

Minutes of the Meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 November 2005 at Shire Hall, Warwick

Present:

Members of the Committee	Councillor Les Caborn
	Jose Compton
	“ Jill Dill-Russell
	“ Anne Forwood (replacing Ray Sweet for this meeting)
	“ Marion Haywood
	“ Mota Singh (Vice Chair)
	“ Ian Smith
	“ Mick Stanley
	“ Sid Tooth (Chair)

Officers	Bill Basra, Corporate Review Officer
	Elaine Bettger, Assistant to the Liberal Democrat Group
	Kushal Birla, Head of Library & Information Service
	Chris Jeens, Head of Strategic Services
	Martin Jones, Head of Resources Management
	Ayub Khan, Core Services Quality and Operations Manager
	Philip Lumley-Holmes, Financial Services Manager
	John Lyons, Community Development Co-ordinator
	Ann Mawdsley, Senior Committee Administrator
	Nicole North, Assistant to the Conservative Group
	Jane Pollard, Assistant County Solicitor
	Dave Preece, Financial Services Manager
	Cathryn Ravenhall, Part-Time Community Arts Officer

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Dodd, Noel Hunter, Councillor Nina Knapman and Councillor Anita Macaulay.

(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Jose Compton declared a personal interest in Item 14 as the Associate Manager of the South Warwickshire PCT.

Councillor Jill Dill-Russell declared a personal interest in Item 14 as a member of Stratford Mencap.

Councillor Colin Hayfield declared a personal interest in Item 14 as a member of the North Warwickshire PCT.

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

(3) Minutes of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on the 11 October 2005

The minutes of the meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 11 October 2005 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising

Page 2 – 3. Progress Report on One Stop Shop Project

Councillor Compton reported that she had visited the Warwickshire Direct – Kenilworth One Stop Shop that was an excellent facility and a good example of collaborative working with the District Council.

Councillor Hayfield reported that the Cabinet had considered the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) Eligibility Threshold Report from the Chair of the Committee and had agreed to change the eligibility threshold to include some or all Moderate band needs subject to appropriate funding being made available in the budget for future years.

2. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3. Chief Executive's Department Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals 2006/07

Members considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive detailing the Revenue and Capital Budget proposals for the Chief Executive's Department.

Dave Preece noted that there were two revenue pressures that fell within the remit of this committee which were:

- £20,000 for the continuation of the grant to the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils

- £60,000 to develop the current Equality and Diversity services to achieve Government targets.

During the ensuing the discussion the following issues were noted:

1. The proposed new equalities post and training programme, covered by the £60,000 bid, would mean more effective support to departments to enable them to undertake equality impact assessments in accordance with legislation, which would help identify equality issues that need to be addressed in service delivery.
2. There was a gradual expansion of legislation in the area of equalities, widening the positive statutory duty to promote equality beyond race, to include disability and gender.
3. The impact assessment process would initially review all services for equality from scratch, but it would need to be repeated periodically as services changed and developed. The Council was required to review all its services, except schools, which are individually responsible for complying with the positive duty to promote equalities.
4. The new Local Charter with Parish Councils had recently been launched and members were all being sent a copy.

The Committee gave their full consideration to the 2006/07 to 2008/09 revenue budget proposals and capital programme bids identified by the Chief Executive's Department and supported the bids for consideration within the budget process.

4. Performance Report Half Year 2005/06 for Adult Social Services

Members considered the report of the Director of Social Care and Health summarising the performance of the Adult Social Services Department for the half-year 2005/06 (1st April to 30th September 2005).

During the ensuing discussion the following points were raised:

1. Members noted their concern that the intensive home care service was currently failing to meet targets.
2. It was noted that while the number of users receiving packages had remained static, the packages being delivered were at a more intensive level and there was not a waiting list.
3. The service was not doing well in the area of widening the preventative agenda and in terms of maintaining people in their own homes.
4. A tendering exercise would be carried out in 2006 to reduce the number of agencies commissioned by the department to be more cost effective, improve the quality of provision and to provide a better service to hard to reach clients. Members agreed to receive a report on the outcome of the tendering exercise at a future meeting.

5. Members requested that in future performance reports carried an analysis breakdown of in-house/external services and services by area.
6. Members noted their appreciation of the number of compliments received by the Department.

The Adult and Community Services O&S Committee agreed to note the Adult Social Services department's performance for the half-year 2005/06 and endorse the proposed remedial actions.

5. Adult Social Services Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals 2006/07 to 2008/09

Members considered the report of the Director of Social Care and Health detailing the Revenue and Capital Budget proposals for Adult Social Services.

Martin Jones added the following points:

1. The report covered only adult budget pressures as the new Adult, Health and Community Services Department would be operational from April 2006.
2. The acute budget pressures due to increased longevity and increased care package for more profound, complex disabilities were a national trend
3. The proposals were made up of £7,918 to maintain services as they were with a further £3,472 proposed to engender an increase in performance in the areas of FACS, Intensive Home Care and Integrated Systems.
4. Over the next ten years the number of people over the age of 65 would increase by 35% and the number of people over the age of 65 with dementia would increase by 50%.

During the ensuing the discussion the following issues were noted:

- i. Members thanked Martin Jones for an excellent, comprehensive presentation.
- ii. There was a need for early transition planning to ensure effective and smooth transfer for young people from children's services to adult services.
- iii. It was agreed that Members would be sent a table giving background detail to inflation calculations.
- iv. There was a challenge to maintain adult services at an adequate level, particularly with the emphasis on children's services.
- v. There was a need to rethink the delivery of services, especially with partners such as the NHS

- vi. Members agreed that there were not enough resources to meet the pressures emerging as a result of an aging population and as a consequence services to older people were under threat.

The Committee noted the 2006/07 to 2008/09 revenue budget proposals and capital programme bids identified and noted the reasons for the overspending projected in the current year against budgets for Adult Services within the Social Services budget.

6. 2005/06 Cost Effectiveness Savings – Social Services Progress Report

Members considered the report of the Director of Social Care and Health outlining the progress the Social Services Department has made to date in delivering the required cost effectiveness savings in 2005/06.

The Committee noted the progress made by the Social Services in delivering the 2005/06 cost effectiveness savings target.

7. Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards Performance Report Half Year 2005/06

Members considered the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards summarising the performance of Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards for the half-year 2005/06.

Members commended the comprehensive report and noted that where there were red indicators it was mostly due to no resources available or the deferment of a development.

The Adult and Community Services O&S Committee agreed to note the performance of the Directorate of Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards (LHTS) performance for the half year 2005/06 and to endorse the proposed remedial actions.

8. Community Arts Activity 2003-2005

Members considered the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards providing information for Members to access progress against objectives made by the Community Arts section.

Members expressed their appreciation of the excellent work undertaken by the Service and noted that the return to the community was far greater than the investment.

Members noted the work undertaken by the County Arts Service in Community Arts/Community Development to date.

9. Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals 2006/07 to 2008/09

Members considered the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards detailing the Revenue and Capital Budget proposals for the Directorate.

The Committee noted the 2006/07 to 2008/09 revenue budget proposals and capital programme bids identified by the Directorate of Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards.

10. 2005/06 Cost Effectiveness Savings – Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards Progress Report

Members considered the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards outlining the progress the Department has made to date in delivering the required cost effectiveness savings in 2005/06.

The Committee noted the progress made by Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards in delivering the 2005/06 cost effectiveness savings target.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

11. Annual Report on Representations & Complaints April 2004 to March 2005

Members considered the report of the Director of Social Care and Health commenting on the operation and effectiveness of Warwickshire Social Services complaints and representations procedures over the last financial year, in compliance with the requirements of the Children Act 1989 and the NHS & Community Care Act 1990 and outlining plans for improvements.

The Committee noted the report.

12. Warwickshire Library & Information Service: Reading Challenge – Compton Verney

Members considered the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards detailing the success of the activities programme for 2005, looking in detail at the constituent parts.

The Committee noted the report.

13. 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.

14. Any other Items

The Chair agreed to consideration of the following exempt item as urgent business to enable comments to be forwarded to Cabinet.

The Committee agreed that members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the agenda item mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972".

Approval to Consult on a New Arrangement for Mental Health, NHS Learning Disability and Substance Misuse Services in Warwickshire

Members considered the report of the Director of Social Care & Health seeking the agreement of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to recommend to the Cabinet that support is given to the Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authority to:

- Obtain from the Secretary of State, agreement to consult on proposed changes to the delivery of services that support adults and children who have mental health problems, a learning disability or drug and alcohol addictions.

There were no other items.

Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 12.20 p.m.