

## ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Monday, 17 December 2012 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 13:15

### **Present:**

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

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

Councillor Jenny Hannaby

Councillor Alyas Ahmed

Councillor Charles Mathew

Councillor John Sanders

Councillor Dr Peter Skolar

Councillor Richard Stevens

Councillor Alan Thompson

Councillor David Wilmshurst

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

### **By Invitation:**

### **Officers:**

Whole of meeting John Jackson  
Sara Livadeas  
Lucy Butler

Part of meeting Stephen McHale

### **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 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.*

**248/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS**  
(Agenda No. 1)

**249/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE**  
(Agenda No. 2)

**250/12 MINUTES**

(Agenda No. 3)

The minutes of the meeting of November 13<sup>th</sup> were signed and approved.

**251/12 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE**

(Agenda No. 4)

Laura Price, Friends of the Elms Day Centre, addressed the committee on the subject of the recent Day Centre consultation. Laura emphasised the importance of day services and highlighted her concern that the rise in fees was too dramatic to be done at once.

Officers responded that they had considered this and made amendments to ensure that the cost will increase incrementally over a phased two year period.

Councillor Gill Sanders addressed the committee reiterating the value of preventative services and emphasising the need to better understand the impact of these services.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for their input.

**252/12 DAY OPPORTUNITIES AND TRANSPORT STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

(Agenda No. 5)

Councillor Arash Fatemian, Cabinet Member for Adult Services, introduced the item, emphasising his commitment to day services and stating that the purpose of the changes was to make the service sustainable in the long term.

The results of the consultation process were discussed (see report), and it was emphasised that the consultation had focussed primarily on the views of people who would be effected by the changes, namely clients who are ineligible for funding under Fairer Charging.

In response to feedback that the increase in fees was too dramatic, it has been agreed that the price will be increased incrementally over a 2 year period.

The need to monitor attendance data was emphasised by members, who requested that an annual report should be brought to the committee.

The committee voted 7 to 3 in favour of the recommendations of the report, subject to the additional requirement to produce an annual report to the committee outlining the impact of the changes on attendance and service levels.

**253/12 UPDATE ON CARE QUALITY COMMISSION MEETING**

(Agenda No. 6)

Councillor Peter Skolar, Chairman of the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee, and Councillor Jim Couchman, Chairman of the Adult Service Committee, updated the committee on a recent meeting with senior officers from the Care Quality Commission. The chairmen were concerned that despite being under-resourced, CQC would now have to regulate 80 GP practices in addition to the whole Care Home sector.

Further concerns were expressed that there was no requirement for CQC staff to have any background in Health or Social Care, and that care is regulated based on management specifications with little scope for professional judgement.

Officers agreed with the cross party consensus that the remit of CQC as a single regulator leaves too large a task for a single body.

## **254/12 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

(Agenda No. 7)

John Jackson, Director of Social and Community Services, updated the committee on local and national developments.

The committee were informed of a recent Department of Health publication on Winterbourne View. It was felt that this contained little new information since the last briefing.

The director outlined the timetable for discussions on the Service and Resource Planning process. Due to delays in the local government settlement, the meeting of the scrutiny committee will be considered on January 10<sup>th</sup>, later than originally planned.

Following a series of court cases nationwide, officers are working hard to establish a position on care home fees. The Association of Directors for Adult Social Services recommends a simplified banding model. Options are being explored and a report will be taken to cabinet in January before going to consultation. A report will be brought to the Scrutiny Committee in February.

## **255/12 DEVELOPING THE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE OXFORDSHIRE CARE PARTNERSHIP**

(Agenda No. 8)

### **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

It was resolved that the public be excluded for the duration of item 5 (since it is likely that if they were present during that item there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and specified below in relation to that item and since it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the

exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information on the grounds set out in that item.

..... **THE REPORT RELATING TO THE EXEMPT ITEM HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC AND SHOULD BE REGARDED AS STRICTLY PRIVATE TO MEMBERS AND OFFICERS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE IT.**

*The information in this case is exempt in that it falls within the following prescribed categories:*

3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

*and it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, in that otherwise commercially sensitive information would be disclosed to the detriment of the companies involved.*

John Jackson introduced the paper outlining progress in the negotiations towards the project agreement for the Oxfordshire Care Partnership. It was pointed out that the proposals had changed following the feedback of the committee in January 2012. The director emphasised that the proposed agreement is better aligned with the future needs of the directorate, in both a financial and strategic sense.

A vote was taken on the recommendations of the report. The committee voted in favour by margin of 7 to 2, with 1 abstention.

**256/12 CLOSE OF MEETING**  
(Agenda No. 9)

The meeting closed at 13:15.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing