

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care held at County Hall, Lewes on 26 March 2009

PRESENT - Councillor Gubby (Chairman)
Councillors Forster, Mrs Tidy, Tunwell, Webb and Woodall
Janet Colvert – Chair of LINK Interim Core Group

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
- Mark Stainton - Assistant Director Adult Social Care Operations
- Mike Cornish – Project Director DPS Review
- Jessie McArthur - Head of Policy & Service Development, Strategy and Commissioning Division
- Angie Turner – Interim Safeguarding Manager

37. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

37.1 RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 27 November 2008.

38. APOLOGIES

38.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Taylor.

39. REPORTS

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

40. ADULT SOCIAL CARE RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE PROVISION OF PREVENTATIVE SERVICES

41.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care that presented the final report on the Action Plan agreed in response to the Review. Jessie McArthur was in attendance to answer any questions from Members.

41.2 Preventative services had been identified as a key priority for the authority and the current level of investment in this area would be sustained. However, given the age profile of the county, it was recognised that additional funding could be needed in the future, but this had to be carefully balanced against the funding for core services.

41.3 Discussions with the PCT on the funding of preventative services were ongoing as this was an area of shared responsibility. The concern for the future was that, as demand

for acute hospital care increased; more funding may need go to be directed to that area of work and this could be at the expense of preventative services.

41.4 Members requested that future scrutiny review action plan reports include examples of the positive impact that the recommendations have had on local people. The original members of the scrutiny review board noted that the review had given them a greater understanding of what preventative care entailed. Members supported the work that had been taken by the department to action the recommendations from the review.

41.4 RESOLVED - to (1) note and sign off the final Action Plan from the review of the provision of preventative services; and

(2) request that the role and impact of preventative services be included in the new Members induction programme training.

42. COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL CARE INSPECTION (CSCI) ACTION PLAN

42.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care that informed Members of progress against the CSCI action plan. Sustained and continued progress was being made on a range of indicators and there had been an increase in the level of work around safeguarding.

42.2 It was noted that the target for increasing the number of personal assistants who were CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checked had increased. CSCI had now signed off the action plan and any remaining actions would now be mainstreamed.

42.3 RESOLVED – to (1) note the report; and

(2) request that a copy of the CSCI letter signing off the inspection action plan be circulated to members of the committee.

43. PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST UPDATE REPORT

43.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care that provided an update on the change programme in Adult Social Care, including an indicative budget for the Social Care Reform Grant.

43.2 It was noted that a regional structure to support 'Transforming Social Care' had been established. Within this were network groups which met regularly to discuss the implementation of Putting People First (PPF) and these would be considering where within the area pilots on PPF should be established.

43.3 The national pilot of individual budgets had highlighted some of the challenges that the department would face. The outcomes of individual budgets varied amongst the different groups. Mental health service users reported a significantly higher quality of life, whilst older people had stated that it had created some anxiety for them. The department recognised that when developing individual budgets it needed to keep services users informed of progress and ensure that processes were carefully planned so to allay some of their concerns.

43.4 The national pilot had also revealed that individual budgets do not lead to the envisaged efficiency savings that had been expected for Adult Social Care departments. This would have a knock on effect on department budgets as these

43.3 In response to questions from Members the following points were made:

- The department would work with service users to develop access pathways for individual budgets. It was recognised that access to services would vary greatly for each of the different service user groups and this needed to be taken into account.
- The department needed to ensure that those staff providing personal care to clients had sufficient skills to carry out this role, this was a particular issue for those staff working outside of Adult Social Care. Work would be undertaken with colleges to develop a minimum set of training/skills for people taking up personal care roles.

43.4 RESOLVED - to (1) note the Putting People First programme brief; and

(2) note regional and national developments in respect of 'Transforming Social Care' particularly the outcome of the national Individual Budget pilot programme.

44. SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS PROGRESS REPORT

44.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care provided an update on the progress of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults agenda in East Sussex. Angie Turner was in attendance to address any questions from Members.

44.2 It was reported that between October and December 2008 there had been 615 Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults referrals. This was a significant increase on the numbers from the same period in 2007. However, it was believed that the increase was due to an increased understanding and awareness by staff and the general public about safeguarding and not as a result of an increase in safeguarding incidents.

44.3 The Committee asked that the report to the July 2009 meeting be more evidenced based. Where possible it should include feedback from service users on the impact that interventions have had and, through examples from the auditing process, show how the quality of the safeguarding system is maintained.

44.4 RESOLVED to note the content of the quarterly report.

45. DIRECTLY PROVIDED SERVICES REVIEW UPDATE

45.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care that provided an update of progress against the actions and service developments identified as part of the review of Directly Provided Services. Mark Stainton and Mike Cornish were in attendance to answer any questions from Members.

45.2 Members stated that they had previously requested that consideration be given to finding more suitable wording for terms such as 'step up' and 'step down', as these had little meaning to the general public. Assurances were given that this would be looked into.

45.3 The following points were made:

- Milton Court had received a £1.6 million renovation and was due to reopen in October 2009 under the new name of Milton Grange. The development would

now be able to accommodate 37 beds, increased from 27; this was considered to be a significant achievement.

- Discussions were still taking place with the voluntary sector on developing the Isabel Blackman Centre and the department was supporting them to develop a suitable model for the site. Consideration would need to be given on how the tendering process is managed, as the traditional approach did not encourage the voluntary sector to bid.
- Older People and Learning Disability managers were revising their infection control policy.
- The three four-bedded group homes had now closed. Post transfer reviews were being carried out with service users and staff to find out how well the moves had been managed and, where appropriate, what lessons could be learnt for the future. An update report would be brought to the committee in due course.

45.4 RESOLVED to note the progress to date and the steps taken to mainstream the implementation of the review recommendations alongside the core business of the Department.

46. TABLETOP SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT

46.1 The Committee considered a report from the Chairman of the Tabletop Review Board that provided an update on the work of the scrutiny review of community equipment. The Review Board would meet again in the Autumn to review the development of the Sensory Equipment Pilot Project.

46.2 RESOLVED to note the report.

47. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

47.1 The Committee considered a report from the Chairman of the Review Board on the outcomes of the review and proposed recommendations for future development of employment opportunities for adults with a learning disability.

47.2 RESOLVED to agree the Review Board's report and submit it to Cabinet on 28 April 2009 for comments and County Council on 21 July 2009 for approval.

48. RECONCILING POLICY AND RESOURCES

48.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Law and Personnel that provided feedback on the outcomes of scrutiny input into the Reconciling Policy and Resources process 2008/09.

48.2 The department planned to carry out stakeholder involvement in the Reconciling Policy and Resources process earlier next year and to hold more detailed discussions with smaller groups of people. The aim would be to bring the results of this to the Committee as soon as they were available.

48.3 RESOLVED to note the report.

49. QUARTER THREE MONITORING REPORT AGAINST THE 2008/09 COUNCIL PLAN

49.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Policy and Communications that provided an update on performance against the Council Plan for quarter three of 2008/09.

49.2 RESOLVED to note the achievements made by the Adult Social Care Department.

50. FUTURE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

50.2 The Committee received a verbal update on the work of the LINK. It was suggested that a briefing on the role of LINK be provided to the scrutiny committees as part of their induction programme.

50.3 RESOLVED - to note the scrutiny work programme.

51. FORWARD PLAN

51.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 July 2009.

51.2 RESOLVED - to note the Forward Plan.

THANKS

52.1 The Chairman stated that this was the last Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee meeting of the present County Council. He thanked all the Members and officers for their support and work over the last four years. Particular thanks went to Councillor Tunwell and Councillor Woodall, who would not be standing at the next election.

52.2 Councillor Tunwell, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Councillor Gubby for his work as chairman over the past two years. Councillor Gubby was also not standing at the next election and the Committee wished him well in the future.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 4.10 pm.