

Minutes of the Meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6 September 2005

Present:

Members of the Committee	Councillor Jose Compton
	“ Jill Dill-Russell
	“ Richard Dodd
	“ Michael Doody (replacing Cllr Marion Haywood for this meeting)
	“ Nina Knapman
	“ Anita Macaulay
	“ Mota Singh (Vice Chair)
	“ Ian Smith
	“ Mick Stanley
	“ Ray Sweet
	“ Sid Tooth (Chair)

Cabinet Portfolio Holders	Councillor Colin Hayfield (Adult and Community Services)
----------------------------------	--

Officers	Bill Basra, Principal Review Officer Elaine Bettger, Assistant to Liberal Democrat Group Peter Boileau, Director of Planning and Development, Strategic Health Authority John Bull, Head of Adult Services Victoria Cook, Assistant to Labour Group Victoria Gould, Principal Solicitor John Lyons, Area Planning Co-ordinator Phil Maull, Senior Committee Administrator
-----------------	--

1. General

The Chair welcomed Councillor Michael Doody to the meeting.

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Noel Hunter and Councillors Les Caborn and Marion Haywood.

(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Jose Compton declared a personal interest in Item 3 as a member of the Warwick District Council for Voluntary Service and the Warwickshire Rural Community Council and in Item 4 as an Associate Manager of the South Warwickshire PCT.

Councillor Jill Dill-Russell declared a personal interest in Item 3 as chair of the management committee of a voluntary organisation.

Councillor Anita Macaulay declared a personal interest in item 4 as her father was a client of Social Services.

Councillor Mota Singh declared a personal interest in item 4 as a non-executive member of the South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust.

Councillor Ray Sweet declared a personal interest in item 4 as his brother-in-law received social services care.

Councillor Sid Tooth declared personal interests in item 3 as a member of Nuneaton Homestart Management Committee and item 4 as his daughter received care from social services.

(3) Minutes of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on the 26 July 2005

The minutes of the meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26 July 2005 were agreed as a correct record subject to the addition of a declaration of personal interest from Councillor Anita Macaulay as a service user.

Matter arising

Page 2 – I(3). Strategic Review of Older People's Services

It was noted with regret that Dame Buckland was unable to be present today. John Bull said that he would try to get her to attend a future meeting of the Committee, but that this might not be possible as she had recently changed jobs.

2. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3. The Warwickshire Compact

Members considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive detailing the revised Warwickshire Compact.

During the ensuing the discussion the following points were noted:

1. Although there was no requirement for a voluntary organisation to sign up to the Compact prior to receiving a grant from the County Council, it might be possible to make it a requirement in the future to underpin the standard conditions that ensure recipients of grants are made accountable.
2. The Committee welcomed the proposal that smaller community groups would have the opportunity to sign up to the Compact.
3. It was important to promote the compact to make all voluntary organisations aware of it.
4. There was support for the comments of SIN for a shorter version of the document.
5. The adoption of a funding on a “full cost” principle was essential to the wellbeing of voluntary organisations.
6. The twelve week consultation period might be an impediment.
7. The Borough/District Councils, Health Agencies and Police had all signed up to the Compact.

Having considered the content and format of the revised Warwickshire Compact, the Committee agreed that the Cabinet should be informed that:-

- i. The Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcome it in promoting and respecting the value of the voluntary sector.
- ii. The Committee's only reservations concerned the lengthy consultation periods set out in the Compact that may present problems for the pace of change sought for adult services if applied inflexibly.
- iii. The Committee also observed that good communication and promotion was needed to secure the success of the Compact.
- iv. The Committee recommended a brief resume of the Compact be provided to all voluntary sector organisations to signpost them to the Agreement itself.

4. Strategic Development of Adult Social Care Services

Members considered the report of the Director of Social Care and Health providing details of a number of proposed developments in Adult Services following the publication of the Government Green Paper “Independence, Well being and Choice”.

The Chair welcomed Peter Boileau who had been seconded from the Strategic Health Authority to the County Council to lead the Adult and Community Services project team.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were raised:

1. It was important for members to feel involved in the work of the project team and this would be achieved through the Adult and Community Services Strategic Partnership Board.
2. Ownership of the project by organisations outside the County Council was key to its success.
3. In connection with the development of joint commissioning arrangements for both Learning Disability and Mental Health Services, it should be noted that they were different specialisms and it was not necessarily the case that a person with learning disability would also have mental health problems.
4. The services were not merging but there would be a joint commissioning arrangement between the County Council and the Primary Care Trusts to make best use of the buying power. The decision who as to who should be treated and when would be for consultants to decide on the basis of presenting need.
5. It was noted that the ten existing Policy for Older People Forums may not be representative of the whole older people population in the County. Accordingly it was agreed that the wording in paragraph 3.1 of appendix 2 should be amended to read that the continuing involvement of older people would *include* using the forums rather than be *through* those forums.

The Committee agreed to recommend that the Cabinet approve:

- i. Proposals to establish a multi disciplinary Adult and Community Services Project Team which will identify and project manage the strategic changes needed in Adult Social Care Services, following the publication of the Government's Green Paper, "Independence, Well being and Health".
- ii. Proposals to establish an Adult and Community Services Strategic Partnership Board, and Steering Group.
- iii. Proposals to establish an Older People's Services Partnership Board and Member Reference Group.
- iv. Proposals to develop Joint Commissioning arrangements for both Learning Disability and Mental Health Services.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5. Scrutiny Review Occupational Therapy Update

Members considered the report of the Director of Social Care and Health detailing progress since the Select Committee on Occupational Therapy held by the Social Care and Welfare Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 January 2004.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were raised:

1. The staffing shortages that had led to an increase in the maximum waiting time for assessments had been resolved with the recruitment to all four vacant posts.
2. Although some of the longest waiting times were not acceptable it should be noted that these related to cases deemed to be low priority.
3. John Bull said that the joint appointments of occupational therapists in Warwick and in Nuneaton & Bedworth were working well and he hoped that this would soon be extended to North Warwickshire. He offered to meet half the cost of such appointments in respect of those Borough/District Councils who did not currently have one. Councillor Anita Macaulay asked for details so that she could pursue the issue with the Stratford-on-Avon District Council.
4. Members recognised that the staffing problems had been resolved. Nevertheless, it was agreed that a report should be made to the next meeting of the Committee on the progress in reducing the time in which assessments are completed.

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

Members agreed the provisional items for future meetings and Forward Plan Items.

Bill Basra confirmed that the item “Warwickshire Library & Information Service: Dyslexia – Position Statement” would now be dealt with by way of a briefing note to members outside the Committee meeting arena but with an option for members to ask for it to go to a future meeting if they felt that this was necessary.

7. Any other Items

There were no other items.

Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 11.45 a.m.