

ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HOUSING OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 20

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Community Meals		
Date of Meeting:	8.9.2011		
Report of:	Director of Adult Social Services/Lead Commissioner People		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Philip Letchfield	Tel: 29-5078
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Adult Social Care & Housing Overview Scrutiny Committee received a report at its meeting of 28.6.2011 which confirmed that the current Community Meals service contract will come to an end in 2012. The report provided details of the current service and highlighted some key issues.
- 1.2 The Committee agreed to include Community Meals on its work programme and requested a further report that highlighted possible future options for this service and any available benchmarking information in relation to charging for this service. This further report was requested to help inform the scrutiny process.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee discuss and use the contents of this report to inform the scrutiny process.
- 2.2 That the Committee identify any additional information that would assist in their scrutiny of this matter.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS

- 3.1 The Committee received a detailed report at its meeting of 28.6.11 which provided the background detail and context in relation to this service. A further report was requested as identified above in 1.2.
- 3.2 The key options in relation to this service if it were not to be re-tendered for in its current form are identified in Appendix One.

- 3.3 If the service were to be re-tendered in some form some key options are included in Appendix two.
- 3.4 The options above are not mutually exclusive or stand alone options, various combinations of them are possible.
- 3.5 One key issue which underlies all of these options is the place of a community meals service as currently provided in the increasingly personalised approach to service delivery and where alternative service options have been developing. As the previous report to the Committee confirmed the numbers of meals provided through this contract has been in steady decline. The reduction in numbers also means the individual costs of the meals are increasing and this increased cost is met largely by the Council. It should be noted that the decline in numbers has not been as sharp as previously in the most recent year.
- 3.6 Any change to the service model for community meals would require careful thought and planning regarding any transitional arrangements from the current service to any new model. This is also an issue where the views of the Committee could assist in future arrangements.
- 3.7 In relation to benchmarked costs re charging for meals we have recently reviewed information from other Councils in the region.

Council	Brighton & Hove	A	B	C	D	E	F
Charge	£3.00	£3.35	£3.40/£3.90	£3.50	£3.40	£4.78	£3.40

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 A full programme of consultation would be undertaken in relation to any future procurement of this service. This will be undertaken once the Scrutiny Committee has completed its work.
- 4.2 The previous report included the comments from existing service users and lay assessors regarding the quality and performance of the current service.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The cost of the community meals contract in 2010/11 was £482,951 for 81,864 meals of which £239,460 was covered by client contributions. The Council subsidy for the meals service was £243,491 equivalent to £3 per meal. The options discussed in the report are expected to reduce the Council subsidy and deliver improved value for money and will be reflected in budget options for 2012/13..

6. Legal Implications:

There are no specific legal or Human Rights Act implications arising from this report as it is for noting and to inform further discussion and scrutiny of the issues involved in provision of this service and possible re-tendering options. Any future proposals for change to the service will have to take into account the legal implications arising from Community Care Law and Human Rights Act 1998 considerations.

Lawyer Consulted:

Name Sandra O'Brien

Date: 26/08/2011

7. Equalities Implications:

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken in relation to any future procurement or change of service model in relation to this service.

8. Sustainability Implications:

8.1 A full sustainability self-assessment will be undertaken as part of any future procurement or change in service model. One key issue identified within this report is the fact that meals are currently not sourced locally.

9. Crime & Disorder Implications:

9.1 There are no specific implications.

10. Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

10.1 The ending of the current contract in 2012 provides an opportunity to review this service. In particular its place in the development of personalised services and the charging for such a service.

10.2 The numbers of people using the service is steadily declining and this presents a financial risk as the costs per meal increase.

10.3 There are over 400 people using the current service and any change in the service delivery requires careful consideration and planning.

11. Public Health Implications:

11.1 The community meals service provides a meal within set standards in relation to nutritional value and meal weight.

11.2 The community meals service currently provides a 'safe and well' check as part of the service.

12. Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 12.1 Access to a nutritious and balanced daily meal is an essential element of all peoples daily lives and the Council must consider how it supports more vulnerable members of the community to receive this. This is linked to the broader agenda of promoting health and well being across the city.
- 12.2 The current service is provided by a local voluntary sector provider, the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and uses local volunteers..

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Options if the service were not to be re-tendered
2. Options if the service were to be re-tendered

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None
- 2.

Background Documents

1. None
- 2.

