

HOUSING & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel held on Thursday 5 July 2012 at 2.00 pm in the Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

(NB These minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting.)

Present

Councillors Sandra Stockdale (Chair)
Margaret Adair
Mike Park (Standing Deputy)
Phil Smith (Vice-Chair)
April Windebank

Also Present

Nigel Selley, Housing Service
Suzannah Rosenberg, Assistant Head of Adult Social Care
Joanne Wildsmith, Scrutiny Support Officer, CCDS

27 Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Steve Wemyss who was represented by Councillor Mike Park.

28 Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

The following declarations of interest were made:

- (1) Councillor Mike Park as a member of the Health & Wellbeing Board which was non-prejudicial.
- (2) Councillor Sandra Stockdale declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that her daughter is disabled and lives in a care home which is not in Portsmouth and not council run, being NHS funded.

29 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 18 June 2012 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting of 18 June 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chair of that meeting as a correct record.

30 Discussion of Future Topics for the HSC Scrutiny Panel (AI 4)

The panel noted the list of previous topics reviewed by the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel and gave consideration to the topics aired at the previous meeting with the supporting information that had been circulated with regard to a joint accommodation strategy for older people and the monitoring of service quality for adult social care. In summary the decisions taken on the suitability of topics were:

- i) **Nuisance behaviour being tackled by housing providers in a residential environment** – It was felt that this had been previously covered by the HSC Scrutiny Panel and therefore was not a priority to be reviewed again at this point.
- ii) **To review the policy of rehousing after a relationship breakdown** – The panel was satisfied with the evidence given by the Housing Options Manager at the previous meeting that the Allocations policy gave due weight to people’s needs and that it would be unfair to those on the waiting list to make available extra accommodation which was under-utilised at a time of high demand. It was therefore not felt that this would be a priority area for a review.
- iii) **Standards in care and nursing homes in Portsmouth and**
- iv) **Vulnerable adult placements**

These items were discussed together and Suzannah Rosenberg explained the current practices regarding the commissioning standards of monitoring and how this related to the CQC inspections. She emphasised that the local authority independently commission services so ensures quality by undertaking their own visits at least once a year or more if they were aware of safeguarding issues. She explained that visits were also undertaken where placements are made outside the city. Liaison takes place with other local authorities where there are reciprocal arrangements in place and there is close liaison with the NHS and the CQC. Members were satisfied that this was an area that had sufficient procedures in place for monitoring but that the invitation extended to the chair and vice-chair (on behalf of the panel) to undertake visits with staff should be accepted.

The joint accommodation strategy forecasted sufficient places to meet current needs and highlighted the success of the purpose built provision at Harry Sotnick House. It was however noted that there would be issues in the future with the older buildings being used in the city and a greater reliance on the private sector.

It was therefore decided that this would not be a current topic but the chair and vice-chair could feed back regarding their visits which could take place in September to both an older persons adult social care establishment and an adult mental health premises.

- v) **Affordable housing provision** – This had been discussed at the previous meeting and members still felt that there was value in taking this forward as advised by the Head of Community Housing & Regeneration.

- vi) **Changes to personal care packages** – It was noted that this had been reviewed fairly recently by the panel so was not a priority topic for further review.
- vii) **Advancing the use of technology in Adult Social Care** – This was a suggested new topic that was raised at a meeting which would include Telecare, telehealth and community alarms for housing and social care and RSL in the city. It was noted that the Portsmouth Pensioners had recently had an interesting presentation on the subject. This would link with independent living and the practices undertaken by other local authorities.
- viii) **Licensing regime for houses in multiple occupation** – Discussion took place regarding HMOs in the city and the housing standards and accreditation of public landlords and it was felt that this was a subject that was already being considered by the Cabinet Member for Housing.

The committee resolved that the topics they would wish to refer to the Scrutiny Management Panel for a review by the HSC panel were, in priority order:

- i) Advancing the use of technology in Adult Social Care
- ii) Affordable housing provision in the city

31 Date of Next Meeting (AI 5)

A provisional date of Thursday 20 September at 2.00 pm was set. There would also be visits to care homes by the chair and vice-chair during September.

The meeting concluded at 2.35 pm.

Councillor Sandra Stockdale
Chair

JW/DMF
6 July 2012
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