

HOUSING & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday 18 September 2012 at 2.00 pm in the Guildhall, Portsmouth.

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

Present

Councillor Sandra Stockdale (Chair)
Councillors Margaret Adair
Mike Park
Phil Smith (Vice-Chair)

Also Present

Suzannah Rosenberg, Assistant Head of
Adult Social Care/Commissioning Manager
Katie Cheeseman, Project Manager, Assistive Technology
Nigel Baldwin, Housing Enabling Manager
Joanne Wildsmith, Democratic Services

32 Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

These had been received from Councillors Michael Andrewes and April Windebank.

33 Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

During discussion of the site visits Councillor Smith declared that he knew the owner of Beaconsfield House and had previously worked there but this was a non-prejudicial and non-pecuniary interest.

34 Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 5 July 2012 (AI 3)

(REFER TO MINUTES)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting of the panel held on 5 July 2012 be confirmed and signed by the chair as a correct record.

35 Matters Arising from the Minutes – Adult Social Care Inspections and Site Visits (AI 4)

Under minute 30(iii) it had been agreed at the last meeting that the chair and vice-chair represent the panel at site visits with officers undertaking inspections for Adult Social Care.

Councillor Smith reported back regarding his visit to Ashwood Close in Cosham to accompany Dave Stokes from Adult Social Care. This was a residential but non-permanent facility for adults with mental health difficulties, where some clients had substance dependencies. The aim of the facility was to help those in need to help train them to look after themselves before

moving on and it was run by the Richmond Fellowship. During the inspection questions were asked regarding the handling of incidents and regarding the quality of care to judge the good value to the council and the opportunity had been taken to talk with some of the residents. Cllr Smith felt that whilst some of the residents were worried about moving on they were given reassurance regarding further assistance being available and others were very excited about moving towards independence. The staff seemed enthusiastic and were receiving regular training.

Councillor Stockdale then reported back regarding her visit to Beaconsfield House with Mike Staniforth from the Integrated Commissioning Team. She commented that this was an old building but the bedrooms were reasonable and there was well utilised space and she had met with the staff. The inspection would also include inspecting the medication area and interviewing the manager. Cllr Stockdale made an observation regarding the CRB checks. It was noted that the residents had challenging behaviour and the staff were trained to deal with this. It was acknowledged that this was the last chance for some who had been at previous facilities at Knowle and Cold East.

It was noted that Beaconsfield House catered for a range of ages from late 30s up to those in their 70s. Suzannah Rosenberg added that this was a registered care home for mental health issues and dealt with more challenging residents but this enabled them to stay within the city nearer their families and it also represented good value to the city as out of area placements could be expensive.

The members felt that their attendance at the inspection visits had been valuable and they were grateful for this opportunity.

36 Scoping Document for New Review - Advancing the use of technology in Adult Social Care (AI 5)

The draft scoping document had been circulated to members and they were asked to consider the scope of the review which officers recommended should concentrate on Telecare and Telehealth to give a focused review, rather than widen this to IT issues. Members felt it would be helpful to include contact with other local authorities and it was noted that Katie Cheeseman worked jointly with Southampton City Council so would bring in her experience from that local authority also. She reported that she had met with the local contact at Age UK who provided a telecare service of their own who would like to present to members, and they would be included in the list of potential witnesses.

RESOLVED the scoping document was approved.

37 Date of Next Meeting (AI 6)

It was agreed that the next meeting of the panel should take place on Thursday 18 October at 10.00 am.

The meeting ended at 2.30 pm.

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Councillor Sandra Stockdale
Chair

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