

Council – 15 January 2007

Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel Call-in of Cabinet decision 20.12.06 re Community Meals Service

Service Area: Social Care and Inclusion

Wards: All

Summary of report

The report details an item referred to Council from the Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel (the Panel) regarding their call-in of the Cabinet decision on 20 December 2006 re community meals service. The Panel resolved:

‘The Panel requests that their resolution on 30 November 2006 re community meals be referred for consideration at Council on 15 January 2007. Should this not be possible for genuine practical or legal reasons as explained to the Chair of the Panel then it is resolved that the strength of our views be reiterated to Cabinet.’

Recommendations

- (1) To consider the resolution of the Panel on 30 November 2006 in relation to the community meals service and the subsequent decision taken by Cabinet.

Resource and legal considerations

Agreement to the development of the community meals service will enable the Council to meet the legal duties and powers conferred upon it by the National Health Service and Public Health Act 1968, the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and the National Health Service Act 1977 and all related guidance. It will also ensure compliance with the Fair Access to Care Services guidance. No new revenue resources would be required to implement this option.

Should the contract for the provision of a home freezer delivery scheme, a hot meals service and the delivery of the same be awarded to an outside contractor, then it is likely that TUPE will apply. However this is subject to legal scrutiny when the contract position is finalised, and so can not be confirmed at this point

Citizen impact

Agreement to this development will ensure that all citizens needing a community meals service will be able to access the service following formal assessment of their needs. This service would form part of the Council’s prevention strategy and contribute to enabling older people to live at home in their chosen community.

Environmental impact

None directly as a result of this report.

Performance and risk management issues

The remodelled service will ensure that performance improves. The service impacts on:

PAF indicators:

- C26 - Admissions of supported residents aged 65 or over to residential / nursing care.
- C32 - Older People Helped to Live at Home.

Equality implications

The provision of community meals Alleviation of poverty contributes to reducing inequalities.

Consultation

Four consultation events prior to entering the tendering process were undertaken:

- Consultation on the acceptability of using frozen food – November 2004
- A one-day stakeholder conference was held on 24th February 2005, involving service users, carers, partners from health and voluntary sectors, trade unions and managers.
- Consultation exercise with community meals recipients August 2005.
- Consultation with black and minority ethnic groups August 2005.

The evaluation of the tenders will also incorporate further consultation with service users and carers through a tasting exercise.

Background papers

'Modernisation of the Community Meals Service' report to Cabinet 23 March 2005

'Community Meals' report to Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel 29 September 2005

'Modernisation of the Community Meals Service' report to Cabinet 19 October 2005

'Community Meals Services' report to Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel 30 November 2006

'Community Meals Services' report to Cabinet from the Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel 20 December 2006

'Community Meals Service' report to Cabinet 20 December 2006

Background

1. At their meeting on 30 November 2006 the Panel received a progress report regarding the provision of the community meals service. The Panel resolved that the following recommendations be presented to Cabinet:

'The Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel is dismayed to learn that the current tender process for community meals does not specify the provision of a prime cooked meal choice for the people of Walsall, and therefore may not meet the quality standards that scrutiny envisaged.

We would therefore recommend that the process be re-tendered or alternative means found to guarantee the same outcome.'

These recommendations were reported to Cabinet on 20 December 2006.

2. On 20 December 2006 Cabinet, in response to the report from the Panel regarding the tendering of the community meals service, decided

'That the concern raised by the scrutiny panel be noted. (2) That the concerns previously expressed in the panels recommendations to Cabinet were also noted. (3) That Cabinet reaffirms its original decision, that the option to provide the service as either a prime cooked meal or a regenerated frozen meal should remain open and subject to the tendering process and that the tendering process already commenced will be completed.'

3. This decision by Cabinet was subject of a call-in by the Panel who met on 11 January 2007.

Signed:



Scrutiny Chair

Date: 12 January 2007

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