



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: MONDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2008 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Allen- Chair

Councillor Bhavsar

Councillor Naylor

I N A T T E N D A N C E

Councillor Manjula Sood – Cabinet Lead for Health and Wellbeing

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14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Gill, Dawood, Hall and Joshi.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda and/or declare that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

In respect of the item, “Additional GP Practices,” Councillor Naylor declared a non-prejudicial interest in that he was Chair of Calorie Killers.

21. DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE STRATEGY FOR THE ADULTS AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The Corporate Director of Adults and Housing submitted a report concerning the Departmental Revenue Strategy 2008/09 for the Adults and Housing Department. Areas pertinent to the terms of reference for the Health Scrutiny Committee were highlighted.

It was reported that a main area for growth was adult social care in response to increasing need. Work was being carried out on identifying areas of need in future years to ensure services were provided adequately, such as services for learning or physical disabilities, older persons’ mental health and adult mental health. It was anticipated that considerable growth would be needed in these areas. It was felt that although the proposed budget for 2008-09 was robust, more work would be required for following years. The impact of changes in the treatment and care of people, such as those with brain injuries was highlighted

as an increasingly challenging issue, as they were becoming classed as social care cases rather than health. Negotiations had to therefore take place between health providers and the council regarding the allocation of funding.

Members acknowledged the difficulties the department faced with regard to dealing with the overspend and the effect of merging the Housing and Social Care and Health departments. They asked that officers devise creative solutions to deal with these issues. They welcomed the growth in adult social care, but expressed concern regarding the reduction of funding to community centres, as this would impact on the wellbeing of elderly residents who relied on them. They asked that the funding levels be reinstated in 2009-11.

Members discussed the options for care of the elderly, including care homes, sheltered housing and Extra Care. It was recognised that in the future, difficult decisions would have to be made. They stated that they wished more provision for Extra Care facilities to be made available as soon as possible. Officers reported that the Government's "Putting People First" paper would have a significant impact on the way care was provided and it would involve a major change in the organisation of the department, as more choice had to be made available to people.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Committee note the Draft Revenue Strategy for the Adults and Housing Department.
- 2) That the Committee acknowledge the difficult financial circumstances under which the department was operating.
- 3) That the Committee recommend that funding for community centres which is proposed to be reduced in 2008-09 be reinstated in 2009-10 and 2010-11 in order to improve the wellbeing of elderly residents.

