

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 55

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Community Meals: Report Back from Workshop

Date of Meeting: 08 March 2012

Report of: The Strategic Director, Resources

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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 At its September 2011 meeting the Adult Social Care and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee (ASCHOSC) considered a report on the future of the council's Community Meals service. ASCHOSC decided to hold a workshop to consider this matter in detail, and this took place in January 2012.
- 1.2 A note from the Community Meals workshop is included as **Appendix 1** to this report. Information from Adult Social Care, detailing their plans following the workshop is included as **Appendix 2**.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members:
- (1) Note the content of this report and its appendices.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Community Meals are meals delivered to the homes of people who may struggle to prepare their own food or who choose to have some meals prepared for them. Currently, the city council has a contract with a third sector provider, WRVS, to deliver this service to Brighton & Hove residents.
- 3.2 The current contract ends shortly, and although WRVS delivers a satisfactory service, there are some significant issues with the *model* of provision that is currently contracted. These issues include: the cost to the council of providing community meals; the fact that meals are neither locally sourced nor prepared; and the need to have a community meals service which fits supports the 'personalisation' of social care.
- 3.3 Adult Social Care (ASC) are therefore taking the opportunity to explore a number of options for the future of the Community Meals service. These range from maintaining the status quo, to offering only a signposting service (i.e. the council directing clients to providers but not itself running a community meals service), to contracting with a number of providers. Consideration is also being given to whether it is tenable to retain the current level of subsidy for this service.
- 3.4 At the scrutiny workshop, the various options were explained to members and the pros and cons of each type of model discussed. The meeting note included as **Appendix 1** to this report encapsulates this discussion. Members who attended the workshop agreed some general principles which ASC should consider when taking this work forward (also included in **Appendix 1**). The ASC response to these points, and a general update on progress since the workshop is included as **Appendix 2** to this report.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 This report has been written in consultation with officers from ASC.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 None to this report for information.

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 None to this report for information.

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 None to this report for information.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 None to this report for information.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 None to this report for information.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 None to this report for information.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 None to this report for information.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Note of the Jan 12 workshop meeting
2. Additional information supplied by ASC

Documents in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

None

