

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

21 January 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

### **Panel Members present**

Councillor Oliver (Chair)  
Councillor Ault (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Barton  
Councillor Bird  
Councillor Longhi  
Councillor Micklewright  
Councillor Paul  
Councillor Robertson

### **Officers present**

David Martin  
Margaret Willcox  
Steph Simcox  
Dan Mortiboys  
Simon Evans

Executive Director for Social Care and Inclusion  
Assistant Director for Adult Services  
Head of Finance, Social Care & Inclusion  
Finance Service Manager  
Principal Performance and Scrutiny Officer

### **68/07 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Woodruff and Councillor D. Pitt.

### **69/07 SUBSTITUTIONS**

The following substitution(s) to the panel were submitted for the duration of the meeting:-

- Delete: Councillor D. Pitt
- Substitute: Councillor Longhi

### **70/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

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

### **71/07 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

#### **Resolved**

- That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2007, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

### **72/07 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

The panel noted the training opportunities as previously circulated.

## **Resolved**

- Note the training opportunity.

### **73/07 FORWARD PLAN**

Councillor Bird commented that he noted that improvements had been made but that it was important that officers ensured the forward plan contained sufficient detail.

Dave Martin stated that officers would welcome and encourage feedback.

## **Resolved**

- Note the forward plan.

### **74/07 DRAFT CORPORATE BUDGET 2008/09**

Dan Mortiboys presented this item (annexed) and invited questions.

Councillor Longhi said he would be extremely concerned if a decision was made to reduce funding to the Welfare Rights Service.

Councillor Bird agreed with this point and stated the £435k that had been identified in both cash and redundancies savings is disappointing. He believed that funding for this service is essential and that it should be found.

Councillor Robertson and Councillor Micklewright agreed.

Councillor Oliver suggested the following motion which was agreed by all members.

## **Resolved**

- The panel strongly recommends the resolution of the Corporate Service Scrutiny and Performance Panel to support the Welfare Rights Service **and**
- For the Welfare Rights Service to be included as a growth item within the budget and not to accept the £200k cut along with the proposed 7 redundancies..

### **75/07 DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS – SOCIAL CARE AND INCLUSION**

Steph Simcox presented this item (annexed) and invited questions.

Councillor Longhi asked about the difference in the level of base budget.

Steph Simcox informed the panel the difference relates to central support services costs, office accommodation and capital costs.

Dave Martin commented that one of the things we must also consider is the changing demographic factors that mean the service must continue to invest in services. This year's focus of investment will be in the Younger Adults and Disability Service (YADS).

Councillor Longhi asked if budget profiling had been done to reflect the demographic changes and the growth in the number of older people.

Steph Simcox said this was already considered and additional funding was included within the full year effect growth bid and the new growth bid for older people. The new growth bid indicated a growth year on year, until 2010/11.

Councillor Robertson said that other neighbouring boroughs may not look after older people quite so well whilst providing affordable housing to attract younger people. The overall picture needs to be considered. He also asked how much work was being done with partners including the NHS.

Dave Martin said a global picture has been considered to look at all factors to include housing, transport and social factors. Work was being done between Health and Social Care to ensure money was being spent on agreed areas. An example is where the NHS is funding social work staff to assist on speeding up hospital leaving.

Councillor Robertson asked how the figures for the increase in fees and charges had been derived.

Steph Simcox said work had been undertaken with social care officers and procurement. Savings expected within the home care tender have been projected based on knowledge of the market and existing revisions made to hourly rates on some contracts which had already been renegotiated. Others, namely residential and nursing contract savings, have been based on benchmarking work with other authorities and market intelligence from procurement.

Dave Martin said we would look to take advantage of block contracts to reduce costs further.

**Resolved**

- No specific recommendation from the panel regarding the budget.

The meeting terminated at 7.06pm.

Chair:

Date: