

Minutes of the Meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 April 2006 at Shire Hall, Warwick

Present:

Members of the Committee	Councillor Les Caborn
	Jose Compton
	“ Jill Dill-Russell
	“ Richard Dodd
	“ Marion Haywood
	“ Nina Knapman
	“ Anita Macaulay
	“ Mota Singh (Vice Chair)
	“ Ian Smith
	“ Mick Stanley
	“ Ray Sweet
	“ Sid Tooth (Chair)

Also Present	Councillor Colin Hayfield, Portfolio Holder for Adult and Community Services
	Councillor Alan Farnell

Officers

John Bakker, Interim Head of Adult Services
Graeme Betts, Strategic Director Adult, Health & Community Services
Victoria Cook, Assistant to the Labour Group
John Lyons, Community Development Co-ordinator
Ann Mawdsley, Senior Committee Administrator
Jane Pollard, Overview and Scrutiny Manager
Caroline Slane, Communications Officer
Paul Williams, Scrutiny Officer

1. General

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced John Bakker, the newly appointed Interim Head of Adult Services. John Bakker thanked the Committee and added that he was pleased to join Warwickshire at a time of interesting challenges and exciting developments.

(1) Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Members declared personal interests 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, Ray Sweet and Sid Tooth - North Warwickshire Borough Council.
- (2) Councillor Jill Dill-Russell declared a personal interest in agenda item 3 in view of her daughter, who lives with her, works for Stratford Mencap.
- (3) Councillor Anita Macaulay declared a personal interest in agenda item 3 in view of her father being a client of Social Services.
- (4) Councillor Sid Tooth declared a personal interest in agenda item 3, in view of his daughter receiving care from the Health Authority.

(3) Minutes of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on the 16 February 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 16 February 2006 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising

Page 3. Matters Arising – Minute 10 (2) Provisional Items for Future Meetings

Graeme Betts noted that there was nothing further to report in respect of the joint occupational therapist posts.

Page 5. - 4. One Stop Shop Progress Report – Bullet Point 4

Graeme Betts reported that the workshop on the Regenesys project in South Leamington had taken place on 17 March but that he had

not yet received any formal feedback. Councillor Mota Singh added that the attendance at the workshop had been very good.

Page 7 – 6(4) Discharge of Older People from Hospital: The Interface between Hospital (Acute) Trust, Primary Care Trusts and the Social Services Department

Graeme Betts reported that a response had not yet been received from Warwick Hospital.

2. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY

3. Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) – A Well-being Threshold

Members considered the report of the Strategic Director Adult, Health & Community Services outlining the proposals to modernise the eligibility threshold for Adult Social Services, as set out in the FACS Framework, to embrace the well-being agenda being pursued by the Government.

Graeme Betts summarised the background to FACS and added the following:

1. The direction and guidance set out in the Green Paper “Independence, Well-Being and Choice” and the subsequent White Paper “Our Health, Our Care, Our Say” recognised the broader definition of health and promotion of well-being and independence. It was noted that it was not seen as a desirable position either nationally or locally for Local Authorities to focus purely on crucial and substantial needs.
2. Most Local Authorities had focussed available resources at higher end needs resulting in people with lower level needs not receiving any services. The new arrangements would deliver improved services at lower levels, maintain support at higher levels and improve performance on key indicators for the Council.
3. In line with the rapid progress required to take forward the White Paper agenda, Cabinet had approved the proposal to increase the FACS range from high intensity social care to low intensity well-being.
4. In order to address the wider range of criteria and to co-ordinate services, users would be assessed and a care plan would then be drawn up and reviewed.

5. The importance of carers was emphasised and it was noted that low intensity support scheme would also cover carers.
6. The challenge on resources was recognised and would be managed through:
 - co-ordinating existing services
 - accessing Government grants
 - linking into Supporting People funding
 - additional funding of £500,000 received in the annual County budget
 - working with partner agencies to develop packages.
7. Michael Hake would continue to work for the Council on a part-time basis for three months.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were highlighted:

- a. Members were pleased to note the new prevention agenda and acknowledged the magnitude of the change and the difficulties the Directorate faced in achieving the new targets.
- b. There were sufficient resources in the budget to meet the needs anticipated through demographic growth.
- c. The Council and the O&S Committee needed to be mindful of the financial pressures on the NHS which were expected to impact on community resources.
- d. Members requested a progress report with a completed Action Plan including staff requirements, allocation of the additional £500,000 in the budget, targets, statistical data on numbers of users, the average costs per person and what adaptations would need to be done and giving examples of cases.
- e. The new agenda would not impact on people already receiving high intensity support.
- f. Research had shown that a small investment at an early stage could save huge sums of money later on and the Directorate would work with partners such as Supporting People, Voluntary and Community Sector and District and Borough Councils to provide a more preventative, proactive and integrated service.
- g. Local Area Agreements would provide an opportunity to link in with local partners and allow Members to see how the broader picture was taking shape.
- h. The thrust of the new Directorate would be better information, better quality advice and the best use of resources to anticipate increased levels of flexible, responsive care to maintain a good quality of life for people for longer.
- i. Work was underway on changes to the current models of service used in order to achieve a more flexible in-house domiciliary care service to meet all the needs of all older people.

- j. There was a growing recognition of the importance of carers and the need to work positively with them.
- k. Warwickshire was an exemplar in terms of delivery of the White Paper agenda.
- l. All staff had a basic awareness to deal with lower needs as part of their training and there would be a focus on developing the different and broader range of skills required to deliver increasingly higher levels of care. Individual packages would vary and include a range of services delivered by a team.
- m. The Directorate would need to be more sophisticated in commissioning services based on the roles and models of what they want to see delivered.
- n. The monitoring of services provided by partners would be done through:
 - CSCI inspection reports carried out on all providers
 - Setting clear quality specifications when commissioning
 - Monitoring complaints, compliments and comments from users
 - Communication with Assessment Care Team Managers.

Resolved that -

That the Committee:

1. Note the proposed changes to Fair Access criteria as set out which are designed to enable the Council to develop, in partnership where appropriate, a co-ordinated low intensity support service with special reference to older people; and,
2. Recognise the significant importance of partnership working; and
3. Wish to monitor the development and implementation of new arrangements for low intensity support and advise Cabinet on progress through regular reports on proposals being implemented on 1 June 2006 and including a progress report to the meeting on 17 May 2006; and,
4. Note the financial implications of change and the ability to meet them within relevant approved budgets for 2006/07.

4. 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) Progress Report on FACS – 17 May 2006 (see minute 3.d above).

- (2) Joint Leaders Liaison Group/Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to discuss Graeme Betts' follow-up report.

5. Any Other Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 11.15 a.m.