

Minutes of the Meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 March 2007 at Shire Hall, Warwick

Present:

Members of the Committee	Councillor Les Caborn “ Jose Compton “ Jill Dill-Russell “ Richard Dodd “ Nina Knapman “ Sue Main “ Frank McCarney (Chair) “ Ian Smith “ Mick Stanley “ Sid Tooth (replacing Cllr Mota Singh for this meeting)
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Other County Councillors	Councillor Colin Hayfield (Adult & Community Services)
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Officers	Andy Clayton, ICES Pooled Budget Manager Ayub Khan, Library Strategy Manager Ann Mawdsley, Senior Committee Administrator Jane Pollard, Overview and Scrutiny Manager Steve Smith, Service Manager Disability Ron Williamson, Head of Resources
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1. General

The Committee asked that their best wishes be sent to Councillor Marion Haywood.

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marion Haywood, Raj Randev and Mota Singh (replaced by Councillor Sid Tooth for this meeting); and Graeme Betts.

(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 Susan Main – Stratford-on-Avon District Council.
Councillors Mick Stanley and Sid Tooth - North Warwickshire
Borough Council.

- (2) Councillor Jose Compton declared a personal interest as the Associate Manager of the Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Partnership Trust.
 - (3) Councillor Jill Dill-Russell declared a personal interest as her daughter, who lives with her, works for Stratford Mencap and works with adults who have learning disabilities.
 - (4) Councillor Richard Dodd declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 8 as an employee of the West Midlands Ambulance Service.
 - (5) Councillor Colin Hayfield declared a personal interest as a Non-Executive Director of the NHS Warwickshire.
- (3) Minutes of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on the 14 February 2007**

The minutes of the meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10 January 2007 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising

Page 6 – 7.2 County Records Office: Conservation and Reprographics Policy

Members reported that the visit to the Conservation and Reprographics Unit had not yet been arranged by Caroline Sampson.

2. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

3. Adult Social Care – Performance Update

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Adult, Health and Community Services providing further commentary on a number of key performance indicators within the arrangements for the Adult and Community Service Directorate. Ron Williamson added that the

picture remained stable, there was some concern regarding Direct Payments, and this was being monitored in terms of the impact of increased charging and how to incentivise the system, particularly users organising their own care.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were raised:

1. The performance for physically disabled and older people helped to stay at home was unlikely to improve by the end of the financial year (end March 2007), particularly in light of the resource position.
2. Members requested a key to the tables be included in the report as well as page numbering.
3. Concern was expressed that the overall sickness percentage for the Directorate was still 2% above the national average and it was noted that it was a key priority to reduce the sickness levels by 2% in key areas in the next financial year and that a report on this was scheduled to be brought to the next meeting of the Committee. Members requested that health and safety policies and procedures, work being done to ensure staff were able to carry out their work without injuries and monitoring be included in the report.
4. It was agreed that Ron Williamson would revert to Members by E-mail regarding the implementation of the AWM bid for Tourist Information provision in Warwick Market Hall.

The Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the report to ensure performance was being monitored on a regular basis.

4. Adult Social Care - Performance Update

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Adult, Health and Community Services outlining social care performance for the period April – December 2006, forming part of a series of regular reports to scrutiny on performance monitoring. Ron Williamson noted that while Item 3 provided more detail from the Directorate, this report outlined the direction of travel as far as CSCI were concerned, and showed the same static picture.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were highlighted:

1. Over the past financial year the Directorate had had to manage a sizeable overspend and had injected resources into targeted areas to lift performance indicators. For the next financial year the Directorate would have to focus on areas of key performance indicators and target resources in a more permanent way.
2. Members acknowledged the need to understand and hit performance indicators but emphasised the priority needed to be improving services.

3. The indicators for helping to keep people at home were complex and inter-related and there was a need to intervene earlier to stop needs worsening to make a long-term difference.
4. It was noted that the statistics were misleading, as only users who were supported on an ongoing basis were included and there was a need to provide wording alongside indicators to give a true picture.
5. Partnership working helped the service provided on the ground but did not necessarily impact on statistics.

The Committee agreed to note:

- the adult social care performance between April and December 2006
- the action being taken to further improve performance; and
- to receive a further report on performance monitoring in April 2007.

5. Nuneaton Masterplan – Scope and Implications for Adult Health and Community Services

The Committee agreed that Item 5 be withdrawn from the Agenda for further consideration by the Strategic Directors' Management Team, particularly in respect of financial and environmental implications.

6. Progress Report on the Mobile Library Service Improvement Programme

Members considered the report of the Strategic Director Adult, Health & Community Services updating Members on the plan in 9 months time to replace the mobile library fleet and outlining progress to date on developing the new look mobile library service and projected work leading up to the launch date in October 2007.

During the ensuing discussion the following comments were made:

1. The suggested design of the new mobile libraries was smaller than the Mobile Library Members had seen from East Riding, Yorkshire and the access roads in rural areas and villages were too narrow for a vehicle that size and the costs were too high.
2. The mobile libraries would have ICT on board and discussions would take place with Kushal Birla re customer access and partnership representation on the mobile libraries.
3. The vehicle specs included environmental issues and there would be five vehicles servicing the five areas and each would be garaged as close to the area they serviced as was possible. Once the work on the specifications and tenders was complete, work would begin on the audience and marketing strategy.

4. Members agreed the need for urban areas to be catered for as well as rural areas, particularly in places such as Warwick where the library did not have easy access or designated parking.
6. The change to a three-week loan period would give the service the capacity to increase the number of stops and reach more communities. It was noted that library books could be pre-ordered and renewed by telephone as well as online.
7. Members requested clarification on where the depots would be situated, where the new services were going to be and copies of the route maps as they became available.
8. The expected date for delivery of the vehicles was September/October 2007.

The Committee noted the programme for service improvement set out in the report.

7. Integrated Community Equipment Service - Update

Members considered the report of the Strategic Director Adult, Health & Community Services updating the Committee on the work of the Warwickshire Community Equipment Service. Steve Smith added the following:

- i. In response to a number of problems with the service, the County Council had worked in partnership with the PCTs to turn the service around. The service was now offering a more efficient and effective service than had been anticipated in the original contract and was in a position to develop.
- ii. The service had achieved the DoH target of 85% on items of equipment being delivered within seven days, and it was expected that this target would be met again this year.
- iii. Working in partnership with the PCT had been beneficial and there had been many lessons learnt. The two organisations were now training staff together and working on future developments such as inline ordering, and this was expected to improve the understanding of both roles.

During the ensuing debate the following comments were made:

1. The replacement of three PCTs with one in Warwickshire would have significant efficiency benefits in respect of both time and financial savings.
2. It was noted that waiting times for Occupational Therapists had been reduced significantly and Steve Smith agreed to e-mail the figures to Members of the Committee.
3. NRS had investigated significantly in Warwickshire and the 2nd online ordering system was expected to go live from the end of April 07 for the County Council, and it would be available to Health

from that time. The system would allow the service to see at any time what equipment was available.

4. It was noted that for any item with a value over £20, the user was contacted by the NRS after a specified time to see if the equipment was still needed or whether it could be collected. Steve Smith agreed to forward to Members a contact number for the NRS.
5. The workload and financial implications in turning the service around had left the Council only marginally over-budget. Members congratulated the officers for turning the difficulties around into something positive.

The Committee noted the work of the Integrated Community Equipment Service.

Councillor Richard Dodd left the room.

8. Joint Review with Coventry City Council – Joint Commissioning of Adult Social Care and Health Services

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development seeking support to establish a task and finish group to consider health and social care commissioning and service provision in Coventry and Warwickshire.

Jane Pollard noted the following points:

1. The report provided a brief outline of the proposal and if supported, the working group would be made up of four Members from Coventry City Council and four Members from Warwickshire County Council, who would work out the detail and timing of the review.
2. A further report would be brought to the May meeting of the Committee calling for formal nominations.
3. The joint review had the support of Councillor Bob Stevens, who had asked to be involved.

The Committee agreed to:

- agree to the establishment of a time-limited Coventry and Warwickshire overview and scrutiny working group to consider the arrangements for health and social care commissioning across the county and city
- seek nominations for four councillors from each local authority (drawn from their appropriate overview and scrutiny committees) to form the working group at the May meeting of the Committee
- invite the appropriate cabinet members to attend meetings of the working group as observers

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 and Forward Plan items with the following additions:

- Meals on Wheels
- Dementia Services for Older People
- Joint Review with Coventry City Council
- CSCI Report on Older People
- Directorate Report Card.

Jane Pollard reported that the first meeting of the Library Service and Heritage Service Strategy Working Group would take place on 29 March 2007 at 2.00 pm and the first meeting of the Home Care Working Group would take place on 30 March at 9.30 am.

10. Any Other Business

There were no items of urgent business.

The Committee rose at 12.40 p.m.

Chair of Committee