

## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care held at County Hall, Lewes on 10 June 2010

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

Chief Officer: Keith Hinkley, Director of Adult Social Care

Scrutiny Lead Officer: Gillian Mauger, Scrutiny Lead Officer

ALSO PRESENT Councillor Bentley, Lead Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care  
Shane Heber, Head of Service, Commissioning (for item 5)  
Vicky Smith, PPF Workstream Manager - Choice, Market Development & Engagement/Older People's Involvement Officer (for item 6)  
Louisa Havers, Head of Performance and Engagement (for item 7)  
Philip Pragnell, Strategic Commissioning Manager - Learning Disability (for items 8 and 9)  
Liz Mellor, Employment Co-ordinator, Choices (for item 8)

### 1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1.1 RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4 March 2010.

### 2. APOLOGIES

2.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Taylor.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 Councillors Belsey and Healy declared a personal interest in minute number 5 as they were trustees of Age Concern. They did not consider this interest to be prejudicial.

### 4. REPORTS

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

## 5. DIRECTLY PROVIDED SERVICES REVIEW

5.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care, which provided details of the outcome of the departmental review of Directly Provided Services (DPS).

5.2 It was reported that throughout the reviews there had been engagement with service users, carers and providers and this had given the department a good understanding of the type of services which were needed and how these should be provided in the future. The current economic climate and the requirement for further savings across the department in the future meant that further efficiencies in these DPS services would be needed. This future work would have to be carried out at a much faster pace than in the past.

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

- Savings made as a result of the Directly Provided Services review had gone into the community care budget.
- Work was under way to identify alternative ways to take the Agewell project forward, including looking at different funding arrangements. The department was progressing with business cases for each of the four sites and a report would be presented to Cabinet in December on how these would now be taken forward.
- The department continued to work towards reducing the level of admissions to nursing homes. However, with an aging population there would always be a need for this type of provision. The independent market did have provision, but it was not always geared towards people that were publicly funded. The department now had seven sites across the county that could be potentially attractive to providers for development.
- Adult Social Care had a joint plan with the Primary Care Trusts around how services for Older People with mental health issues would be taken forward. This work was different to the consultation that Sussex Partnership Trust was currently carrying out around services for working age adults. There had been some tension with the Sussex Partnership Trust over changes to the management of Adult Social Care staff and a report was scheduled to be brought to the Committee in November outlining the impact of these changes.
- Meeting the needs for 'step up/step down' services was difficult at times as it could be hard to anticipate who needed the step up service. This was an issue across all local authorities. However, there was now a single Integrated Community Access Point (ICAP) for Health and Adult Social Care community services which assisted to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital and facilitate timely discharge. Figures from the step up service revealed that over a recent three month period 147 admissions to hospital had been prevented.
- Increasing the proportion of their time that staff in the Living at Home Service spent in face to face contact with clients was difficult in rural areas due to the extended travelling time often required to reach these clients. The department was endeavouring to recruit home care staff from within the rural communities and to help reduce this travelling time. However, as the home care service was only provided to service users for a short period of time matching up staff and clients from within the same geographic area was not always possible.
- There was capacity in the private and voluntary sector to provide the type of services which met the needs of service users. However, the department needed to work with the private and voluntary sector to ensure that these services were delivered in the right way.
- In the future the Care Quality Commission would be writing reports on their inspections of independent service providers and would not be using the current

star rating system. This would make it more difficult for the department and service users to be able to easily identify quality providers.

- National discussions were currently taking place around the possibility of fining hospitals for re-admissions. The re-admissions rates into hospital in East Sussex had been problematic for some years and any fining regime could be costly for the East Sussex Hospital Trust. From Adult Social Care's point of view the re-admissions target had been useful as it had focused the department on ensuring that people were properly supported when they came out of hospital. Re-admissions by service users who had spent time at Firwood House upon leaving hospital were below the national average.
- The Learning Disability group homes which were now vacant would either be redeveloped or sold, with the capital from any sales being used for other Adult Social Care developments.
- The Chill-tern café in Hastings provided learning disability adults an opportunity to gain work experience and develop skills. One member of staff there had gone on to get a job at Café Uno.
- The department had been looking for a new location for the facilities provided at Southview Close as the current site was not ideal. As yet nothing suitable had been found. The provision of the service would not end, but the department might have to provide it in a different way in the future.

5.4 RESOLVED to (1) support the progress outlined in the end of project report;  
(2) monitor outstanding recommendations from the review through the Adult Social Care Business Plan; and  
(3) note that the findings from the review would be used to inform future service and budget plans.

## 6. PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST – CHOICE, MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

6.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care, which provided an update on progress and details of the next steps with the Choice, Market Development and Engagement elements of the Putting People First Programme in East Sussex.

6.2 It was reported that the funding received through the Social Care Reform Grant (SCRG) had enabled the department to develop innovative ways of working within the Putting People First framework. The SCRG funding was now in its final year and the department would have to decide how this work was taken forward in the future. The personalised agenda was the direction in which the department wanted to go and it was likely that innovative ways of working would continue to be developed, with a reduction in the 'traditional' types of service provision. This transition would need to be managed carefully to ensure that the needs of service users continued to be met.

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

- The department now had much better structures in place for working with the 'hard to reach' groups. One example was the Inclusion Advisory Group, which considered every development within the Putting People First framework prior to implementation.
- If service users still wanted to receive a 'traditional' service, such as day centre provision, they would still be able to access this with their personal budget.
- Trading Standards had reported that the development of the Support with Confidence scheme was making good progress.

6.4 RESOLVED to (1) support the progress to date and the next steps being taken with the Choice, Market Development and Engagement elements of the Putting People First Programme in East Sussex; and

(2) receive a report in June 2011 on the ways in which service users have used their personal budget to support their needs. Report to include data on outcomes for service users and examples of the innovative types of support that had been provided.

## 7. CARE QUALITY COMMISSION – OUTCOMES FROM THE EAST SUSSEX ADULT SOCIAL CARE ACTION PLAN FOR 2008/09

7.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care which provided an update on the outcomes from the Action Plan following the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Assessment for Adult Social Care in 2008/09.

7.2 The way in which the department would be inspected by the Care Quality Commission in the future was changing. The department had recently submitted a Self Assessment Survey to the CQC which outlined how the department was improving outcomes for service users. This would form the basis of the CQC assessment, which would be 'light touch' this year and was unlikely to include an inspection.

7.3 Members supported the one-off grant to kick start community transport but were concerned about the sustainability of transport, particularly in the rural areas, in the current economic climate. They were informed that the department was carrying out a review of the use of county council buses to see if they could be used more effectively.

7.4 RESOLVED to (1) congratulate the department on the action being taken to meet the majority of the targets within the CQC action plan; and

(2) support the action being taken to address the five targets which have not yet been met.

## 8. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT – ACTION PLAN UPDATE

8.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care on the progress made with the implementation of the recommendations from the review of Employment Opportunities for Adults with a Learning Disability.

8.2 It was reported that there had been a lot of excellent work over the past year. Supported employment services had developed and more people with learning disabilities were now supported to find work. More effective partnership and joint working practices had been developed with Job Centre Plus and colleges. Work was ongoing to develop day opportunities to ensure they could enable service users to access employment opportunities. Given the current economic climate, there had been a slow, but steady, rise in the number of adults with a learning disability who were in paid work. At present 67 adults were in paid employment, this was 5% of those people with a learning disability that were known to the department. National Indicator 146 monitored the number of adults in paid employment and details on how East Sussex compared with other local authorities would be known in the autumn.

8.3 The employment event held on 9 June had attracted around 70 people, including 50 employers. Most employers were from the public or voluntary sector. There was not

huge take up from the private sector and engagement with them would be a focus for the team in the future.

8.4 RESOLVED to endorse the Department's work to implement the recommendations arising from the Review of Employment Opportunities for Adults with a Learning Disability.

## 9. JOINT LEARNING DISABILITY COMMISSIONING STRATEGY UPDATE

9.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care on the outcomes of the first Learning Disability Joint Commissioning Strategy (2007-2010) and the plans and priorities for a new Strategy (2010-2013).

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

- Work was being carried out to involve 'hard to reach' groups in the consultation process through involvement at consultation meetings or by seeking responses to information sent out to specific groups. A database has been developed to record the views and experiences that people with learning disabilities have sent into the commissioning team. The database will be developed in future to ensure adults identified as being from 'hard to reach' groups can be identified. This information would be shared with members outside of the meeting.
- The department had a disproportionately high number of adults with a learning disability in residential care. Confirmation of how the performance of ESCC currently compares with other local authorities would be available in the autumn..
- Whilst it was recognised that there would always be a proportion of service users who required residential care, one of the aims of the strategy is to continue to develop a wider range of options that maximise independence, such as supported accommodation. Work would continue over the next three years to reduce the numbers of service users using registered residential care.

9.3 The Committee requested that video clips developed by the service user led Involvement Matters Team 'Strong Voices Big Ears' project be shown prior to a future committee meeting.

9.4 RESOLVED to support the outcomes of "Strong Voices, Big Ideas" the Learning Disability Joint Commissioning Strategy (2007 – 2010) and the plans and priorities for the new Strategy (2010 – 2013).

## 10. FUTURE SCRUTINY REVIEWS

10.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Governance and Community Services that outlined the current review programme for the committee and asked members to consider which topics they wished to take forward as the future scrutiny reviews.

10.2 Following a discussion it was agreed that:

- Members from the Committee would join the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee review of transition, which would begin in the autumn.
- The Committee would be engaged with early on in the process regarding any future radical changes to the department.
- Respite and support for carers to be included in the work programme.

- Ahead of the all Council Forum in early July, the Director of Adult Social Care to email Committee members with details on the key strategic drivers for the department in the future.

10.3 RESOLVED to set up a joint tabletop review with members from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to monitor the delivery of the Integrated Plan for Health, Social Care and Wellbeing in East Sussex.

#### 11. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

11.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Governance and Community Services setting out the current work programme for the committee.

11.2 RESOLVED to note the scrutiny work programme.

#### 12. FORWARD PLAN

12.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 1 June 2010 to 30 September 2010.

12.2 RESOLVED - to note the Forward Plan.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 1pm