

Minutes of the Meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16 February 2006 at Shire Hall, Warwick

Present:

Members of the Committee	Councillor Les Caborn Jose Compton “ Jill Dill-Russell “ Marion Haywood “ Nina Knapman “ Anita Macaulay “ Mota Singh (Vice Chair) “ Ian Smith “ Mick Stanley “ Ray Sweet “ Sid Tooth (Chair)
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Also Present	Councillor Colin Hayfield, Portfolio Holder for Adult and Community Services Councillor Alan Farnell
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Officers	Kushal Birla, Head of Library & Information Service John Bull, Head of Adult Services Louise Denton, Assistant to the Liberal Democrat Group Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator Noel Hunter, Director of Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards Nick Gower-Johnson, Local Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator John Lyons, Community Development Co-ordinator Jane Pollard, Assistant County Solicitor Paul Williams, Area Support Co-ordinator
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1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Dodd.

(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Members declared personal interest as set out below :

- (1) by virtue of them serving as District/Borough Councillors as follows:-

Councillors Les Caborn and Jose Compton - Warwick District Council.

Councillor Richard Dodd - Rugby Borough Council.

Councillor Anita Macaulay - Stratford on Avon District Council.

Councillors Mick Stanley and Ray Sweet - North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Councillor Sid Tooth, Member of North Warwickshire Borough Council

- (2) Councillor Ray Sweet declared a personal interest in agenda item 5, because his brother-in-law received care from Social Services.
- (3) Councillor Sid Tooth declared a personal interest in agenda item 5, because his daughter received care from Social Services.
- (4) Councillor Anita Macaulay declared a personal interest in agenda item 3 and 5, because a family member was a client of Social Services and employed by the Voluntary Sector.
- (5) Councillor Mota Singh declared a personal interest in agenda item 6, because he was an Executive Director, Warwick Hospital Board.
- (6) Councillor Josie Compton declared a personal interest in agenda item 3 and 5, because she was a member of Warwickshire CVS, Warwickshire Community Council and Associate Member of the PCT Mental Health.
- (7) Councillor Nina Knapman declared a personal interest in agenda item 3, because a relative was employed with the Voluntary Sector.

(3) Minutes of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on the 10 January 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10 January 2006 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising

Minute 10 Provisional Items for Future Meetings

In reply to questions John Bull informed Members that –

- (1) The report on nutritional standards of older people would be the subject of a separate select committee event later on in the year.
- (2) Discussions were currently taking place with regard to the provision of joint occupational therapist posts – agreement having already been reached with North Warwickshire. A reported would be scheduled into the Committee's timetable when discussions had been concluded.
- (3) Costs relating to out of county services would be dealt with by means of a Select Committee and Bill Basra, Corporate Review Team, had the matter in hand and would be establishing a date for the meeting.

2. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3. Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy

John Lyons presented the report of the Strategic Director, Performance and Development, which provided a further update on progress in developing a Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy. Attached to the report were the draft Strategy and the results of consultation on this, in line with the Warwickshire Compact.

During discussion Members -

- Acknowledged the concerns of the voluntary and community sector and their vulnerability when local authorities were being driven by the need to obtain “value for money”;
- Expressed concern that the smaller voluntary and community sector organisations were underselling themselves and cutting costs when competing for grants against the larger organisations. The need for these organisations to be educated on how to present

their core costs was highlighted as an issue, which needed to be addressed.

- Welcomed the Strategy but expressed concern about whether there was sufficient officer capacity to deal with the large number of organisations and the amount of work involved in managing the Strategy.
- Expressed concern that only Warwick, of the five District Councils, had responded to the consultation.
- Highlighted the need for clarity about Members role on outside bodies (voluntary organisations management committees).
- Commended the report and the information contained therein.

In reply to questions John Lyons said that –

- With regard to staff capacity/resources to progress the aims of the Strategy, the intention was to bring together his work with that of the Area Teams to tie together local and corporate work with the VCS.
- The timetable to implement the Strategy would be included in the report to Cabinet. Whilst some actions would be immediate others would form a programme over the next five years.
- Further work was required to clarify the role of Members on the management committees of voluntary bodies because of the ambiguity and inconsistency felt by some Members.

Resolved that -

That the Committee notes the draft Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy and the comments received through consultation and requests that a final version be produced for approval by Cabinet to include clarification of Members' role on VCS organisations.

4. One Stop Shop Progress Report

Kushal Birla presented the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards that outlined progress on the Joint One Stop Shop project between Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council. She highlighted that Kenilworth One Stop Shop was now open and that the other pilot projects in Whitnash and Lillington were progressing well.

In reply to questions Kushal Birla explained –

- How the pilot projects were being progressed in partnership with Warwick District Council. She was in dialogue with the other

County Council Departments to ensure that the One Stop Shop dealt with District and County Council enquiries.

- The pilot scheme had not included Warwick Library. Further consideration and assessment was needed to consider the role of Shire Hall reception and Warwick Library and these would be explored in the future.
- That the setting up of the pilot scheme had not seen a reduction in the number of books available. At Kenilworth Library, the space had been opened up and utilised more efficiently. In addition the BBC kiosks in the main libraries had resulted in the promotion of the County Council and the Library Service within the local communities.
- With regard to the end of the Regenesys project in South Leamington and the future of the Brunswick Health Centre she was discussing this issue with Carol Edkins, Social Services, and a workshop was taking place on the 17 March 2006. The most important factor to be taken into account when considering future projects was the need for sustainability and to learn from past experience.
- The timescale for the two remaining projects was a June start for the Whitnash project but Lillington was less certain because of the need to await the outcome of the AWM funding bid.
- In addition to the 3 pilot projects there was a lot of activity happening around the County e.g. Southam and Bedworth Heath.

Resolved -

That the Committee notes the report and agrees to regular quarterly progress reports being prepared.

5. Record of Performance Assessment for Adult Social Care 2005

John Bull presented report of the Interim Director Adult Social Services, which provided a summary of the Commission for Social Care Inspection's evaluation and judgement of Warwickshire County Council's Adult Social Care and recommended the adoption of an action plan to further improve performance.

Discussion followed during which the following comments were made:

- Concern was expressed by some Members, about the findings of the Commission for Social Care Inspection. It was suggested that the 7 key priority areas identified for improvement, paragraph 3.3, should each be scrutinised by the Committee, the first two being "Low Intensity Support for older people" and "Fair access and Direct Payments: progress and scope of take up".

- Other Members said that they had always been kept informed, were aware of what was happening and enquired whether the additional budget was sufficient to take the steps outlined in the report.

In reply to questions and concerns John Bull said that –

- The current budget for Adult Social Care was 7% above F.S.S. as compared to other shire counties, which spent between 15% and 25%. However, by doing things differently and working in partnership with other agencies, he hoped to see an improvement in services by March 2006.

The Chair said that he shared Members' views, which had been discussed over many years. Because of lack of resources he had sympathy with the criticisms that officers had had to face. He complimented John Bull and his staff on the improvements that had been made to date and which he considered should be acknowledged. This acknowledgement was supported by other Members.

Resolved -

- (1) That the Committee note the Commission for Social Care Inspection's [CSCI] report on performance within Adult Social Care Services attached as Appendix 1.
- (2) That the Committee supports the performance improvements highlighted in section 4 of the report and the action plan attached as Appendix 2.
- (3) That John Bull be asked to schedule into the Committee timetable reports for Scrutiny on the 7 key priorities listed in paragraph 3.3. of the report.

6. Discharge of Older People from Hospital: The interface between Hospital (Acute) Trusts, Primary Care Trusts and the Social Services Department

John Bull presented the report of the Interim Director Adult Social Services, which provided an up to date trend analysis of hospital discharge performance across all key agencies.

During discussion Members commended all the officers involved in this work and the improvements shown. Concern was expressed about the

disappointing level of discharge from Warwick Hospital and the Trusts' response regarding reimbursement. John Bull reported that the Hospital had said that it would review the situation in light of the improving trends.

Resolved that -

- (1) The Committee notes the current position and positive trends since April 2005 and the continued efforts to promote safe and effective discharge of Older People from Hospital by:
 - Revisiting the action plan resulting from the reimbursement audit action plan to ensure hospital social work teams have implemented agreed actions
 - Ensuring that the joint arrangements to address delayed discharges continue to work in the interests of the patients being discharged
- (2) Secure early involvement with the Change Agent Team in the roll out of reimbursement across community and mental health beds.
- (3) Agree with health colleagues a continued investment strategy using the reimbursement grant to fund additional capacity.
- (4) Ask John Bull to write to Warwick Hospital expressing the Committee's concern that implementing fines goes against the spirit of partnership.

7. 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 with the following additions:

- (1) Nutritional Standards of Older People – Select Committee – date to be determined. (see minute 3 (1) above)
- (2) Joint Occupational therapists posts– date to be determine when discussions concluded (see minute 3 (2) above)
- (3) Out of County costs for people with learning disabilities. currently being progressed by Bill Basra (see minutes 3(3) above)
- (4) Quarterly progress reports on agenda item 4 One Stop Shop Progress (Kurshal Birla).

(5) Reports on the 7 key priorities for improvement – paragraph 3.3 agenda item 5 Performance and Assessment for Adult Social Care 2005 (John Bull to prepare timetable).

8. Any Other Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 11.50 a.m.