

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care held at County Hall, Lewes on 19 November 2009

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 - Councillor Bentley
- Vicky Smith - PPF Workstream Manager - Choice, Market
Development & Engagement
- Sue Dean - Interim Head of Supporting People
- Philip Pragnell - Strategic Commissioning Manager -
Learning Disability
- Helen Fatcher - Implementation Manager LD, DPS

24. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

24.1 RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17 September 2009.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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

26. REPORTS

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

27. ACCESS TO SOCIAL CARE – PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

27.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care, which updated them on recent developments in relation to developing advocacy services in the context of Putting People First and the Transforming Adult Social Care Agenda. Vicky Smith was in attendance to answer any questions from Members.

27.2 It was reported that in October 2009 an engagement event took place with the PPF Inclusion Advisory Group to look into the implications for accessible advocacy and

advocacy needs across the spectrum of equality and diversity. The group included representatives from BME and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender – LGBT - groups and was comprised of 8-10 individuals that helped provide feedback on ways to engage with hard to reach group. Note had been taken of how other organisations engaged with hard to reach group and what their best practice was.

27.3 In response to questions from Members the following points and observations were made:

- It was suggested that walk-in surgeries were more likely to be used by hard to reach groups and that leaflets and information on services available should be distributed there to help get the message out to all groups within the community.
- It was noted that access to advocacy services was available to an individual throughout the whole process of accessing Self Directed Support.
- Communities had been very clear that they did not want just one approach to engagement and consultation, as this did not suit everyone. To ensure that there was not an overload of consultation taking place the department worked with other organisations, particularly health, to carry out joint consultation where ever possible.
- Members enquired how ESCC worked with neighbouring authorities to reach the travelling community and share examples of good practice. Officers agreed to provide more details on this after the meeting.
- It was recognised that joint commissioning of services with Health was important in financially hard times as it helped produce economies of scale and reduce costs. Members were informed that the business planning processes were not fully aligned with the NHS and this was a piece of work that would be carried out by March 2010. The outcome and impact of this should come back to scrutiny in due course and, because it impacted on several different departments, would need to be scrutinised by members from a range of scrutiny committees.

27.4 RESOLVED to (1) receive a further report at the end of the pilots to inform Members about their outcomes and how they would feed into developing a model for advocacy, and

(2) support the work carried out to date by the department around joint commissioning and receive a report back in due course on work to align business planning processes with the NHS.

28. SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING PROJECT

28.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care, which updated them on the Supporting People Commissioning project. Sue Dean was in attendance to answer any questions from Members.

28.2 It was reported that the consultation cafes, which were used as part of the consultation on housing support services for older people, had won an excellence award.

28.3 Supporting People was an important area of work for the department as it met many of its core objectives around the preventative agenda. The department would therefore request that ESCC would continue to ring fence this funding. However, there was no guarantee that current funding levels would be maintained by central government after 2011. Given the current financial situation, none of the partners involved in Supporting People would be able to meet any shortfall in funding and changes would have to take place in the type of services provided or the way in which they were commissioned.

28.4 One of the drivers for the recent strategic review of Supporting People services had been to ensure that more people across the whole county could access services. The review also ensured that current services met the needs of service users and that more services were provided to more people for the same cost.

28.5 RESOLVED to (1) recognise the concerns around future funding of Supporting People and receive a report back in due course when more information is known about future funding levels;

(2) receive a report in November 2010 on the development of phase three; and

(3) organise visits to some of the specialist building based services provided by Supporting People.

29. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT

29.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care on the progress made with implementing the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Employment Opportunities for adults with a Learning Disability. Philip Pragnell and Helen Fitcher were in attendance to answer any questions from Members.

29.2 It was noted that the Learning Disability Partnership Board Employment Partnership was planning an employment event Spring/Summer 2010.

29.3 It was recognised that as a result of the recession less paid work opportunities were available and services users were therefore accessing more community-based activities.

29.4 It was recognised that the County Council, along with other public sector employers, needed to do more to support and promote employment opportunities.

29.5 Information would be provided to members after the meeting on whether information had been provided to local employers at the Local Life show held in Eastbourne.

29.6 RESOLVED to receive a final update in June 2010. Report to include statistical data on the number of employees with learning disabilities in employment across East Sussex, particularly those employed by East Sussex County Council.

30. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

30.2 It was noted that the Adult Social Care Reconciling Policy and Resources meeting would be held on 17 December 2009 at 12pm.

30.3 RESOLVED to note the scrutiny work programme.

31. FORWARD PLAN

31.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 24 November to 28 February 2010

31.2 RESOLVED - to note the Forward Plan.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.05pm