

## ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Tuesday, 25 September 2012 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 13:00

**Present:**

**Voting Members:** Councillor Jim Couchman – in the Chair

Councillor Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor (Deputy Chairman)

Councillor Jenny Hannaby

Councillor John Sanders

Councillor Dr Peter Skolar

Councillor Richard Stevens

Councillor Alan Thompson

Councillor David Wilmshurst

Councillor Lawrie Stratford

**Other Members in Attendance:** Councillor Arash Fatemian

**By Invitation:**

**Officers:**

Whole of meeting  
John Jackson  
Sara Livadeas  
Lucy Butler  
Simon Grove-White

Part of meeting  
Alan Sinclair  
Yvonne Taylor  
Paul Brennan  
Pete McGrane  
Rachel Coney  
Adrian Chant  
Sue Butterworth

**Agenda Item**

*The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports are attached to the signed Minutes.*

**228/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS**

(Agenda No. 1)

Councillor Lawrie Stratford substituted for Councillor Alyas Ahmed.

Councillor Don Seale substituted for Councillor Charles Mathew.

**229/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE**

(Agenda No. 2)

None

**230/12 MINUTES**

(Agenda No. 3)

The minutes of the meeting of June 12<sup>th</sup> were signed and approved.

**231/12 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE**

(Agenda No. 4)

None

**232/12 LINK ANNUAL REPORT AND UPDATE**

(Agenda No. 5)

Sue Butterworth, LINK Chairman, and Adrian Chant, LINK Host Manager, introduced the LINK Annual Report and updated the committee the work taking place to ensure a seamless transition to Healthwatch.

Lisa Gregory, Engagement Manager, Joint Commissioning, gave further detail on the key milestones in this process. The committee were informed that the procurement process for the advocacy contract will begin in November. Councillors Hannaby and Stratford will be on the procurement panel.

The Chairman thanked the LINK for the fullness of the report and these sentiments were echoed by members of the committee.

Adrian Chant **AGREED** that a report on residential home visits would be brought to the November meeting of the committee.

**233/12 COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

(Agenda No. 6)

Sara Livadeas, Deputy Director for Joint Commissioning, introduced the paper with Lucy Butler, Deputy Director for Adult Services, and Councillor Arash Fatemian, Cabinet Member for Adult Services. The document will ensure that the provision of

services is joined up across the directorate. To achieve this each workstream has a lead officer who will be focussed on turning the intentions into actions. This will then feed into a Joint Commissioning Strategy with the NHS.

Members sought further clarity on the long term intentions for tier three day services and transport to day services.

Councillor Fatemian stated that whilst the county council are committed to exploring whether alternative options exist to run day opportunities, no decision has been taken as to how this will happen. The council is committed to continuing to provide these services and will explore all available options.

It was emphasised that the reason for the increase in fees is to bring the services into line with other counties and to ensure their long term sustainability. The county council will continue to pay the fees of FACS eligible service users, so people who cannot afford to pay will not be priced out of using the services.

Regarding the long term intentions for transport to day services, John Jackson highlighted to the committee that this is dependent on the cross-cutting programme of work on Community Transport. This programme will include a fundamental review of transport needs and provision across the county and will seek to ensure sustainable transport solutions.

It was **AGREED** that an update on the consultation on Day Opportunities would be brought to the committee following the closure of the consultation.

## **234/12 REVIEW OF SERVICES**

(Agenda No. 7)

The item was introduced by Alan Sinclair, Lead Commissioner for Older People. Yvonne Taylor and Pete McGrane of Oxford Health, Paul Brennan of the Oxford Universities Hospital Trust, and Rachel Coney of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group were also present for the item.

Alan Sinclair introduced the report stating that the three services are key to the Oxfordshire social care system. All services have seen recent improvements in activity and outcomes but performance is not yet at expected levels in some areas.

The importance of services taking a whole system approach was emphasised by all organisations.

The committee discussed the issue of recruitment and retention of staff and queried the impact that this was having on performance. Yvonne Taylor and Paul Brennan acknowledged that there had been difficulties but suggested that the response to recent recruitment drives had been successful and staffing levels are stabilising at a healthy level. The importance of joining up recruitment efforts across OH and OUHT was emphasised.

The committee complemented the quality of the report but expressed some disappointment that the delayed transfers continue to be a problem. The Director responded that it would take some time for policy changes to show results but that recent performance suggests some improvements.

It was **AGREED** that the Director would update the committee on delayed transfers of care at the November meeting of the committee.

## **235/12 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

(Agenda No. 8)

The director outlined recent developments in Adult Social Care at the national and local level.

The director introduced the Draft Care and Support White Paper stating that the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care broadly welcome it's recommendations. Members were invited to contact the Director should they wish to discuss the implications further.

The committee expressed concerns that the issue of funding is not resolved in the white paper. The director stated that locally the assumption has been made that NHS funding will continue. However, there is some disappointment that the recommendations of the Dilnot commission have not been incorporated. Councillor Arash Fatemian stated that a motion will be put to the county council to make a further recommendation to government on the subject.

The director discussed the recent reports on the safeguarding issues at Winterbourne View. The key recommendations and the next steps for Oxfordshire were also outlined.

The director further updated the committee on the phasing for the pooled budgets project.

## **236/12 ADOPT A CARE HOME**

(Agenda No. 9)

Sara Livadeas introduced the proposals for local councillors to Adopt a Care Home. It was emphasised that this should be seen as part of a wider push to ensure quality in care services, with the explicit aim to encourage local members to form a relationship with care organisations in their divisions. It is not intended to replace the role of officers in robustly monitoring contracted services. It was pointed out that a number of members already have positive relationships with the organisations in their divisions, and that anything which increases the flow of people in and out of institutions would provide further safeguarding assurances.

..... The opinion of committee members was divided on the issue, with some fully endorsing the proposals, and others feeling that the task does not fall within the remit of councillors and should be preformed by officers.

It was **AGREED** that a report on contract monitoring would be brought to the next meeting of the committee.

**237/12 WORKING GROUP ON QUALITY**

(Agenda No. 10)

It was **AGREED** that no further meetings of the working group on quality would take place until after the May election. The composition of the group and it's terms of reference will be reconsidered in May. In the meantime, any issues arising on the subject will be referred to the full committee for consideration.

**238/12 CLOSE OF MEETING**

(Agenda No. 11)

The meeting closed at 13:00.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing