

AT A MEETING
- of the -
**HEALTH AND SOCIAL
CARE SCRUTINY AND
PERFORMANCE PANEL**
held at the Council House,
Walsall on **Thursday 21st**
April 2005 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Oliver (Chairman)
Councillor Woodruff (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Ault
Councillor Barton
Councillor D. Pitt
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Walker

APOLOGIES

Apologies for non attendance were submitted on behalf of David Martin, Executive Director, Health and Social Care and Supported Housing.

SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no substitutions received at this meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

Councillor Pitt declared a personal non prejudicial interest as an employee of the West Midlands Ambulance NHS Trust and as a relative of the portfolio holder for Housing and Community Safety.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2005, copy having been previously circulated to each member of the panel be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

NOTES OF WORK GROUP MEETINGS

The panel received and noted the notes of the CPA Housing Improvement Plan Work Group which was held on 24th March 2005.

INDEPENDENCE, WELL-BEING AND CHOICE
GREEN PAPER ON ADULTS SOCIAL CARE

Kathy McAteer referred to the governments green paper; a consultation document on the future direction of adult social care in England.

(See Annexed)

She confirmed that the consultation period would conclude on 28th July 2005 and the green paper set out a number of ideas for achieving better standards of social care as referred to below: -

- 1) Expansion of direct payments and introduction of Individualised budgets.
- 2) Greater co-operation between the NHS, voluntary and community sector.
- 3) New directors of adult social services to provide strategic leadership across all services.
- 4) Shift towards more preventative services.
- 5) Whole of local government to make sure all services are accessible for those with greatest need.
- 6) New responsive models for care include extra care housing and telecare.
- 7) Streamlining of assessments between agencies, local government and across agencies.

Kathy McAteer referred to her presentation which aimed to streamline the issues raised in the document. She said the consultation document outlines the vision for adult social care for the next ten years with a view to service users having more choice and control over their lives.

She went on to outline the initiatives which needed to be considered as part of the consultation exercise: -

- Why a new vision was needed.
- Setting clear outcome for social care.
- Managing risks as part of social cares responsibility of the protection of individuals under their care.
- Provision of better information.
- Putting individuals at the centre of assessment.
- Giving people the means to choose their services; direct payments.
- Support for individuals (models).
- The role of carers.
- Preventative services – which would defer the need for more costly intensive support.
- Scope for making better use of existing funding.
- The strategic and leadership role played by local government e.g. the role of director of adult social services.
- The local authorities role in the promotion of the well being agenda.
- Partnership working – to promote and ensure a strategic balance of investment in local services.
- Overall service improvement and delivery

- Regulation and performance assessments – modernisation of the existing inspection and performance assessment frameworks.
- The social care workforce including recruitment and retention, training strategies etc.
- Voluntary and community capacities
- The need for more strategic engagement at local level.

Kathy concluded that the views of the Panel on all the questions posed in the green paper would be welcome and also views on the draft guidance for the Director of Adult Social Service (DASS) and on the extension of direct payments and the use of the name “direct payments”.

She further advised that the process for response to the consultation document would be two strands: -

- 1) To co-ordinate the council’s response via a detailed analysis and taking into account views of managers and staff.
- 2) Raise awareness of all partners through the partnership boards and encourage them to respond.

Members thanked Kathy for her presentation and RESOLVED

That the council’s response should include the views of this scrutiny panel and that the completed consultation questionnaire should be presented to this panel before being submitted to the Department of Health. The panel also requested that officers elicit the views of service users and carers, and brief the panel on the level of support or any concerns that service users may have.

FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan was submitted (see annexed).

Resolved

That the Forward Plan be received and noted.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.00 p.m.