

Minutes of the Meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 June 2005

Present:

Members of the Committee	Councillor Les Caborn “ Jose Compton “ Jill Dill-Russell “ Richard Dodd “ Marion Haywood “ Anita Macaulay “ Mota Singh (Vice Chair) “ Ian Smith “ Mick Stanley “ Ray Sweet “ Sid Tooth (Chair)
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Cabinet Portfolio Holders	Councillor Colin Hayfield (Adult and Community Services)
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Also in attendance	Councillor Alan Farnell
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Officers	Bill Basra, Principal Review Officer John Bull, Head of Adult Services Andy Clayton, Project Manager, Integrated Community Equipment Service Victoria Cook, Assistant to the Labour Group Edwina Cordwell, Head of Resources and Performance Victoria Gould, Principal Solicitor Martin Jones, Head of Resources Management Helen Maclagan, Head of Museum Service Ann Mawdsley, Senior Committee Administrator Nicole North, Assistant to the Conservative Group
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1. General

The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the first formal meeting of the Adult and Community Services O&S Committee. He noted that the remit of the Committee was significant, particularly in the light of the Green Paper on Adult Services, which was expected to bring about changes to Adult Services along a similar line to those already initiated for Children's Services.

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nina Knapman and Marion Davis.

(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Anita Macaulay declared a personal interest, as her father was a client of Social Services.

Councillor Sid Tooth declared a personal interest as his daughter received care from Social Services.

(3) Minutes of the meeting of the former Social Care and Welfare Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on the 22 March 2005

The minutes of the meeting of the former Social Care and Welfare Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 15 February 2005 were noted.

Matters arising

None.

(4) Minutes of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on the 17 May 2005

The minutes of the meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17 May 2005 were agreed as a correct record.

(5) Remit of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The remit of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee was discussed and Members noted their concern at the number of areas that overlapped with Children's Services. It was noted that the Co-ordinating Group would consider the issue of overlaps between Committees and the boundary of this Committee's responsibilities would become clearer thereafter.

2. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3. Integrated Community Equipment Services

Members considered the report of the Director of Social Care and Health outlining the progress made in the development of the Integrated Community Equipment Service, which had been established on 1 February 2005.

John Bull introduced Andy Clayton who had been appointed as the Project Manager for the Integrated Community Equipment Services.

During the ensuing the discussion the following points were noted:

1. Members commended the report and noted the successful partnership with the PCTs.

2. The Section 31 Pooled Budget arrangements ensured that any overspend risk was shared by the Council and the three PCTs.
3. The Equipment Store was open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and could be accessed through the Social Services Emergency Duty Team.
4. There was consistency and equality of service throughout Warwickshire.
5. Other agencies such as police, doctors and hospitals were in possession of contact numbers and were accessing the Equipment Store.
6. The current contract with Nottingham Rehab. Services was for three years with an option to extend for a further two years.
7. There was a system in place to monitor where each piece of equipment was and when equipment was expected to be returned. This had resulted in improved recycling.
8. Members agreed to receive a further report after six months.

Members supported the progress made and congratulated the Department on the development of the Integrated Community Equipment.

Members agreed that arrangements should be made for them to visit the service.

4. Supporting People

Members considered the report of the Director of Social Care and Health giving an update following the Audit Commission Inspection of the Supporting People Programme in Warwickshire, including the Action Plan agreed by the Supporting People Commissioning Body on 1 April 2005.

During discussion, the following points were noted:

1. The Probation Service, District and Borough Councils and PCT Boards had also received the report for signing off.
2. The programme was back on track and there would be considerable progress before the re-inspection in March 2006.
3. The role of the Supporting People Partnership Board was to promote the awareness and champion the cause of the programme and to ensure it was high on the radar of all partners.
4. Where the review had identified claims that could not be justified, claimants were given notice of changes and were given support through any changes.
5. As the available funding was expected to decrease there was a need to look claims and examine value for money.

Members endorsed the report and Action Plan and recommend its approval by full Council.

Members endorsed the Supporting People Five-year Strategy and recommend its approval by full Council.

5. Developing Short Breaks (Respite) Care Services for Disabled Children and Young People

Members considered the report of the Director of Social Care and Health outlining the implications of the Adult Social Care Green Paper – “Independence, Well-being and Choice”.

John Bull outlined the following points:

1. The formal response to the Government consultation had to be submitted by 28 July 2005. A seminar would be held on 12 July to engage the wider community and on 14 July to engage Members to ensure a Warwickshire-wide response to the consultation.
2. The Green Paper introduced radical proposals putting users at the centre of service and moving towards strategic commissioning.
3. There would need to be further work done around partnerships and managing risks.
4. The Adult Services project team would run parallel to the Children’s Act Project Team and ensure that Adult Services received the same focus.

Members requested that a copy of the report of the Independent Chair on the Review of Older People’s Services considered by the Cabinet on 16 June 2005 be distributed to Members of this Committee.

Members resolved to:

1. note the Government’s proposals for the future of Adult social care, following the publication of the Green Paper “Independence, Well-being and Choice”.
2. defer their comments for incorporation in the formal response of the County Council to the Department of Health, in accordance with the agreed consultation process, by 28 July 2005 until after the seminar on 14 July.
3. Note the establishment of an Adult Services project team to plan the changes arising from the Green Paper and to ensure that the recommendations of the Strategic Review of Older People are implemented.
4. Note that a seminar has been arranged for all Members on Thursday 14 July 2005 at 2.00 pm to consider the implications arising from the Green Paper and to note that an event is currently being arranged to ensure consultation with all key stakeholders including the wider Health community and voluntary sector agencies.

6. Asset Management Plan for Social Services

Members considered the report of the Director of Social Care and Health presenting the Asset Management Plan for Social Services outlining the management of assets within Corporate strategies.

Martin Jones made the following points:

1. The strategic shift away from the provision of day services to smaller satellite services provided closer to people's homes would result in a review of current accommodation provision.
2. There was an ongoing need to ensure that residential homes met all statutory requirements and standards.
3. The Gershon Review identified the use of office accommodation and the Department set out a new modernised approach to housing staff.

During the ensuing discussion, the following issues were highlighted:

- i. The Access Strategy would allow the scrutiny of open access to the public.
- ii. Changes to contact requirements would allow more economic solutions to location of staff.
- iii. Members commended the report and the work that had been put into providing a better service for users and for staff.

Members noted the contents of the Social Services Asset Management Plan.

7. Understanding the Future: Museums and 21st Century Life

Members considered the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards setting out the main thrust of the consultation document on The Value of Museums entitled "Understanding the Future: Museum and 21st Century Life".

Helen Maclagan noted the following points:

1. The response to the consultation was important, as it would inform the strategy that Government would produce on museums and museum learning, including regulations for funding and performance measures.
2. The Government document focussed mainly on social history and Warwickshire museums dealt with social and natural history.
3. The enormous role donors played in museum collections deserved respect and acknowledgement and was neglected in the consultation document.
4. There was a need for objectives and indicators to be more aligned.

During the ensuing discussion, the following issues were highlighted:

- i. In order to access external funding for the proposed modernisation of the Market Hall and St Johns sites, one-off funding from within WCC was needed to prepare the detailed designs.
- ii. The dolls and toys were now on display at St Johns and a package around these would soon be available on the Internet.

- iii. A Key Stage 1 learning package was being developed based on dolls, toys and games and would be taken by Group Leaders into schools that were unable to visit the museums.
- iv. The George Elliot Hospital Museum had received funding from the Nuneaton & Bedworth Area Committee and staff were working with the Committee to develop a forward plan to increase the profile of the museum, together with the NHS.
- v. Mancetter had been a big player in Roman times in terms of pottery and while there were no local facilities to display any local artefacts, this would need to be addressed in the future.

The Committee noted the DCMS consultation document “Understanding the Future: Museums and 21st Century Life – the Value of Museums in relation to the County Museum Service and endorsed the draft response.

8. Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards Asset Management Plan

Members considered the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards providing information about the Asset Management Plan for the Directorate and background to the property held and future developments.

Edwina Cordwell noted the following points:

- 1. The Directorate was small but had over 40 buildings, including historic buildings and libraries, often representing the face of County Council and the community and needed to be in the right location with good standards and be welcoming and flexible.
- 2. Partnering possibilities were explored wherever possible, including with colleges, schools, District and Borough Councils and early years providers.
- 3. The Directorate tried to work with their assets to provide the best possible service for the public while providing a good working environment for staff.
- 4. There was a need to explore how best to link One Stop Shops and the Customer Service Centre to improve and offer the widest range of services possible.

During the ensuing discussion, the following issues were highlighted:

- i. Members noted their appreciation of the mobile library service, which did not form part of the Asset Management Plan.
- ii. The review of library provision would look at location, provision, usage and access.
- iii. Members thanked Edwina Cordwell for the useful report and the valuable resources libraries were to the Council.

The Committee endorsed the Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards Asset Management Plan.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

9. **Provisional Items for Future Meetings and Forward Plan Items Relevant to the Work of this Committee**

Members agreed the provisional items for future meetings with the following additions:

10 January 2006

Progress Report on the Integrated Community Equipment Service Supporting People – Progress Report on Action Plan

10. **Any other Items**

There were no other items.

Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 12.10 p.m.