

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4.00PM 4 MARCH 2010

COMMITTEE ROOM 1, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Meadows (Chairman); Wrighton (Deputy Chairman), Allen, Janio, Taylor, Wells and Smart

Co-opted Members:

PART ONE

42. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

42A. Declarations of Substitutes

42.1 Councillor David Smart announced that he was attending as substitute for Councillor Dawn Barnett.

42B. Declarations of Interest

42.2 Councillor Keith Taylor declared a personal interest in Item 46(a).

42C. Declarations of Party Whip

42.3 There were none.

42D. Exclusion of Press and Public

42.4 In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in section 100I (1) of the said Act.

42.5 RESOLVED – That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

43. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

- 43.1 That the minutes of the meetings held on 07.01.10 and 21.01.10 be approved as a correct record.

44. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 44.1 There were none.

45. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 45.1 There were none.

46. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 46.1 Councillor Georgia Wrighton introduced a letter proposing holding a Scrutiny panel on autistic spectrum conditions (ASC).
- 46.2 Members debated this issue, agreeing to form a panel to look at adult ASC services, potentially including 'transitional' services supporting people moving from children's to adult services. Members also asked for a briefing note on this issue to be circulated to all members.
- 46.3 Councillor Keith Taylor introduced a letter from Councillor Ian Davey on lease-hold mediation services.
- 46.4 The Chair directed members to a recent response to similar queries from Nick Hibberd, Assistant Director, Housing Management. Committee members agreed that this response answered most of the queries raised in Councillor Davey's letter and that there was currently therefore no need for the matter to be taken further by the Committee.
- 46.5 **RESOLVED** – That: a) an ad hoc panel be formed to investigate issues relating to city services for adults with autistic spectrum conditions; b) that Councillor Davey be thanked for his letter regarding lease-hold mediation, but that no further action would be taken at this time.

47. NOTICES OF MOTIONS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

- 47.1 There were none.

48. TRAINING SESSION: ADAPTATIONS CARE PATHWAYS

- 48.1 This Item was introduced by Guy Montague-Smith from Access Point and by Lesley D'Arcy-Garven from Community Solutions.
- 48.2 Members asked questions on issues including housing adaptations, social care needs assessments and client satisfaction with the service.

48.3 The Chair thanked Mr Montague-Smith and Ms D’Arcy-Garven for their contribution.

49. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

49.1 This Item was introduced by Denise D’Souza, Acting Director of Adult Social Care (ASC). Ms D’Souza told members that ASC was expecting to be inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in the coming months, with the inspection anticipated to focus on safeguarding issues and the provision of Learning Disability services in relation to choice and control.

49.2 In answer to a question regarding the ASC assessment process, Ms D’Souza told the Committee that complying with all the demands of assessment could be onerous, but that the process provided valuable assurance for ASC, confirming that it is performing well in most areas and helping identify those areas where services might be improved.

49.3 In response to a query about voluntary sector involvement in ASC, Ms D’Souza offered to bring a report on this issue to a future meeting of ASCHOSC. It was agreed that this report should be added to the agenda for the September 2010 meeting.

49.4 The Chair asked the Acting Director of Adult Social Care to pass on the committee’s thanks to all ASC staff for their hard work over the past year – as reflected in the generally very positive assessment.

49.5 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted and ASC staff be commended for their performance.

50. PERSONALISATION

50.1 This Item was introduced by Denise D’Souza, Acting Director of Adult Social Care.

50.2 In response to a query as to the impact of grant funding ending this financial year, members were told that money provided via the Social Care Reform Grant had been used to ‘pump-prime’ various initiatives rather than as a funding source for ongoing expenditure, as it had always been recognised that this money would be available for only three years. The roll-out of the Re-ablement programme is expected to relieve pressure on the Community Care budget, as it will reduce people’s reliance upon long-term care packages, reducing community care expenditure.

50.3 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted and an update be received by the Committee in six month’s time.

51. ADULT SOCIAL CARE GREEN PAPER/ FREE PERSONAL CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE - UPDATE

51.1 This Item was introduced by Denise D’Souza, Acting Director, Adult Social Care.

51.2 **RESOLVED** – That the information provided by the Acting Director of Adult Social Care be noted.

52. CARE QUALITY COMMISSION: CONSULTATION ON ASSESSING QUALITY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE COMMISSIONERS AND PROVIDERS

- 52.1 Members considered a report concerning a national consultation exercise being organised by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) regarding how the CQC should go about assessing providers and commissioners of health and social care.
- 52.2 Councillors Anne Meadows and Keith Taylor agreed to meet with a conservative group member (Councillor Dawn Barnett to be invited to contribute) in order to agree a submission on behalf of the Committee.
- 52.3 **RESOLVED** – That a group of ASCHOSC members should be empowered to make a response to the CQC consultation on behalf of the Committee, providing that this group is able to reach unanimous agreement on the comments to be submitted.

53. ASCHOSC WORK PROGRAMME

- 53.1 **RESOLVED** – That the draft ASCHOSC Work Programme be adopted as the Committee Work Programme for 2010.

54. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO CABINET OR THE RELEVANT CABINET MEMBER MEETING

- 54.1 There were none.

55. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

- 55.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 6pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of