

HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE & INCLUSION SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

05 June 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

Panel Members present

Councillor Oliver (Chair)
Councillor Ault (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Barton
Councillor Bird
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Woodruff

Officers present

David Martin - Executive Director for Social Care and Inclusion
Sue Byard - Assistant Director - Strategic Housing
Steph Simcox - Head of Finance - Social Care & Inclusion
Jody Latham – Performance and Scrutiny Officer

01/08 APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Micklewright.

02/08 SUBSTITUTIONS

No substitutions were submitted to the panel for this meeting

03/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

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

04/08 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Panel were directed to page 6 paragraph 1 and informed that the member's seminar for the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate Action Plan was currently underway and in the process of being set up.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2008, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

05/08 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The panel noted the training opportunities as previously circulated.

06/08 FORWARD PLAN

The contents of the forward plan as at 09 May 2008 were noted.

The Panel were informed that the forward plan as requested will in future contain more information to aid clarity of the subject matter.

07/08 WORK PROGRAMME

Dave Martin presented to the Panel a walkthrough of the suggested work programme contained within the papers previously circulated.
(annexed)

The following are the principal points from the ensuing discussion:

- The Panel were informed that remit wording had changed this year to reflect greater flexibility in the work they could consider.
- The Panel were informed of the range of powers they have at their disposal in the scrutiny process.
- The Panel discussed and agreed the need to continue with the Health Sub-Panel although greater clarity on the legality and powers of a sub-panel were requested. Officers agreed to confirm and feedback findings to the Panel. Councillor Bird was elected onto the Panel in place of Councillor Micklewright. Membership includes:
 - Cllr Woodruff (Chair)
 - Cllr Paul
 - Cllr Robertson
 - Cllr Bird

- The Panel discussed the suggested items and reporting methods and agreed to consider all as part of the work programme for 2008/09:

Social Care and Housing:

- Hollybank House, continuing current review.
- Merger of Young Adults and Disabilities Service, 6 monthly reporting the first being due in September 2008.
- CSCI Action Plan, as part of the Personalisation Agenda Work Group.
- Supporting People improvement towards excellence plan, to be considered when on the Forward Plan.
- Disability Facility Grants, 6 monthly reporting.
- Temporary Accommodation Reduction Plan, inviting St Mathews Church and possible others to attend scrutiny to inform any recommendations.
- Local Involvement Networks, to consider when more established.
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), reports to follow.

Health:

- Change in role of the Primary Care Trust.
- Change in status of the Manor Hospital.
- Arms-length Provider Organisation (APrO).
- Development of an urgent care model.

Standing items:

- Regular financial and performance monitoring information, to be provided as quarterly formal reports.

Additional requested item:

- Infant mortality rates.

- The Panel were informed that the CSCI Action Plan was at the heart of the new Personalisation Agenda with major changes planned to the face of social care. The Personalisation Agenda was a new way to distribute funds to those in need of care that takes the form of a financial voucher given to those in need to use as they see best for them. This has obvious implications on the safety of giving money to people who are unable to make informed decisions regarding their care needs. It was agreed that a Personalisation Working Group be formed to scrutinise this area.
Membership includes:
 - Cllr Ault (Lead)
 - Cllr Robertson
 - Cllr Bird
- The Panel agreed to continue with the Affordable Housing working group to its completion as it was nearing its natural end. The Panel discussed the possible future complications for affordable housing due to the implementation of the new roof tax tariff and agreed to look at this as part of the working group. This tariff has the possibility to increase build cost by approximately £20,000. The Panel discussed the possibility of a new working group along a similar theme after the Affordable Housing working group has completed its work. A Possible review of WHG was considered.
Membership includes:
 - Cllr Oliver (Lead)
 - Cllr Ault
 The Panel requested an invite be sent to the Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel to continue with the joint working group on Affordable Housing and to re-elect members to this working group.
- The Panel discussed and agreed to continue with the work of the Obesity working group.
Membership includes:
 - Cllr Woodruff (Lead)
 - Cllr Robertson
 - Cllr Paul
- The Panel were informed of the Value for Money Toolkit developed specifically for undertaking any service reviews and the benefits of using it demonstrated through the work completed on Revenues and Benefits Service.
- The Panel were informed of the continuing items on the Forward Plan that are to be considered prior to September 2008 Cabinet. The Panel expressed its wish to look at all the items on the Forward Plan prior to Cabinet and requested reports specifically on:
 - Review of transport policy with a view to meeting savings targets
 - Amendment to the fairer charging policy for non-residential care
 - Approval of the charging scheme for extra care housing

Resolved:

The Health, Social Care and Inclusion Panel:

- Establish a sub-committee to discharge the functions of Health scrutiny;
- Agree the work programme for the Panel and its sub-committee as set above;
- Invite the Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel to continue with the joint working group on Affordable Housing;
- Reform the Obesity working group to continue its work from last year;
- Form a new working group to consider the Personalisation Agenda; and
- Agree membership of the Health sub-committee and working groups as set out above.

08/08 CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

The Panel were informed of the current financial status of Health, Social Care and Inclusion:

As at the end of May 2008, it was predicted that the 2007/08 draft outturn for Social Care and Inclusion Directorate was in the region of £150K overspent, which equates to approx 0.23% of the total net budget (£65.4M) and 0.13% of the total gross budget (£116.2M). Adult services was approx £500k overspent, which was mitigated overall by underspends in Strategic Housing and Support Services.

The overspend was after the allocation of central reserves of £962K and the income received from the tPCT to support the Learning Disability Pooled Budget. As the income from the PCT relates to a pooled budget it can only be used for this element and any underspend on the pool carried forward to 2008/09 for use by the pool.

The final outturn will be available at the end of July once the accounts have been audited, but a more detailed report will be presented to the next scrutiny meeting on 10th July 08.

It is currently expected that there is sufficient funding within the budgets for the current financial year, however, there is a risk associated with the achievement of the approved savings in relation to retender of the residential and nursing contract. Further detail will be provided to the panel through the year.

The meeting terminated at 7.02pm.

Chair:

Date: