

To: All Members of the County Council
All Chief Officers

From: COUNTY SECRETARY'S
DEPARTMENT

cc: ACS officers)
Officers named for action) e-mail
Committee Section)

Ask for: Peter Hull
Ext: 5565
My Ref: PH/ahp
Your Ref:

**ADULT CARE SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2000**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

P T J Channell, K J Coleman (Chairman), J M Dwerryhouse-Spears, T G M Kent, D L Kerr, B J Lamb, D B Lloyd, R Mills (Vice-Chairman), M H O'Neill, C White.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER

J E Price

Other Members in Attendance

N K Brook, D W Hills, R Mays, R H Smith, R J Smith

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Adult Care Services Select Committee meeting on 12 October 2000, as circulated, copy annexed, action was taken or decisions were reached on individual items as recorded below.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

K J Coleman was elected Chairman of the Select Committee and took the Chair.
R Mills was elected as Vice-Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Membership Changes

- C White appointed for this meeting only.
- T G M Kent appointed for this meeting only.
- M H O'Neill appointed for this meeting only.

PUBLIC PETITIONS

No petitions were submitted.

QUESTIONS

None received.

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

ACTIONS

2. FUNCTIONS AND REMIT OF THE ADULT CARE SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

[Officer contact: Peter Hull Tel 01992 555565]

2.1 Members made the following comments arising from the report:-

(a) Co-options

- (i) There should be no more than 2/3 co-optees involving specific areas of the Committee's work.

Co-optees should attend Committee only where they have a particular involvement.

Any co-optees on Panels constituted by the Committee should attend items where they have a particular involvement.

It was AGREED that the Officers report to the next meeting on providing options for co-options.

Director of Social Services.
County Secretary (PH).

(b) Remit

The responsibility for developing policies and services for children who are moving into adulthood, e.g. transitional planning for children with special needs, lies with Children Schools and Families Select Committee. However the Adult Care Services Select Committee could scrutinise the effectiveness and impact of these arrangements.

AGREED: that when the constitution is reviewed, the County Council be requested to alter the remit of the Adult Care Services Select Committee as follows:-

- (a) (i) the policies and services of the Council as Social Services Authority in relation to adults.
- (ii) scrutiny of policies and services of the Council as Social Services Authority in relation to adults.
- (b) All aspects of gypsy and traveller site provision.
- (c) The Council's relationship with the Health Service.

County Secretary.
ALL/RC.
Director of Social Services.
C Watson.
Director of Environmental Support Offices.

3 APPOINTMENT OF PANELS AND TOPIC GROUPS

[Officer contact: Peter Hull Tel: 01992 555565]

AGREED:-

3.1 That the following Panels and Topic Groups be constituted:-

(a) Eligibility Panel Membership (5:3)

Remit

- (i) To comment on proposals from the Cabinet in relation to eligibility criteria for social care and NHS continuing care.
- (ii) To scrutinise any matters in relation to eligibility criteria for social care with NHS continuing health care chosen by them or referred to the Select Committee.

(b) Gypsy Panel Membership 5 (3:2)

Remit

- (i) To comment on proposals from the Cabinet in relation to the oversee of gypsy and traveller matters.
- (ii) To scrutinise any matters in relation to gypsy and traveller matters.

(c) Learning Disability Residential Accommodation Review Topic Group - Membership 5 (3:2)

Remit

- (i) To comment on proposals from the Cabinet in relation to the review of accommodation for people with learning disabilities.
- (ii) To scrutinise any matters in relation to the review of accommodation for people with learning disabilities chosen by them or referred by the Select Committee.

(d) Health Topic Group - Membership 5 (3:2)

Remit

To be agreed with spokesmen and reported to first meeting of Topic Group.

P Hull to liaise.
C Tapster and
contact spoken.

3.2 That the names of County Councillors on each Panel (together with substitute Members) be appointed by the County Secretary following

A Laycock/P Hull
to note and take
action.

notification by spokesmen.

- 3.3 That Chairmen for each Panel/Topic Group be appointed at the first meeting.

All Officers to note.

4 NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE PLAN

[Officer contact: Sarah Pickup, Tel: 01992 556350]
Assistant Director
Social Services

- 4.1 Members discussed the Cabinet's proposal as to how the County Council would fulfil its new scrutiny role and how the Adult Care Services Executive Member would take responsibility for liaison with the Health Service on the wider implementation of the plan. The content of the NHS Plan was largely adult focussed but there were targets relating to children.

It was recognised, therefore, there was a need for liaison between the ACS Select Committee Executive Member and the relevant Chairmen/Spokesmen of Children Schools and Families Panels relating to the NHS Plan.

As far as direct scrutiny of health issues was concerned the Committee were of the view that they should carry out this function. However they also considered that a Health Topic Group be constituted to consider (a) individual health issues as they arise and (b) the remit to identify how the scrutiny role could be taken forward by the Committee particularly following the disbanding of Community Health Councils probably from April 2002.

That the Cabinet be informed:-

- (1) That the Adult Care Services Committee will undertake the NHS scrutiny role and the Adult Care Services Executive Member take the lead on matters relating to the NHS Plan in liaison with the relevant Chairman/Spokesmen of Children, Schools and Families Panel(s).
- (2) That the role currently played by the Community Health Council's be acknowledged with the hope that this work will continue to be carried out under whatever revised arrangements are introduced.

County Secretary
(RC/PH) to report
to Cabinet 23/10.
DSS
C Watson
Director of
Environmental
Services
Support Officer

5 SUPPORTING PEOPLE

[Officer contact: Sarah Pickup, Tel: 01992 556350]
Assistant Director,
Social Services Department

- 5.1 The Director of Social Services reported that a Conference had been organised for November to brief Housing Associations and Housing

Providers as to the purpose and proposals of the Government Supporting People Programme. The Programme would provide housing support services to a wide range of vulnerable people. From 2003, all the resources currently being used for this purpose would be pooled and then used by a multi-agency commissioning body to secure services.

AGREED that the Cabinet be informed:-

- (a) That their proposals (1) and (2) from the meeting on 18th September 2000 be agreed.
- (b) That a copy of the progress report to the Department of Environment Transport and the Regions that triggers the allocation of funds be circulated to Members of the Adult Care Services Select Committee.

County Secretary
Andrew Laycock
Ron Coxall to
report to Cabinet.

6 SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

[Officer contact: Caroline Tapster, Tel: 01992 556300]
Assistant Director of
Social Services

- 6.1 Members had identified 8 items which they wished the Committee to consider for possible scrutiny.

P Hull to note.

- 6.2 Implementation of the National Carers' Strategy in Herts - (item suggested by Roma Mills).

The Committee AGREED that a report on the implementation of the National Carers Strategy be submitted to the January 2001 Committee and representatives from Carers Associations be invited to attend for the scrutiny of this item.

Caroline
Topster/Charlie
Watson to prepare
report.

- 6.3 Annual report on Complaints - (item suggested by Ken Coleman).

The Committee AGREED that the Annual Report on Social Services Complaints be submitted to the January 2001 Select Committee with a view to scrutiny.

Caroline Tapster
Charlie Watson

- 6.4 Inspection Unit Annual Report (item suggested by Ken Coleman)

The Committee AGREED that the Annual Report of the Inspection Unit be submitted to the March 2001 Select Committee with a view to scrutiny. The Head of the Inspection Unit would attend and providers of residential care also be invited.

Caroline Tapster
Charlie Watson

- 6.5 Recruitment and Retention of Staff (item suggested by Roma Mills)

The Committee AGREED that a report be submitted to the March 2001 Select Committee on recruitment and retention of staff in the new Adult Care Service. Particular emphasis would be given to scrutinising how the

Caroline Tapster
Charlie Watson

recruitment centre was providing for social services and the national position as to recruitment.

- 6.6 The implementation of the National Service Framework - Mental Health in Herts - (item suggested by Roma Mills)

Members noted that a seminar would take place in the new year 2001 on the NSF (National Service Framework for Mental Health).

It was AGREED that a report on the implementation of the NSF (Mental Health) in Hertfordshire be submitted to the June 2001 meeting with a view to the scrutiny of whether targets were being met.

Caroline Tapster
Charlie Watson

- 6.7 The relationship between Hertfordshire County Council 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).

AGREED that the above matter be referred to the Resources, Prosperity, Partnerships and Consultation Select Committee given this concerns all County Council Departments not only the Adult Services.

Peter Hull
Sally-Ann Cole

- 6.8 How responsible reporting functions in Social Services establishments (item suggested by Roma Mills)

AGREED that a brief report would be submitted to the January 2001 on how responsible reporting functions within the Social Services Department.

Caroline Tapster
Charlie Watson
Peter Hull

- 6.9 Consideration of the financial implications of contributions by the voluntary sector to Hertfordshire County Council's social provision - perhaps measured over a five year period (item suggested by Roma Mills).

Members felt that this matter was too broad for specific scrutiny and would create a major piece of work to little effect.

It was AGREED that a list of voluntary organisations funded by Adult Care Services be circulated to Members of the Select Committee.

Caroline Tapster
to supply.

REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

Item 3 - Appointment of Panels and Topic Groups

Item 4 - National Health Service Plan

Andrew Laycock
County Secretary