

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ADULT CARE SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 12 JULY 2001 AT 2.15 P.M.**

Agenda Item No:

4

SELECT COMMITTEE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Report of the County Secretary

Author: Peter Hull, Committee Administrator Tel: 01992 555565

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. These may form a Work Programme for 2001/2002 but will not preclude Members raising other issues over the course of the year. The report also includes a summary of areas of work the Committee have scrutinised over the last year.

1. Background

1.1 During 2000 – 2001 the Adult Care Services Select Committee scrutinised the following areas of work:

- Implementation of the National Carers' Strategy in Hertfordshire
- Annual report on Complaints
- The Inspection Unit's Annual Report
- Recruitment & Retention of staff
- Responsible Reporting (whistleblowing)

1.2 The Committee also agreed to scrutinise the implementation of the National Service Framework for Mental Health at its meeting in June 2001. (This item appears elsewhere on the agenda).

1.3 Following scrutiny of the above areas of work a Carers' Topic Group has been established which includes Carer representatives and a Recruitment and Retention of Staff Topic Group.

2. Proposed Work Programme

a) Hospital Discharge Arrangements

Adult Care Services staff have to work closely with NHS staff to facilitate the safe discharge of older people from hospital back to their own homes or into residential or nursing home care. Problems with these arrangements can result in delayed discharge or "bed blocking".

It is suggested that a report on the effectiveness of hospital discharge arrangements in Hertfordshire be presented to the October Select Committee.

b) Joint Investment Plan – Older People

The Joint Investment Plan for older people sets out priority areas for services for older people including an action plan for service development and meeting priorities in the NHS.

It is suggested that a report on progress on the action plan focussing on the areas for development that have been most effective is presented to the October Select Committee.

c) Annual Report on Complaints

Local Authority Social Services Departments are required to have a complaints procedure and to produce an annual report on complaints, which is sent to Members.

It is suggested that the annual report on complaints in Adult Care Services is presented to the January 2002 Select Committee.

d) Implementation of the National Carers' Strategy

A report on the implementation of the National Carers' Strategy in Hertfordshire was presented to the Select Committee in January 2001 and a Carers' Topic Group was established with the following remit/terms of reference:

- To oversee the review and update of the Carers' Strategy Action Plan
- To consider ways of maintaining ongoing dialogue with carers
- To consider the implications of the Carers' and Children's Act.

It is suggested that a report on progress on the above is presented to the January 2002 Select Committee.

e) Direct Payments

The Welfare to Work action plan in response to last year's SSI inspection includes the recommendation that the Direct Payment scheme should be developed to enable as many disabled and older people as possible to utilise the scheme.

It is suggested that a report on progress on the scheme, and on the targets in the action plan, is presented to the March 2002 Select Committee.

3. Conclusions

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

- at the meeting by questioning officers/executive Member
- by requesting a further report to a future meeting of the Select Committee
- by referring the matter to a panel/topic group
- any other way they choose

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

Previous report to Adult Care Services on 12 October 2001.