



OXFORDSHIRE SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING BODY

MINUTES of the meeting held on 4 September 2009 commencing at 10.30 am and finishing at 12.20 pm

Present:

Voting Members of Commissioning Body:

Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles (in the Chair)	West Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor Dorothy Brown	South Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor Jim Couchman	Oxfordshire County Council
Councillor Michael Gibbard	Cherwell District Council
Councillor Angela Lawrence	Vale of White Horse District Council
Graham McCartney	Thames Valley Probation Service
Graham Stratford	Oxford City Council
Martin Mellors (non-voting)(in place of Fenella Trevillion)	representative for Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust

Supporting Officers and Members:

Oxfordshire County Council		
Legal & Democratic Services	–	Sue Whitehead
Social & Community Services	–	Geoffrey Ferres Nick Welch Natalia Lachkou Maureen Elliott
West Oxfordshire District Council	–	Lesley Sherratt
South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council	–	Paul Staines
Cherwell District Council	–	Gillian Greaves

9/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS (IF APPLICABLE)

Apologies for absence were received from Fenella Trevillion, with Martin Mellors substituting in a non-voting capacity.

10/08 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2009 were approved and signed.

For Information

11/08 SUPPORTING PEOPLE BUDGET 2008-09 FINAL REPORT
(Agenda Item 4)

The Commissioning Body considered a tabled report on the Supporting People Budget 2008/09. The Chairman noted that late reports were becoming too regular an occurrence and asked that papers be made available in sufficient time for members to consider them before the meeting.

The Commissioning Body noted that a large surplus was achieved in 2008-09, as planned, to enable the partnership to manage the impact of 5% annual cuts by the Government in Oxfordshire's Supporting People Grant. They congratulated officers for efforts to bring the budget in so close to expectations.

Geoffrey Ferres responding to questions explained the use being made of carry forward to allow for a smooth transition in future years when budgets would be smaller. He highlighted learning disability where there would be a 5% reduction year on year. Information was requested for the next meeting on the make up of the surplus and it was requested that this be circulated to members as early as possible in order that they could talk to officers within their own organisations.

It was **AGREED** that a report be prepared for the October Core Strategy Group giving a break down of the details of the £1.36M surplus into uncommitted expenditure and details of the slipped projects with a view to the information being supplied to the next meeting of the Commissioning Body.

12/08 ANNUAL PLAN 2010-11: AWARD OF INFLATION TO SERVICE PROVIDERS
(Agenda Item 5)

The Commissioning Body considered a report seeking their views on the award of inflationary increases. The report set out the position and the consequences of awarding inflation to all eligible providers.

The Commissioning Body noted that the Core Strategy Group at its meeting on 2 September recommended that no inflationary increases be awarded to service providers for 2010-11 except where a requirement for these was included in the current contracts.

During discussion members queried the impact of the recommendation on service providers and their ability to provide services. Nick Welch advised that the Quality assurance Framework and monitoring processes enabled them to understand the impact. So far it was manageable but over time he recognised that it would not be insignificant.

Nick Welch responded to queries around individual service areas. Generally he felt that pooling could lead to efficiencies and help to ameliorate the impact.

The Supporting People Commissioning Body expressed them self as resigned to the recommendation from the Core Strategy Group.

For Decision

13/08 ANNUAL PLAN 2009-10: AMENDMENT OF BUDGETS FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE AND YOUNG PEOPLE
(Agenda Item 6)

The Annual Plan 2009-10 set the amounts intended to be spent on services for each client group and instructed officers to conduct a number of procurement and other projects.

It was reported to the Commissioning Body that officers had established in July that a service in West Oxfordshire called The Miles Project costing over £232k per year funded from the budget for homeless people was actually now 74% used by young people but no share of its spending had been included in the budget used for the young people's tender.

The Core Strategy Group had considered at its meeting on 2 September as to whether to recommend to the Commissioning Body that the majority of the funding for the service in question be transferred to the budget for young people and used to help complete the young people's tender. No firm consensus had been reached.

The alternative would be for officers to proceed on the normal basis that money allocated by the Commissioning Body for one client group will only be spent on services primarily for that client group, which in this case would not include single homeless people under the age of 25.

During discussion the need was recognised to protect West Oxfordshire's treatment of homeless people whilst allowing the budget to reflect the split in the character of the services provided. Various suggestions were made as to a fair split of places and the Chairman proposed an 11:8 split in order to cover homelessness for the over 25's. There was support for this view with members stressing the need for the service to work flexibly.

Members asked that a piece of work be carried out on the flexibility of budgets, looking at a review of budget structures and their relationship to service provision.

It was **AGREED** to amend the Annual Plan 2009-10 by transferring £134,410.67 from the budget for homeless people to the budget for young people.

For Information

14/08 SUPPORTING PEOPLE BUDGET REPORT 2009-10

(Agenda Item 7)

Copies of the latest figures broken down by client group and by district were available at the meeting.

During discussion members felt that some of the figures showed substantial variance and with the current big issues around expenditure it would be helpful to have some explanation of these.

It was **AGREED** that future reports include an explanation of any apparent anomalies.

15/08 ANNUAL PLAN 2009-10 – PROGRESS REPORT

(Agenda Item 8)

The Commissioning Body noted a report and table attached at SP8(a) and (b) showing progress against the Annual Plan and giving further information about any items in the Annual Plan which the administering authority was not on track to deliver.

The report was updated verbally to reflect the current progress.

It was **AGREED** that future reports include more details of those items not marked 'on track'.

16/08 SERVICE PERFORMANCE COMPARISON REPORTS – QUARTER 4 2008-09

(Agenda Item 9)

The Commissioning Body noted the three tables at SP9 showing Oxfordshire's performance on National Indicators 141 and 142 at the end of the fourth quarter of last year in three different ways.

One table showed how the performance of Oxfordshire's services in the fourth quarter of 2008-09 compares with the regional and national averages. This comparison is based on a government analysis which is circulated some months after the end of each quarter.

The other two tables presented a cumulative picture designed to show whether performance over the whole of 2008-09 is better than performance in 2007-08. The Supporting People Strategy 2008-11 set the aim that it should be.

There was discussion around the achievability of some of the targets currently showing as red and Geoffrey Ferres outlined current activity and review that was being undertaken. The Chairman asked that more information be provided in future with regard to the red indicators.

17/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE MEETINGS

(Agenda Item 10)

The Commissioning Body noted that the next meeting would be held in Meeting Room 3, County Hall on 11 December 2009.

18/09 GEOFFREY FERRES

The Chairman noted that Geoffrey Ferres was leaving the Council and on behalf of the Commissioning Body thanked him very much for all his work and wished him every happiness for the future.

..... in the Chair
Date of signing 2008