



Leicester
City Council

Extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of the
SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 3 AUGUST 2005 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor J. Blackmore - Chair
Councillor Almey.(Liberal Democrat Spokesperson)
Councillor Mrs. Chambers (Conservative Spokesperson)

Councillor Dempster

Councillor Nurse

Also in Attendance

Councillor Gill – Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health

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1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Councillor J. Blackmore declared a non-prejudicial interest, as a non-executive member of the Leicester City West Primary Care Trust, in respect of Minute 7 – Joint Inspection of Services to Older People.

7. JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES TO OLDER PEOPLE

The Corporate Director, Social Care and Health, submitted a report that outlined the findings of the recent Joint Inspection of Services to Older People and informed Members of the action planning in response to the recommendations made. The outcomes of the Inspection for the Social Care and Health Department was a judgement issued by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).

The Committee was informed that the Inspection had taken place between 31 January 2005 and 11 March 2005 and had been conducted by the Healthcare Commission (HCC) as lead agency, together with the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and the Audit Commission. The agencies inspected had included the local Primary Care Trusts, University Hospitals, Leicester, Leicester Partnership Trust for Mental Health, East Midlands Ambulance Service, NHS Direct, East Midlands as well as the City Council and the Social

Care and Health Department.

Margaret Little and Sue Disley, representing CSCI, and Paul Whelan representing the HCC, attended the meeting to present the findings of the Inspection, relating to the City Council and the Social Care and Health Department

Paul Whelan (HCC) opened the presentation by stating that an integrated approach had been taken regarding the Inspection which enabled the 3 main agencies to share information but it had been hoped that this approach had also reduced the burden to the Social Care and Health Department whilst the Inspection had been underway. Paul covered the purpose of the Inspection and the views and experiences obtained from older people. Following the Inspection a number of key achievements had been identified, covered in the report, and areas for future development were also highlighted. Members attention was drawn to the detailed recommendations contained in the final report that addressed person centred care, vision, commissioning practice, the range of services and the capacity to deliver improvement.

Margaret Little (CSCI) gave an outline on the Social Care findings of the Inspection that covered the delivery of public information and assessment and care management. The outcome of the Inspection was overwhelmingly positive with a judgement that the Council was serving most people well with excellent prospects for improvement. Margaret stated that, regarding services received, it was felt that although they felt there was a need for a better partnership with the voluntary sector and forward planning for the council's own residential homes, other aspects covered within this area had been found to be positive. Services for carers had been inspected and found to be good although it had been felt that a stronger performance management system was needed as well as more progress on joint workforce planning.

In clarifying the issues raised in the inspection, the Corporate Director stated that there had been differences between the directions of travel in achieving the National Standards for older people, due mostly to the inconsistencies between the County focus adopted by the local PCTs and of the City Council Strategy. A direction of travel group was already meeting and there had been certain changes in direction since the Inspection had taken place with more of an impetus to move things on.

The Committee highlighted the comments made regarding the existing partnership with the voluntary sector and of the need to achieve a better understanding. The Officers stated that this was really a case of reaching a better perspective with the voluntary sector and that work was underway to achieve this.

The Committee made reference to the comments made regarding the number of, and future strategy relating to City Council elderly persons homes, and the officers stated that this aspect could not be taken in isolation but would need to be addressed as part of the wider issues of care provision. Members were informed that within the 9 City Council residential care homes there had been

an occupancy rate of over 95% over the past five years, demonstrating the need for such provision and the costs to the Council were actually below the national average.

The Corporate Director, in summing up, stated that a Joint Action Plan had been drawn up addressing the issues raised by the Inspection. The Joint Action Plan was included as Appendix 3 to the Committee Report. It was noted that the report and action plans would be presented to Cabinet on 5 September 2005, with an update report on the action plans to the Scrutiny Committee in January 2006.

The Committee thanked those responsible for the informative presentation.

RESOLVED:

- 1) that the outcome of the joint inspection and the work of officers from all organisations involved in actioning the progress outlined, be noted;
- 2) that the Social Care and Health Department be commended for its services to older people, and the excellent rating be noted;
- 3) that the Action Plans developed to address the recommendations of the Inspection, be endorsed;
- 4) that the presentation of the action plans to Cabinet on 5 September 2005, be noted, and ;
- 5) that a further report be presented to this Committee in January 2006, providing an update on progress with the action plans.

13. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.17 pm.

