

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Adult Social Care and Community Safety Committee met on 9 June 2011

Present: Councillor Pragnell (Chairman)
Councillors Barnes, Healy, Taylor and Mrs Tidy
Janet Colvert (LINK representative)

Also present: Councillor Bentley, Lead Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

1. Scrutiny Review of Respite Provision

1.1 The Committee has completed its Scrutiny Review of Respite Provision. A copy of the Committee's full report has previously been circulated to all members and is available on request from Andy Cottell (Tel: 01273 481955)

1.2 At its meeting on 9 June 2011, the Adult Social Care and Community Safety Committee examined the evidence of the Scrutiny Board report which provided a detailed insight into the availability and accessibility of respite care provision in East Sussex to support adult carers in their role. The Committee noted the challenges in encouraging people to identify themselves as carers.

1.3 The Adult Social Care and Community Safety Committee **recommends** to the County Council that –

1.3.1 Adult Social Care rationalise the entire range of terminology it uses in association with carers and respite provision to ensure that it is clear, concise and consistent across all teams in the department, Health professionals and voluntary and community organisations.

1.3.2 Updated guidance on the Carers Personal Budget to be provided to assessors, carers and voluntary and community organisations so that it is clear how the scheme operates.

1.3.3 The Carers' Partnership Board works in conjunction with health, perhaps via the Clinical Executive Group, to ensure that hospitals, health workers, GPs and other professionals that have contact with carers are able to recognise the needs of carers and provide better signposting as to where support is available.

1.3.4 A cross county sample of carers are surveyed in 12 months to assess whether there has been an improvement with the way in which their contact with ASC has been established and maintained.

1.3.5 Senior officers and appropriate Adult Social Care staff should attend carers' events to not only give formal presentations but also to have informal discussions with carers about their experiences.

1.3.6 Prior to a telephone assessment being carried out the person being assessed is sent a brief outline of what will be covered in the assessment so that they can give it some thought and get together any paperwork they may need to aid the discussion.

1.3.7 The evaluation of the LEAN pilot is scrutinised by the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee, with particular focus on the way in which carers' assessments via the telephone have been carried out.

1.3.8 Adult Social Care should continue to maintain funding for respite services such as the sitting service and the Carers Breaks Project.

1.3.9 Adult Social Care continues to make improvements to the system for booking rolling residential respite to ensure that carers are able to book beds in advance and, where possible, at a location of their choice.

1.3.10 Funding to support carers should continue to be prioritised when Adult Social Care and Health are setting budgets.

1.3.11 More support networks are developed across the county to empower carers to support themselves and others who carry out a similar caring role.

[See also report of the Cabinet, paragraph 3, page 14]

PETER PRAGNELL
Chairman

9 June 2011