

## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care held at County Hall, Lewes on 2 July 2009

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PRESENT - Councillor Waite (Chairman)  
Councillors Belsey, Healy, Scott, Taylor, Thompson and  
Mrs Tidy  
Janet Colvert – LINK representative

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 - Councillors Bentley, Elkin and Field  
- Debbie Charman - Strategic Commissioning Manager -  
Carers  
- Paula Kirkland - Project Director - Age Well East Sussex  
- Lorayne Ferguson - Project Director - Age Well East  
Sussex  
- David Liley - PPF Programme Manager

### 1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1.1 RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26 March 2009.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Councillors Belsey and Healey declared a personal non prejudicial interest as they were Trustees of Age Concern.

2.2 Councillor Taylor declared a personal non prejudicial interest as he was a residential care home owner.

### 3. NOTIFICATION OF URGENT ITEMS

3.1 Members were informed of urgent items to be considered at the meeting relating to the directly provided residential intermediate care services, directly provided services for adults with a learning disability and day services for older people in Hastings. The Chairman had agreed to consider these as urgent items so that the Scrutiny Committee could consider and comment the reports before they were considered by the Cabinet on 7 July 2009.

### 4. REPORTS

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

## 5. SERVICES FOR ADULT CARERS IN EAST SUSSEX

5.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care that provided an update on plans for the implementation of the East Sussex joint carers commissioning strategy 2010-2015. Debbie Charman was in attendance to answer any questions from Members.

5.2 A joint carers commissioning strategy for East Sussex was currently being developed. Local priorities had been identified based on the results of a questionnaire sent out to 3,200 local carers. These included respite and support to stay mentally and physically well. Member's attention was drawn to a successful bid for funding from the Department of Health to become a "demonstrator site" for working with GP surgeries and in local hospitals and for providing flexible respite services to people with dementia.

5.3 The Committee welcomed the report and considered that the Strategy would help bring the service into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The following points and observations were also made:

- The Glynebourne Project had been a fantastic event for people with dementia and their carers. There had been positive feedback from all the people that had taken part and it was hoped that this type of event could be replicated across other areas of service provision.
- It was noted that many service users chose the option of receiving respite in their own home. It was considered that this could mean less disruption to service users.
- There was still a need to increase awareness amongst carers of the right to have an assessment. A joint bid with the PCT aimed to work with GP surgeries and in local hospitals to raise awareness of, and provide support to, carers. Putting People First also aimed to improve the level of information and advice available.
- It was suggested that the LINK might have a role to play in the consultation for the strategy.

5.4 RESOLVED to support the aims and objective of the strategy.

## 6. AGE WELL – EAST SUSSEX

6.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care that provided an update on the progress of the Age Well Project. Paula Kirkland and Lorayne Ferguson were in attendance to answer any questions from Members.

6.2 It was reported that outline planning permission had been received for the four sites in Uckfield, Hastings, Westfield and Ringmer. The tendering process was now down to two final bidders and selection of a preferred bidder was scheduled to take place in September 2009. The bidders were being evaluated on a number of factors including their engagement with the authority, their approach to design and construction, how they would engage with local communities and how they would work with local providers.

6.3 Members were advised that the Uckfield site was the priority for development as that would enable services at the Ringmer site to be moved there so that the Ringmer site could then be redeveloped.

6.4 It was anticipated that the timetable for the developments would run to schedule as the contractor would not receive payment until the work was completed and the facilities were fully functional. Members were advised that after the 25 year agreement with the contractors ended the management of the buildings would be taken over by the Council. At that point the buildings were still expected to last for a further 35 years.

6.5 There had been engagement and consultation with current service providers, parish councils and Age Concern. A web page had been maintained on the County Council website and two county wide leaflets had been issued. Stakeholder representatives had participated in the preliminary evaluation of, and feedback on, design and service delivery proposals. When the preferred bidder was decided further consultation would be undertaken.

6.6 RESOLVED – to (1) note the progress of the Age Well Project; and  
(2) note the proposals for further involvement of stakeholder.

## 7. ACCESS TO SOCIAL CARE - PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

7.1 The Committee considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Care that provided an update on the progress of the Access and Self Directed Support Workstream within Putting People First. David Liley was in attendance to answer any questions from Members.

7.2 It was reported that the development of a self directed support care pathway would focus on putting individuals at the heart of a universal service. Even if people were not eligible for financial help the service would be able to provide signposting, support and enable planning for the future.

7.3 Members were advised that the Navigator service would be mainstreamed. This service was able to offer people small sums of money to help meet particular needs and thereby prevent them from requiring a further more intensive service in the future. The service had been shown a positive return on this initial investment as it had helped reduce the number of urgent interventions that had been needed.

7.4 RESOLVED - to (1) note the progress of the Access and Self Directed Support Workstream within Putting People First to date; and  
(2) receive an update on the development of the Access and Self Directed Support Workstream in due course.

## 8. SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

8.1 The Committee considered a report from the Directors of Law and Personnel and Policy and Communications that provided details of performance results and considered scrutiny's role in performance management

8.2 RESOLVED to (1) continue to monitor quarterly performance reports; and  
(2) request that Members try to identify issues of interest in advance of Committee meetings to enable the attendance of appropriate witnesses.

## 9. HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

9.1 The Committee was unable to receive a verbal update on the work being carried out by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was therefore agreed that this update would be circulated to members instead.

## 10. LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK

10.1 The Committee considered a verbal report from Janet Colvert about the work being undertaken by LINK.

10.2 It was reported that LINK had just produced their first annual report. A promotional DVD had also been released. It was noted that there were close working relationships between LINK, East Sussex County Council and the PCT and Janet met monthly with the Directors in each area.

49.2 RESOLVED to note the update.

## 11. FUTURE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

11.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Personnel setting out the current work programme for the committee.

11.2 It was agreed to arrange a Committee away day in September 2009.

11.3 RESOLVED to note the scrutiny work programme.

## 12. FORWARD PLAN

12.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 1 July 2009 to 31 October 2009.

12.2 RESOLVED - to note the Forward Plan.

## 13. URGENT ITEMS

13.1 The Committee was informed that over the last few years there had been a steady increase in the demand for adult social care services. This increase had been anticipated and, to date, had been managed by the department. However, there had been increased pressures this year, due to an unforeseen increase in hospital discharges. Unless there was an increase in the community care budget to meet this demand, other services provided by the department would be affected.

13.2 The longer this matter was left the more action the department would have to then take to balance the budget. Unfortunately, the urgency of this matter meant that the department had not been able to give the Scrutiny Committee as much notice of these issues as it had in the past.

13.3 The savings realised in making these changes would be reinvested into the community care budget. The overall aim of the department was to make savings through effectively delivering services rather than removing them completely. The department

was also mindful not to move resources away from key areas of work, such as prevention and community based services.

13.4 Members raised concerns about the speed that these reports were being taken forward and the lack of time that had been afforded the Scrutiny Committee to consider these matters.

#### ADULT SOCIAL CARE DIRECTLY PROVIDED SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITIES

13.5 The Committee was reminded that there had been a broad review of services for adults with a learning disability during the Directly Provided Services review. The current report was asking Cabinet to agree to carry out a three month consultation process over the option of closing three group homes, namely Chyngton Close in Eastbourne, Homelea in Uckfield and Gabledown in Crowbrough.

13.6 In response to questions from the Committee it was confirmed that:

- Full consultation would be carried out with residents, family and stakeholders. Advocates would be used where necessary to ensure that all residents could engage fully in the consultation process.
- Following the completion of the consultation process a report would come back to Cabinet. There would be an opportunity for the Scrutiny Committee to consider the outcomes of the consultation process prior to it being presented to Cabinet.
- The consultation process would be seeking views on the potential closure of the homes and would be asking residents what important things they wanted to be taken into account if the homes closed, for example friendship groups that they wanted to maintain and the type of activities they wished to access. All the views received would be taken into account in making the final decision, although the homes might still be closed even if there was opposition.
- The Adult Social Care Department was a minority provider in terms of residential provision for adults with a learning disability, with the majority of the provision being provided by the Primary Care Trust and the private sector.
- Soft market testing would take place with private landlords to identify possible sites that could be developed further for adults with a learning disability.
- The Adult Social Care Department already had experience of managing the closure of group homes and this expertise would be helpful in ensuring that these changes were managed successfully.
- There was not a departmental policy of moving residents from smaller homes to larger settings.
- Every effort was made to move people into their own accommodation if that was what people wanted. The accommodation had to meet quality standards and was only procured from preferred providers

13.7 The Committee asked that the Director of Adult Social Care ensure that every effort was made to maintain friendship groups for residents during any subsequent relocation.

13.8 RESOLVED to (1) endorse the recommendations set out in the report; and

(2) request that a report on the outcomes of the consultation process be brought back to the Committee for consideration prior to it being presented to Cabinet.

## DAY SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN HASTINGS

13.9 The Committee was advised that the introduction of Putting People First and individual budgets would give clients more freedom to decide which services they wished to access. It was therefore important that the department ensured that the services it provided were those that people wished to purchase.

13.10 A previous decision had been made by Cabinet, and supported by the Scrutiny Committee, to develop the Isabel Blackman Centre as a community hub. This report proposed an earlier implementation of that decision to release the savings sooner.

13.11 In response to questions from the Committee it was confirmed that:

- The viability of the Isabel Blackman Centre could not be guaranteed in the future. However, by broadening the range of services that would be available at the centre it had a much better chance of surviving.
- The previous consultation had shown that people were supportive of a community hub being developed at the Isabel Blackman Centre.
- It was expected that the temporary closure of the Isabel Blackman Centre would be for one to two years.
- There would be a 90 day consultation period with staff at the Isabel Blackman Centre. All staff and unions had been informed of the proposals. The East Sussex County Council Employment Stability Policy would be used to ensure that as many staff as possible are relocated to other jobs within the organisation. There would also be opportunities for staff to retrain so that they could move into other areas of work. However, it was recognised that there was still a risk of some redundancies.
- The residential facility at the Moreton Centre would be mothballed once St Michael's Hospice vacated in 2010.
- Future use of the Moreton Centre had yet to be decided. Discussions were taking place with all District and Borough Councils around developing extra care housing and this might be a potential use for the centre in the future.

13.12 The Committee supported the development of the Isabel Blackman Centre as a community hub. It did, however, have concerns about the length of time the centre would be closed and asked that the Adult Social Care Department endeavour to limit this as much as possible.

13.13 RESOLVED to (1) endorse the recommendations set out in the report, with an amendment to the first recommendation in the report so that it reads "agree to a temporary closure of the Isabel Blackman Centre, Hastings..."; and

(2) request that a progress report on the redevelopment of the Isabel Blackman Centre be brought to the committee in due course.

## ADULT SOCIAL CARE DIRECTLY PROVIDED RESIDENTIAL INTERMEDIATE CARE SERVICES

13.14 The Committee noted that a lengthy process of consultation had already taken place in relation to Gilda Crescent and there was a general view that the redevelopment offered a good opportunity for providing services to older people with a learning disability. There was also the potential to increase the scale of development at the site if adjacent land was available.

13.15 Cabinet was being asked to agree that the Grangemead site was no longer redeveloped and that St Anthony's Court was closed. These decisions were being taken due to the financial situation that now faced the department and the fact that people wanted more opportunities to have intermediate care provided in their own homes. Further reports on the potential use of these sites would be brought to Cabinet in due course.

13.16 In response to questions from the Committee it was confirmed that:

- There was a level of urgency in taking this decision so that more funding could be made available to enable people to leave hospital as soon as they were ready to do so.
- For some people, receiving intermediate care in their own home would not be suitable. Residential intermediate care would still be available in Eastbourne at Firwood House and Milton Grange (once it reopens). Additional intermediate care beds would also still be available across the county.
- The figures contained within the report were robust and had been based on the same process that had been used by the department in the past.
- People only leave hospital once a suitable care package is in place. If people need to have small adaptations made to their home, such as installing grab rails, these are carried out prior to the person returning home.

13.17 The Committee expressed dismay at the speed with which this report was being taken forward and the lack of time that the Committee had been afforded to give it proper consideration.

13.18 RESOLVED to endorse the recommendations set out in the report (by 4 votes to 3).

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 3.25 pm.