

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: 25565  
My Ref: PH/kp  
Your Ref:

---

**ADULT CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
16 JANUARY 2003**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

County Councillors

E M Clarke, K J Coleman (Vice-Chairman), F Guest, J Gipps, D W Hills\*, D E Lloyd\*, R Mills (Chairman), J R Morton, M H O'Neill\*, D A A Peek, S Quilty\*, P A Ruffles, P A Webb.

District Councillors\* (5)

To be appointed.

Patient Forum Representatives\* (5) – Non Voting

To be appointed.

\* Denotes Members appointed for Health Scrutiny matters.

**EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

J M Pitman, D B Lloyd.

Other Members in Attendance

M Downing, T G M Kent, R Mays, J T Metcalf, J W A Usher.

**CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED:**

That R Mills be appointed Chairman .

**VICE CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED:**

That K J Coleman be appointed Vice-Chairman.

**MINUTES****RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the former Adult Care Services Scrutiny Committee held on 3 October 2002 be agreed as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**REGULATIONS AND REMIT OF THE ADULT CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

It was agreed that the following information as to the regulations for health scrutiny, composition and remit of the new Committee be noted:-

**ACTIONS**

Caroline Tapster  
Clare Kaye  
Peter Hull

**(a) REGULATIONS FOR HEALTH SCRUTINY**

Regulations as to the Local Authority Scrutiny of the NHS came into effect on 1 January 2003. In anticipation of the regulations being in place by January, the County Council on 19<sup>th</sup> November constituted this Committee with a Membership of 19 Members.

**(b) COMPOSITION**

For Scrutiny of Health Services the Committee consists of 14 County Councillors and 5 District Councillors. The 5 District Councillors will be appointed via the Herts Local Government Association and hopefully will be in place (after ballot of all District Councils of those candidates put forward) by the next scheduled meeting on 13 March.

When constituted Patients Forums will nominate 5 non-voting representatives. In the interim the Committee may co-opt appropriate persons for consideration of Health consultation issues.

**(c) ADULT CARE**

The Committee, when considering Adult Care Services matters, will revert to its previous number of 10 County Councillors.

**(d) REMIT**

The remit of the Committee is:-

**(1) Health Scrutiny**

- The planning, provision and operation of all health services in the County except for services provided or commissioned by Primary Care Trusts.
- To be a statutory consultee in relation to proposals by local NHS bodies for substantial development of the health service in the County

**(2) Adult Care Scrutiny**

- The policies and services of the Council as Social Services authority in relation to adults
- Gypsy site provision

The County Council agreed on 19 November 2002:-

“That, unless additional resources are available, the new Committee’s Health Scrutiny Programme be limited to responding to consultation on changes within the health services”.

**(e) GENERAL**

The new arrangements for scrutiny for health will be reviewed after a year’s operation.

Clare Kaye  
Caroline Tapster  
Peter Hull

**CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS****(a) Membership Changes**

Moyra O’Neill replaces Barbara Lamb for the Adult Care part of the meeting for this meeting only.

**(b) Health Scrutiny Issues**

The Chairman reported there were no health matters for consideration at this meeting. However, a three month public consultation exercise would be undertaken by the Beds and Hertfordshire Strategic Health NHS Authority on “Investing in your Health”. There would be a need for this Committee to respond to this consultation exercise and it was agreed that, should this not be available for the 13 March scheduled meeting, a Special Meeting of the Committee be convened for this purpose.

Caroline Tapster  
Clare Kaye  
Peter Hull

**(c) Health Workshop/Seminar**

It was also agreed that a Health Workshop Seminar to set the scene for future health scrutiny be organised before the next meeting of the Committee and CHC representatives be invited to attend.

Caroline Tapster  
Clare Kaye

**PUBLIC PETITIONS**

No petitions were submitted.

**QUESTIONS (STANDING ORDER C9(4))**

No questions were submitted.

**PART 1 ('OPEN') BUSINESS****SCRUTINY ITEMS****1. SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE OF OLDER PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

[Officer contact: Assistant Director for Elderly and Physically Disabled People - Tel: 01992 556592]

- 1.1** The Social Services Inspectorate Lead Inspector, Jan Clark, presented the report of the SSI as to the outcome of the inspection of Social Services for old people in Hertfordshire.
- 1.2** The Director of Adult Care introduced the action plan arising from the SSI report.
- 1.3** The Committee thanked the Inspectors for their challenging report which would be taken very seriously.
- 1.4** It was agreed that a press release be prepared regarding this matter.

Carol Lee

**1.5 CONCLUSIONS**

- (a) The Committee accepted the report and indicated its intention to address issues in the Best Value report on older people.
- (b) The Committee
- (i) recognised many of the difficulties the report had identified but had more concern than the Inspectors in some areas about the County Council's ability to resolve problems due to issues such as the national position on recruitment and the residential and nursing care market in Hertfordshire;
- (ii) Recognised that since the last inspection there had been much work carried out to address issues including:-
- Best Value Review of Older People on mental health – integration with health
  - the eligibility criteria and strategy to promote independence
  - improvements in staffing vacancy levels
  - carers assessments
  - reduction in waiting lists for assessment.
- (c) The Committee welcomed the focus on Adult Care Services desire to move to prevention/independence. However this needed resourcing.

- (d) There was a recognition of the crucial role County Council staff play and Members were proud of the calibre and skill of staff but recognised that more could be done to train them appropriately and with our partners.
- (e) Arising from the Action Plan it was agreed to scrutinise the development of a County wide strategy for black and ethnic minority Adult Care Services users and their carers and this has been included in the Committee's Work Programme for 2003.

Caroline Tapster  
Peter Hull  
Clare Kaye

## 2. ADULT CARE SERVICES PROPOSED RESOURCE BUDGET 2003/4 – 2006/7

[Officer contact: Ralph Paddock, Head of Finance, Adult Care Services  
Tel: 01992 556354]

- 2.1 The Committee considered a report detailing the proposals made by Cabinet on 19 December 2002 for the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for Adult Care Services.

## 2.2 CONCLUSIONS

The Committee welcomed:-

- i. the increase in resources for Adult Care Services which this Committee has long desired and
- ii. the move closer to the Formula Spending Share (FSS) but note that our spend is still below the standard.

### Recommendations to Cabinet:

- (a) Whilst welcoming the flexibility the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) excellent rating gives the County Council on ring-fenced grants, the Committee wish to strongly urge the Cabinet to ensure that these monies are allocated in their entirety to meet Adult Care Services objectives and targets.
- (b) The Committee supports the allocation of £3m growth reflecting the issues raised in the Social Services Inspectorate's report and, in particular, welcome the £1m to be included into preventative care to promote independence and help elderly people live in their own homes.
- (c) **Capital Budget**

David Roberts  
Chris Sweeney  
Lorraine Allen

The Committee noted the Capital Budget and recorded concern about the importance of securing funding for Jubilee and Marsh Lane Resource Day Centres as these are crucial to the implementation of the Physical and Sensory Disability Best Value Review.

### **3. PROGRESS ON BEST VALUE REVIEW OF SERVICES TO ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES OR SENSORY LOSS**

[Officer contact: David Robinson, Assistant Director for Elderly and Physically Disabled, Adult Care Services.  
Tel: 01992 556592]

**3.1** The Committee received a report concerning the implementation of key recommendations from the Best Value Review of services to adults with physical disabilities or sensory loss. This matter was agreed for scrutiny by the Committee in October 2002 and was before the Committee for scrutiny after a year since its initial publication.

### **3.2 CONCLUSIONS**

The Committee welcomed the progress that had been made on the Best Value Review and asked for reports on:-

- (a) pilot schemes basing occupational therapists in District Councils aimed at speeding up and simplifying access to major adaptations,
- (b) the integrated equipment services,
- (c) a more flexible approach to respite care and
- (d) direct payments

David Robinson  
Peter Hull  
Clare Kaye

### **4. ADULT CARE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2003/4**

[Officer contact : Peter Hull, Committee Administrator –  
Tel: 01992 555565]

**4.1** The Committee considered issues put forward by other Members for possible future scrutiny.

### **4.2 CONCLUSIONS**

- (a) The Committee agreed the following items which would form part of the Work Programme for 2003. However, these would not preclude members from raising other issues over the course of the year.
  - (i) Waiting times for assessment and for services (March 2003)
  - (ii) Direct payments (March 2003)
  - (iii) SSI inspection of services for older people action plan (June 2003)
  - (iv) Building capacity in residential and home care market (June 2003)- report from Topic Group.

- (v) Asylum seekers (June 2003)
- (vi) Transition into adulthood (October 2003)

(Caroline Tapster indicated that she would circulate the report arising from the "Transitions" Conference organised by Mencap as to transition into adulthood.)

Caroline Tapster

- (vii) Development of County-wide strategy for black and ethnic minority Adult Care Service users and their carers (October 2003)

- (b) That a joint health/ adult care scrutiny be considered at a later date on hospital discharge arrangements.

Caroline Tapster  
Peter Hull  
Clare Kaye

## 5. SCRUTINY UPDATE REPORT

[Officer contact: Clare Kaye, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Tel: 01992 555300]

- 5.1 Arising from the recent Chairman/Vice-Chairman/spokesmen scrutiny training, the Committee received a report detailing action taken on scrutiny issues since the last meeting on 3 October 2002.

- 5.2 The Committee agreed that the scrutiny update report was a useful part of the process and will be helpful in future in achieving affective scrutiny.

## 5.3 CONCLUSION

The Committee offered the following suggestion regarding the structure of future reports:-

That the report should go back to the beginning of any calendar year and roll forward the decisions and actions taken.

Clare Kaye  
Peter Hull  
Caroline Tapster

## 6. REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

No items to report.

**Andrew Laycock**  
County Secretary