

## **SOCIAL CARE & INCLUSION SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

Thursday 02 June 2009 at 6.00 p.m.

### **Panel Members present**

Councillor Oliver (Chair)  
Councillor Ault  
Councillor Martin  
Councillor Paul  
Councillor Robertson  
Councillor Woodruff

### **Officers present**

Dave Martin	Executive Director – Social Care and Inclusion
Sue Byard	Assistant Director Strategic Housing
Steph Simcox	Head of Finance – Social Care and Inclusion
Clive Wright	Walsall Partnership Director

### **01/09 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Margaret Willcox, Tim Johnson and Councillors Barton and Turner.

### **02/09 SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were no substitutions for the duration of this meeting.

### **03/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

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

### **04/09 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Dave Martin informed the panel that a 'Links to work' officer group was in operation, it would be considering how the requests in the letter received from the Chair of the panel could be accommodated.

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2009, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

### **05/09 DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The development opportunities open to members were noted.

### **06/09 WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10**

Clive Wright tabled a Walsall Borough Partnership pack (annexed). Clive Wright explained that he had attended the panel to discuss how the panel could be involved in scrutinising the performance of the partnership within the remit of the panel. The panel were informed of the new Health and well-being board, which may be applicable to the panels work.

Dave Martin stated that the establishment of a new separate Health Scrutiny Panel may mean that some issues may be cross cutting across the two panel remits. The panel were also informed that the scrutiny of 'housing' would in the future be within the Regeneration scrutiny panel remit pending a constitutional change. Dave Martin stated that cross cutting issues may be selected by a particular panel for scrutiny but could remain in the 'peripheral vision' of another panel.

The panel discussed the National Indicators and selected the following for inclusion in the quarterly performance reports received by the panel;

- NI 135 Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information
- NI 136 People supported to live independently through social services
- NI 141 Percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living

Clive Wright suggested that the scrutiny panel reviewed the partnership's delivery plans and monitored progress. The panel discussed taking a more active approach to get involved when things were not going right.

A member enquired about how the remaining national indicators would be scrutinised. Clive Wright explained that the national indicators were cross cutting by their very nature and that he would be visiting other scrutiny panels. The general approach was that the performance monitoring of national indicators was taken on by individual panels.

The Chair informed the panel that a summary of suggested work programmes and a briefing note on 2 potential items had been tabled (annexed).

The following is a summary of discussion held by the panel on work items;

- **Affordable Housing Working Group**

It was hoped that a conclusion could be reached about Walsall Housing Groups first 6 years of performance. A report would need to be coordinated to complete the working groups work stream.

- **Personalisation Working Group**

It was agreed that this was a crucial work stream for the panel and would be completed through establishment of a working group. It was agreed that Councillor Ault would be lead member for this group.

- **Domiciliary Care**

Members discussed how this was an issue of national focus and agreed that a working group should be established to consider this issue. It was agreed that Councillor Oliver would be lead member for this group.

- **Homelessness**

Members agreed that unless there was a strategic decision for housing to be transferred to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel that this item would be reviewed in September.

- **Fairer Charging**

The panel agreed to consider this item at the July meeting.

- **Links to Work**

Dave Martin stated that all action had been suspended pending discussions. It was agreed that a report would be taken at a future meeting.

The Chair stated that there were two strands to this piece of work

- Links to work
- Approach to disability employment

- **Supporting People Inspection**

Sue Byard explained that the service had received a 'star' with excellent prospects for improvement. This was the most improved supporting people authority, and the authority had excelled compare to neighbouring authorities. Audit Commission recommendations had been picked upon in the service plan, the panel were offered a 6 month update but work had been completed.

The Chair requested an executive summary was circulated; Sue Byard reminded members that the full report was on the website.

- **Local Involvement Network**

Members considered this to be an important item to keep on the work programme and requested that it was considered at the next meeting to obtain a view of where the authority was in the commissioning process. Dave Martin stated that the LINK had been given 90 days notice to terminate their contract. Members discussed budget implications.

- **Dementia Strategy**

The Chair informed members that this was a cross cutting issue with the Health Scrutiny Panel, and suggested that it was best placed on the Health Scrutiny work programme.

- **Budget setting**

A member of the public requested that information on direct payments was brought to the panel. Officers volunteered to have conversations with the individual to resolve individual issues and suggested that as a strategic issue it may be covered in the personalisation work stream.

- **Welfare Advice**

Members considered the briefing note on welfare advice (annexed). It was agreed that Councillors Oliver and Ault would represent the panel on this issue.

- **Shop mobility**

It was agreed that Councillor Martin would be lead member for this issue.

The Chair suggested that a letter was sent to all members asking for preferences for membership on the two working groups to be expressed.

## **Resolved**

That the following items are added to the work programme for the 2009/10 municipal year;

- Personalisation Working Group with Councillor Ault as lead member
- Domiciliary Care Working Group with Councillor Oliver as lead member
- Homelessness

- Fairer Charging
- Links to Work
- Local Involvement Network
- Performance and Financial Monitoring
- Budget Setting 2010/11
- Welfare advice
- Shop mobility

And

That the executive summary of the support people inspection is circulated to members of the panel.

The meeting terminated at 6.50 pm

Chair:

Date: