The ASC Management team had also hosted five staff engagement events in April and May 2008 that 350 members of staff had attended.

18.4 The number of service users attending the events had not been huge and inevitably there were some gaps in the communities that were reached. However, it was highlighted that some groups, such as travellers or black and ethnic minorities were more easily reached through user reference groups rather than these events.

18.5 RESOLVED - to (1) note the programme of engagement

(2) congratulate members of staff for all of their hard work in organising the events.

## 19. GRANGEMEAD DAY SERVICES

19.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care that provided information on the future provision of day services currently located at Grangemead Resources Centre, Hailsham.

19.2 Members were advised that the revised proposals would allow for up to 44 beds, delivering intermediate care. The refurbishment and extensions were scheduled to start in Autumn 2009. Whilst work was being carried out service users would make use of Milton Court in Eastbourne.

19.3 In response to members questions it was confirmed that

- Since the initial decision on Grangemead in July 2007 more detailed research had been carried out and the department was now much clearer about service provision needs. This had led to the need to make these further changes to service provision.
- Although there had been no specific consultation since July 2007 around the agreed model for the centre, users had been kept informed of progress and options available. Service users would also have the opportunity to be involved in developing the service in a years time.
- The impact of travel times for service users and costs to the department would be monitored following these changes to service provision.
- Updates in relation to Milton Court would be reported to Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

19.4 RESOLVED - to (1) support the proposal to relocate the mental health (dementia) day services for older people, currently provided at Grangemead, Hailsham, to the newly developed 'prime centre' at Milton Court, Eastbourne, when it opens in 2009, and Hookstead, Crowborough; and

(2) support the idea of commissioning a local day service to meet the needs of older people who do not require specialist mental health services but are eligible for support from the day service currently provided at Grangemead, Hailsham.

## 20. EAST SUSSEX SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING PROJECT (PHASE 1)

20.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care together with exempt information as set out in a later report on the agenda (see minute no. 24) that outlined changes following the re-commissioning of Supporting People Services and the impact it would have on service users. Sue Dean was in attendance to address any questions from Members.

20.2 Changes to services provided had been necessary as previous provision across the county had been adhoc and did not represent a needs analysis of clients. The aim was to now provide a generic service of floating support to better meet demand.

20.3 The East Sussex Strategic Forum had approved the updated Supporting People Strategy in July 2007 and a budget had been set for three years.

20.4 In response to members questions it was reported that:

- The current needs analysis assessments from the Districts and Boroughs were far more robust than they had previously been and services would now be targeted at areas of need.
- There would be a shift in the allocation of funding across the county and this had led to concerns about levels of service in some areas. This change was due to the adhoc distribution of services in the past. A transitional period of shift had been negotiated to ensure the minimal impact on service users

20.5 RESOLVED - to (1) note the findings of the impact assessments conducted with the relevant Supporting People providers, in accordance with the Supporting People Decommissioning Protocol .

(2) receive a further report in March 2009 on the progress of the Commissioning Project through the next future phases.

## 21. FUTURE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

21.2 Members were reminded that there would be a visit to St Mary's House, Eastbourne, on 4 November 2008 to meet with staff providing the home care service. There would also be a Directly Provided Services Board meeting on 11 December 2008.

21.3 RESOLVED - to (1) include Putting People First as a standing item on the agenda to keep Members up to date with progress made.

(2) provide an update report on Safeguarding in the future.

(3) receive an update on the Agewell project in March 2009.

(4) remove the Assessment and Care Management Strategy Programme from the programme and incorporate it with the PPF reports.

## 22. FORWARD PLAN

22.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 1 October 2008 to 31 January 2009.

22.2 RESOLVED - to note the Forward Plan.

## 23 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

23.1 RESOLVED – to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the remaining agenda items on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in Paragraph 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

24. EAST SUSSEX SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING PROJECT  
(PHASE 1)

24.1 The Committee considered additional paper relating to the Supporting People Commissioning Project.

24.2 RESOLVED - to note the information received.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 3.45 pm.