

**To: All Members of the County Council  
All Chief Officers**

**From: County Secretary's  
Department**

**Ask For: David Roberts**

**Ext: 25562**

**My Ref:**

**Your Ref:**

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**ADULT CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
3 DECEMBER 2003**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

E M Clarke, K J Coleman (Vice Chairman), M Downing, J Gipps, F Guest, D Hills\*, B J Lamb, D E Lloyd\*, M O'Neill, D A A Peek, S Quilty\*, P A Ruffles (for part of meeting), J W A Usher\*

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A Swendell\* (City and District of St. Albans) and J Smith\* (North Herts District Council)

FORMER COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES (non-voting)

(invited as 'temporary' replacements in lieu of Patients' Forum representatives)  
A Mendoza (East)

\*Denotes Members for Health Scrutiny matters only

**Also present**

Executive Members

J M Pitman

Other Members

I Simpson, J Taunton

In the absence of the Chairman, Roma Mills, the Vice-Chairman, Ken Coleman, presided at the meeting.

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS****Membership Changes**

It was noted that since the last meeting of the Committee Moyra O'Neill had replaced Keith Gray as a full time member of the Committee. Also John Usher had been appointed to the place vacated by Moyra O'Neill as a health member of the Committee.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 October 2003 were agreed in so far as they related to Adult Care matters, as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**PUBLIC PETITIONS**

None.

**QUESTIONS**

None.

**PART 1****A. ADULT CARE MATTERS****1. ACCESS TO SERVICES TOPIC GROUP – UPDATE REPORT**

[Officer Contact: David Robinson, Assistant Director E & PD,  
Adult Care Services; Tel: 01992 556592  
and Alan Sapsford, Assistant Director  
Operations, Children, Schools and Families;  
Tel: 01992 588500]

The Committee considered a report on the outcomes of the work carried out by the Topic Group which included recommendations aimed at improving access to services for the residents of Hertfordshire.

**Conclusions:**

The Committee welcomed this very helpful report and thanked the Topic Group and staff for the innovative way this task had been approached.

The Committee were pleased to see it demonstrated that technology was giving the Council the data it needed to see the full picture and make informed decisions.

**ACTION**

The Committee recommended to the Chief Executive that all of the recommendations of the Topic Group report were accepted.

The Committee emphasised that the role of customer care champion was key to implementing the proposals. The Chief Executive should work with the Directors of Adult Care Services, Children, Schools and Families and Community Information to work out the details of role, resourcing and position in the organisation.

Additionally, the Committee:

- Stressed the importance of robust message taking and tracking arrangements
- Welcomed continued focus and resources for training
- Welcomed the introduction of single assessment

The Committee agreed that:

1. A briefing on single assessment should be provided on the day of the next meeting of this Committee;
2. An update on the effectiveness and any issues arising from the introduction of single assessment should be provided to the Committee at the October 2004 meeting.

## **2. SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE COMMISSIONING PLAN 2003/4 – 2005/6 – PROGRESS REPORT**

[Officer Contact: Peter Ruane (Planning and Commissioning Manager, Elderly and Physical Disability)  
Tel: 01707 280760]

The Committee considered a report on progress with the implementation of the Commissioning Plan for Older People drawn up in March 2003. This set out Adult Care Services plans to develop a range of services to help meet the needs of vulnerable older people. The Plan had been discussed at the Care Homes Capacity Topic Group during June and July 2003.

### **Conclusions:**

The Committee welcomed this very helpful and comprehensive report. The Committee agreed to review progress again in June 2004.

**3. BUDGET MONITOR TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2003**

[Officer Contact: Mike Curtis, Assistant Director Resources  
Tel: 01992 556365]

The Committee considered the regular report on the current budgetary position within Adult Care Services in order to enable members of the Committee to identify further issues for scrutiny.

**Conclusions:**

The Committee noted the report and recognised the uncertainties and demands which were being managed.

The Committee recognised that fairer access to care was a continuing challenge, not a one-off, and recommended to the Cabinet that they consider, and make contingency plans, for continuing demand on the Home Care budget.

The Committee supported the work being done to use all available resources to meet the needs identified in the community.

**4. TRAFFIC LIGHT MONITOR**

[Officer Contact: Geoff Brown, Head of Performance Improvement; Tel: 01992 555370]

The Committee noted the regular report on the latest data for the Promises Monitor 2003-4.

**B. HEALTH MATTERS**

The Chairman welcomed Health members to the meeting.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 October 2003 were agreed, in so far as they related to health matters, as a correct record.

**5. "INVESTING IN YOUR HEALTH" – CONSIDERATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE & HERTFORDSHIRE STRATEGIC HEALTH AUTHORITY AND 11 PRIMARY CARE TRUSTS**

Following the extensive consultation programme the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Health Authority had

met with the 11 Primary Care Trusts as a joint committee on 3 November to consider the results of consultation and agree the way forward. The Committee noted the Joint Committee's decisions which were set out in the letter dated 6 November 2003 from John De Braux, Chief Executive of the Strategic Health Authority.

In order to assist the Committee in evaluating the decision of the Health Authority, Sian Flynn, had produced a critique of the Strategic Health Authority's response to this Committee's submission.

The Strategic Health Authority was represented at the meeting by Simon Wood.

Edie Glatter was unable to attend the meeting in person owing to illness and had provided a statement, which was circulated at the meeting, responding to Sian Flynn's critique.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Zena Bullmore highlighted some of the issues raised in Edie Glatter's statement.

Zena Bullmore also submitted a statement to the Committee on behalf of the Dacorum Hospital Action Group and a copy of the text of a petition which the Action Group were submitting to the Secretary of State for Health objecting strongly to the proposals for Hemel Hempstead District General Hospital.

With the permission of the Chairman, Julian Taunton addressed the Committee requesting that the Committee refer the matter to the Secretary of State on the grounds that the needs of the people of Dacorum would not be adequately met.

After all present had been given the opportunity to make statements and ask questions, Simon Wood responded on behalf of the Health Authority.

Following the full debate on the issue the Chairman proposed that the decision of the Strategic Health Authority should not be referred to the Secretary of State. As there was no consensus on this, the proposal was put to a formal vote and it was agreed:

1. The Committee did not wish to refer the decision of the Strategic Health Authority to the Secretary of State

The Committee further agreed:

2. To convene the short-life Topic Group established at the meeting of 12 June 2003 to work with the Health Authority to monitor progress on the implementation of the "Investing in your Health" proposals.

3. That the Topic Group be requested to prepare for the March meeting of the Committee, a plan for monitoring and overview.
4. That, in addition to the remit of the group included in the minutes of the meeting of 12 June 2003, the Group should consider in formulating its plan:
  - How the work of this Committee will link to similar work in Bedfordshire
  - The respective roles of the County and Primary Care Trust based committees.
  - The role of the Health Panel in relation to “Investing in your Health” and how this links with the work of the Scrutiny Committee
  - The related but different roles that the County Council has as part of the services provider and Commissioner (for Social Care and Transport Services), a regulator (for Highways and Planning) and in monitoring (Health Scrutiny).

Andrew Laycock  
County Secretary