

ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 25 October 2011 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 13.10

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Don Seale (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Ian Hudspeth
Councillor Peter Jones
Councillor Larry Sanders
Councillor Dr Peter Skolar
Councillor Richard Stevens
Councillor Alan Thompson
Councillor David Wilmshurst
Councillor Janet Godden (Present as substitute for Councillor Jenny Hannaby)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Arash Fatemian

By Invitation:

Officers:

Whole of meeting John Dixon
Sara Livadeas
Simon Grove-White

Part of meeting Dr Steven Richards
Fernella Trevillion
Andrew Colling
John Morgan
Simon Kearey
Natalia Latchkou
Adrian Chant
Sue Butler

Agenda Item Officer Attending

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 and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports are attached to the signed Minutes.

159/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

Councillor Jenny Hannaby sent apologies and nominated Councillor Janet Godden as a substitute.

160/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE

(Agenda No. 2)

None

161/11 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

The minutes of the meeting of September 6th 2011, were approved.

162/11 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE

(Agenda No. 4)

None

163/11 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

(Agenda No. 5)

John Dixon, Deputy Director for Adult Services, updated the committee on local and national developments:

Structure changes - The recent changes in functional responsibility for the Directorate Management Team were outlined. Sara Livadeas, Deputy Director for Joint Commissioning will focus on Commissioning across CEF and SCS, John Dixon, Deputy Director for Adult Services, will focus on Localism and the Personalisation agenda, and Simon Kearey, Head of Strategy and Transformation, will focus on infrastructure development. Recent developments in commissioning and localism were discussed further:

Commissioning – The appointment to the Deputy Director for Joint Commissioning is the first step in reshaping the commissioning process. The aim is to deliver joined up services across the age ranges, ensuring a smoother transition at key junctures. This will result in a more holistic family-based model of commissioning. An autism board has been set up to look at issues from a family perspective with children and parents on its membership. The board recently met for the first time.

John Jackson is working with Steven Richards, Chairman of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Consortium, on the governance arrangements for joint commissioning with the NHS including the need to improve the functioning of the pooled budget.

Members questioned whether there was an overemphasis on the inadequacy of current transitioning between children and adult services. Sara Livadeas suggested

that there were a number of areas in which improvements could be made, for example children accessing out of county services. This is a major driver in plans to develop a local autism facility in the county.

Localism – Increased locality working is well underway and will complement the changes within commissioned services. A major aim is to devolve decision making to the lowest level. We are already seeing increased member involvement in decisions through the new commissioning model for tier two day services. Increasing the penetration of self-directed support will ensure that more decisions are taken by individuals in receipt of care.

A new set of performance measures are being developed by the Deputy Directors to manage the performance of locality teams. These developments will result in greater performance accountability and achievement within services.

The committee requested some transparency on the level of individual spending under the self-directed support model compared with the previous model. John Dixon assured the committee that this is an ambition but is not currently possible.

In response to questions around the capability of elected members to commission local services, the Cabinet member for Adult Services responded that, as with the day opportunities, members will be briefed and will receive appropriate training prior to any decisions.

Officers **AGREED** to distribute a summary of key dates in the Day Opportunities process.

The South East Cabinet Members and the LGA are submitting a response to the Dilnot commission.

Arash Fatemian, Cabinet Member for Adult Services, **AGREED** to circulate a link to the presentation by Andrew Dilnot on the future funding of Social Care.

164/11 DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE

(Agenda No. 6)

Steven Richards, Chairman of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Consortium, updated the committee on recent developments regarding delayed transfers of care and outlined the measures in place to improve performance. These developments are outlined in the attached briefing note (**AS6**).

Members were encouraged by the level of attention the issue is currently receiving and acknowledged that recent developments may take time to translate into performance improvements.

The committee requested an update on performance at the meeting in March.

165/11 CARERS CONTRACT

(Agenda No. 7)

John Pearce, Service Manager for Strategic Commissioning, discussed the content of the attached report (**AS7**).

Members raised concerns about the loss of the Oxford facility used by the Oxford Young Carers Project and questioned whether the current arrangement would adequately meet the needs of young carers.

Officers stated that although the current project is run in partnership with Age UK, the provider is aware of the need to connect to young carers. It was also pointed out that the new Early Intervention hubs will be the first point of contact for referrals of young carers.

The committee **AGREED** that the issue of identification and support for young carers will be raised at the next meeting of the children's services scrutiny committee.

166/11 BROKERAGE UPDATE

(Agenda No. 8)

Andrew Colling, Contracts Team Service Manager, gave an update on the first year performance of the Brokerage Service. A detailed summary is attached (**AS8**).

The committee discussed the experience of users, questioning whether the feedback samples were of sufficient size to draw firm conclusions on current performance. Officers assured the committee that work is underway to develop more robust monitoring systems.

167/11 SOUTHERN CROSS UPDATE

(Agenda No. 9)

Andrew Colling gave a verbal update, outlining the approach taken by the directorate in managing the collapse of the Southern Cross care group. The transfer of the 6 Oxfordshire care homes was coordinated with ADASS and CQC. The homes will be transferred to two new providers, Methodist Homes and Four Seasons, in a two phase process. The following transfers were complete at the end of September:

- Brookfield – Methodist Homes
- Mill House – Four Seasons
- Longlands – Four Seasons
- The Triangle – Four Seasons

The following transfers will be complete by the end of October:

- The Albany – Four Seasons
- The Crown – Four Seasons

County council officers have held positive meetings with the new providers.

Members expressed concerns regarding the financial viability of other care home providers and sought assurances that the service would be prepared if similar problems emerged elsewhere. Andrew Colling assured the committee that the financial position of all providers was closely monitored and future difficulties would be dealt with early.

168/11 LINK UPDATE

(Agenda No. 10)

Adrian Chant and Sue Butler discussed the attached update on the Local Information Network (**AS10**).

Adrian Chant **AGREED** to table a report on care home visits for the meeting of March 6th.

169/11 ALERT SERVICE

(Agenda No. 11)

Simon Kearey, Head of Strategy and Transformation, briefed the committee on the Alert Service, as outlined in the attached document (**AS11**) with particular reference to new assessment guidance produced in conjunction with the Oxford Citizens Housing Association. Lessons have been learned regarding the central importance of extensively communicating service changes.

The committee questioned the legal basis of the changes pointing to the case of Smith vs Portsmouth City Council. Cllr Arash Fatemian, Cabinet member for Adult Services, **AGREED** to circulate a written response on the legal ramifications of the Portsmouth case.

170/11 FORWARD PLAN

(Agenda No. 12)

Members requested information on the current financial strength of the Four Seasons care group. It was **AGREED** that this would be mentioned in the directors update at the December 6th meeting of the committee.

171/11 CLOSE OF MEETING

(Agenda No. 13)

The meeting closed at 13:10

..... in the Chair

Date of signing