

ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Monday, 20 December 2010 commencing at 12.45 pm and finishing at 2.45 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Don Seale – in the Chair (part of meeting)

Councillor Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor (Deputy Chairman - in the Chair(part of the meeting))

Councillor Jenny Hannaby

Councillor Anthony Gearing

Councillor Alan Thompson

Councillor Larry Sanders

Councillor David Wilmshurst

Councillor Peter Jones (In place of Councillor Dr Peter Skolar)

Councillor Richard Stevens (In place of Councillor Sarah Hutchinson)

Councillor Melinda Tilley (In place of Councillor Tim Hallchurch MBE)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Cabinet member for Growth & Infrastructure

Officers:

Whole of meeting Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer,
Director for Social & Community Services,
S. Kearey (Social & Community Services)

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.

(In the absence of the Chairman at the start of the meeting the Deputy Chairman took the Chair)

109/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Peter Skolar (Councillor Peter Jones substituting), Councillor Sarah Hutchinson (Councillor Richard Stevens substituting) and Councillor Tim Hallchurch (Councillor Melinda Tilley substituting).

110/10 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2010 be considered at the next meeting.

111/10 SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING 2011/12 - 2015/16

(Agenda No. 5)

The Committee considered a report (**AS5**) containing the Business Strategies and savings proposed for their service areas.

The Director for Social & Community Services commented that the proposed approach had been set out in earlier meetings. The approach was based on the broad policy direction established in previous years and which had received the support of the Committee. He noted that there were relatively few efficiency savings but that the delivery of the business strategy would be challenging.

During discussion Members commented on the implications of personal budgets including the challenge of providing support to the elderly and vulnerable in society, and the effect on transport provision. A member commented that whilst she was in agreement with the transforming agenda it was about ensuring the safe monitoring of the change and also the swiftness of what was being done.

There was discussion about the proposals relating to Community Development. There was some concern that the implications of the business strategy were not clearly set out.

The Committee noted that the focus of discussion of the meeting was required to be on policy areas that may depart from this Committee's understanding of the business strategy as expressed at previous Adult Services Scrutiny meetings.

With that in mind the key policy areas were set out by the Chairman, Councillor Seale as follows:

- An emphasis on finding alternatives to residential care for older people with a focus on providing domiciliary care, with a greater reliance on extra care housing.
- The introduction of all who qualify to self directed support, with efficiency savings implemented using the resource allocation system.
- Moving to the voluntary and community provision of transport for those who use day services or choose alternative day opportunities with a personal budget.
- Community development team reducing and a refocus on supporting community based services such as the currently funded Good Neighbour Scheme
- Reduction in funding for Supporting People services of 5% per annum

- Moving from internally provided support to agency or self purchased domiciliary care.
- Limits on contract inflation allowances
- Redesign of services for those with mental health needs
- Review the Contract with the Oxfordshire Care Partnership

It was understood that this business strategy sought to deliver savings by pursuing a strategy of prevention, increased focus on personalisation, and the delivery of services that offer protection for people through better partnership working.

There were no comments on the capital proposals set out in the strategy.

The Committee AGREED that

- (a) **The proposals set out in the business strategy are acceptable to this committee** (Vote carried by 6 votes to 2 with 1 abstention).
- (b) **Capital proposals were agreed by the committee** (Vote carried by 8 votes to 1).

..... in the Chair

Date of signing