

SOCIAL CARE AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

THURSDAY 9 JUNE 2011 AT 6.00 P.M.

Panel Members Present: Councillor Oliver (Chair)
Councillor Paul (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Barker
Councillor Burley
Councillor D. Coughlan
Councillor Ditta
Councillor Douglas-Maul
Councillor Turner

Officers Present: Peter Davis, Head of Social Care and Inclusion
John Fell, Head of Strategic Development
Andy Rust, Head of Vulnerable Adults and Joint
Commissioning Unit
Brandon Scott-Omenka - Performance and
Outcomes Manager
Matthew Underhill - Scrutiny Officer

84/11 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received for the duration of the meeting from Councillor Rattigan, Councillor McCracken and Paul Davies.

85/11 SUBSTITUTIONS

No substitutions were received for the duration of the meeting.

86/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest or party whip identified at this meeting.

87/11 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2011, a copy having previously been circulated be approved as a true and accurate record.

88/11 WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12

Officers introduced the proposed work programme items for 2011/12. The main points of the presentation and subsequent discussion were as follows:

- In relation to Changes to Social Care Legal Framework officers explained that a process had been undertaken by government to revise and consolidate the national infrastructure for social care. The associated legislation had undergone change through the introduction of various acts from the 1970s through to 1990s and beyond;
- Key issues will be to understand how the new legal framework will operate and how personalisation will function within the framework;
- Officers agreed to provide Members with a summary document setting out the key information when further details were available, together with an explanation of the activity of the Welfare Rights team;
- Officers explained that there was a second element of change which related to a new financial framework which would define how individuals would fund their care. It was anticipated that this would address issues including the frequent loss of a home to pay for care which could not then be passed on to relatives. Officers explained that the new legislative and financial frameworks would operate in accordance with each other;
- In relation to Domiciliary Care Procurement, officers explained that issues raised by both a working group and officers regarding block contracts and the e-procurement process, as well as the implementation of personalisation, had prompted the introduction of Framework Agreements. It is anticipated that services will be delivered by providers under the new arrangements from April 2012. Officers will update the Panel throughout the process which will include appointments in January 2012;
- In response to a Member query officers explained that previously many systems were too reactive in responding to complaints and other problems regarding levels of care being received. However, significant work was being undertaken to ensure that the council and its partners were significantly more proactive in identifying and resolving issues;
- Officers explained that significant changes are to be introduced into the way in which the performance of services is measured. In particular, there will be shift to an outcomes-based approach. This revised national framework includes a reduced regulatory role for the CQC and consequentially it is likely that the Panel will have an increasingly important function in holding services to account;
- It was agreed that officers would provide the outturn report, together with a menu of service outcomes from which the Panel would be able to select for future performance reporting at the next Panel meeting;
- In relation to Personalisation, officers explained that the allocation of resources in the existing form did not meet needs. The introduction of individual budgets will enable greater choice regarding the types of care and support that are received;

- Officers explained that following one of the recommendations of the Personalisation working group from the previous municipal year, significant joint working between social care and inclusion officers and officers from other service areas had begun. For example, there is often an opportunity to include a social care element in funding stream bids led by Regeneration. If such bids were successful this would result in further funding for the council's adult social care service;
- Following a Panel query, officers explained that in respect of risk management a risk management board would operate to assess the types of care provision identified by an individual if concerns were expressed regarding its suitability. However, officers also emphasised that it would be important for a positive attitude to risk to be taken to enable the identification of innovative care solutions;
- The Panel agreed to re-establish the Personalisation working group, with Councillor Paul to act as lead Member, with officers writing to Members inviting them to join the working group;
- In relation to Quarterly Financial Monitoring, officers explained that the Panel would receive regular financial reports regarding the management of service budgets and spending commitments;
- The Chair and Panel identified a number of other areas that they agreed should be considered during the municipal year. In relation to Links to Work it was agreed to provide the Panel with an update regarding the reconfiguration of the service, which includes the development of a food bank operation. Members will also be invited to visit the single Links to Work site;
- The Chair highlighted the importance of the introduction of benefits-based charging for services and the impact on local service users. It was agreed that a working group would be established to consider this issue, with Councillor Oliver acting as the lead Member and officers writing to Members inviting them to join the group;
- In relation to Learning Disability Specialist Health Services, officers explained that this related to a planned joint contract between the council and the Black Country Partnership NHS Trust. It was agreed that this item would be considered at the Panel's meeting in September, with a presentation from the officer leading the process;
- Officers also agreed to provide an update to the Panel regarding the development of HealthWatch arrangements to a future meeting;
- Officers also agreed to provide an update to the Panel at its September meeting regarding the Taste4Life scheme.

Resolved

That

- (1) officers will provide the Panel with a summary document in relation to the new social care legal and financial frameworks when further information is published by government, together with guidance on the activity of the Welfare Rights team;

- (2) officers will provide the Panel with regular updates regarding the domiciliary care procurement process;
- (3) officers will provide the outturn report, together with menu of service outcomes from which the Panel would be able to select for future reporting at the next Panel meeting;
- (4) the Personalisation working group will be re-established, with Councillor Paul as lead Member and Panel Members invited to join;
- (5) the Panel will receive an update at a future meeting regarding Links to Work, together with an invitation to Members to visit the site;
- (6) a benefits-based charging working group be established, with Councillor Oliver as lead Member and Panel Members invited to join;
- (7) the establishment of a Learning Disability Specialist Health Services contract would be considered at the Panel's meeting in September;
- (8) an update will be provided to the Panel regarding the development of HealthWatch arrangements to a future meeting;
- (9) officers will provide an update regarding the Taste4Life scheme to the September meeting;

and

- (10) the report be noted.

89/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair informed Members that the date of the next meeting would be 14 July at 6:00pm.

The meeting terminated at 6:58 pm

Chair:

Date: