

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ADULT CARE SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2000 AT 10.30 A.M.**

Agenda Item No:

6

SELECT COMMITTEE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Report of the Director of Social Services

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1. Purpose of Report

To consider the items outlined below for possible scrutiny by the Select Committee.

2. Summary

This Report presents a number of items which have been put forward to be included on the Committee agenda for scrutiny.

(a) Implementation of the National Carers' Strategy in Herts – item suggested by Roma Mills

The National Carers Strategy was launched in February last year. It is designed to be an integrated response to meeting the needs of carers and emphasises the importance of health, local authority and other services taking carers needs into account. Additional funding was made available through the Carers Grant to develop breaks for carers. The Hertfordshire Carers Breaks Plan was agreed by Social Services Committee on

It is suggested that a report of the implementation of the National Carers Strategy in Hertfordshire be presented to the January 2001 Select Committee.

(b) Annual Report on Complaints – item suggested by Ken Coleman

Local authority Social Services Departments are required to have a Complaints Procedure and to produce an annual report on complaints which is sent to its Members.

It is suggested that the annual report on complaints is presented to the January 2001 Select Committee.

(c) Inspection Unit Annual Report – item suggested by Ken Coleman

It is suggested that the Inspection Unit Annual Report is presented to the March 2001 Select Committee.

(d) Recruitment & Retention of Staff – item suggested by Roma Mills

A report on Recruitment and Retention of staff (with a focus on children and families social workers) was considered by Social Services Committee in March 2000.

It is suggested that a report on recruitment and retention in the new Adult Care Service is presented to March 2001 Select Committee.

(e) The Implementation of the NSF – Mental Health in Herts – item suggested by Roma Mills

The NSF (National Service Framework) for Mental Health was launched by the DoH last year. Health and Social Services are required to work in Partnership to produce a Local Implementation Plan setting out how the NSF will be implemented locally. The Hertfordshire Local Implementation Plan was agreed by Social Services Committee in July 2000.

It is suggested that a report on the implementation of the NSF (Mental Health) in Hertfordshire be presented to the June 2001 Select Committee.

(f) The relationship between HCC and Housing Authorities/Associations in providing affordable housing for key workers eg social workers and how it might be developed. Item suggested by Roma Mills.

It is suggested that this matter be referred to the Resources, Prosperity, Partnerships and Consultation Select Committee as it concerns all County Council Departments, not only the Adult Care Services.

- (g) How whistle blowing functions in Social Services establishments – item suggested by Roma Mills.
- (h) Consideration of the financial implications of contributions by the voluntary sector to HCC's social provision – perhaps measured over a five year period – item suggested by Roma Mills.

3. Conclusions

The Select Committee should discuss whether or not they wish to scrutinise the above item(s). If they choose to do so, this may be done:

- at the meeting by questioning officers/executive Member
- by requesting a further report
- by referring the matter to a panel/topic group

4. Financial Implications

If the committee wish to recruit support for a piece of work, this will be funded from the budget of the service under scrutiny.

Background information referred to by the author whilst compiling this report

Requests by Members for scrutiny of items.