

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a MEETING held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on THURSDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER 2000.

PRESENT: Mrs JH Seager (Chairman), Mr RG Catton, Mrs C Crisp, Mr PR Davis, Lt Col DBW Jarvis, Mrs VCS Landell Mills, Mr C Newbury, Mr AG Peach, Mrs ME Salisbury, Mr PWL Sample, Mrs JBP Savage, Mrs I Throp and Mrs JM Wood.

Mr PG Allnatt also attended the meeting in accordance with Standing Order No. 26.

Minute numbers 49 and 51 are not within the Committee's delegated powers and have been referred to the Policy & Resources Committee.

46. **Membership Changes** The Director of Corporate Services reported the membership of the Committee incorporating any changes since the previous meeting.

47. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 22nd June 2000.

48. **Chairman's Announcements**

- (1) The Chairman welcomed Jeanette Longhurst the new Assistant Director for Adult Care Services in Wiltshire to the meeting, Jeanette was previously the Assistant Director for Community Care Services in Blackpool.
- (2) The Chairman informed members that the Social Services Committee would be formally receiving the report on the major Joint Review of Social Services in Wiltshire undertaken by the Audit Commission and the Department of Health at its meeting on 12th October.

A seminar on the Joint Review for all members of the County Council would be held from 9.30am until 10.45am with a presentation by Bob Welch, the lead Joint Reviewer. The Social Services Committee meeting would now commence at 11.30am.

- (3) The Chairman reminded members about the invitations they had received to attend the Social Services Departmental Conference at the Civic Hall, Trowbridge on 13th October. The focus for the Departmental Conference this year would be the Joint Review, and consideration of the Draft Action Plan following the recommendations of the Review.
49. **Revenue Budget – Review of 2000-01** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,
- Resolved: To note the potential overspend of £1.550m on the 2000-01 budget and the actions being taken to limit its size and to notify the Policy and Resources Committee of the position.*
50. **Charging for Services Provided Under Section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983 Complaint on behalf of Miss Hughes: Ombudsman Report** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,
- Resolved:*
- (1) *To note the potential implications of the recent Appeal Court Ruling and to support the proposed action outlined in the report.*
 - (2) *To seek guidance from the Local Government Association regarding the action being taken by other Local Authorities in response to the ruling in order to ensure that a consistent approach is taken.*
51. **Mental Health Supplementary Credit Approval** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,
- Resolved: To request the Policy & Resources Committee to approve a supplementary capital estimate of £125,000 to be financed by Supplementary Credit Approval to extend the Community Mental Health Team base in Wilton.*
52. **Integrated Processes for Voluntary Sector Grants** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,
- Resolved:*
- (1) *To endorse the progress made towards the integration of the grant aid processes administered by the County Council and Wiltshire Health Authority/Primary Care Groups.*
 - (2) *To authorise further work taking place towards creating a pooled grant budget from April 2002.*

53. **The “NHS Plan”** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved:

- (1) *To note that the long-standing commitment within the County Council to develop integrated health and social care services based on primary care is reinforced by the Government’s intentions as stated in the NHS plan.*
- (2) *To ask officers to seek opportunities to develop integrated management of health and social care services and to prepare for the potential introduction in Wiltshire of new Care Trusts to commission and provide health and social care services.*
- (3) *To note the potential implications for Social Services of the Government’s financial proposals, and that the effect of the financial implications will need to be considered with regard to the 2001-2002 budget.*
- (4) *To refer this paper to the Local Government Association so that in their contacts with Government on behalf of Local Authorities they are aware of potential financial issues for Local Authorities which have been identified in Wiltshire.*

54. **Charter for Long Term Care “Better Care, Higher Standards”** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved: *To endorse the local charter for long term care in Wiltshire.*

55. **No Secrets – The Protection of Vulnerable Adults** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved: *To note the contents of the report informing members of new guidance issued by the Government under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970.*

56. **Request from Orders of St John Trust Care Homes to Acquire Freeholds or Long Leaseholds of the Paddocks, Trowbridge and Buckland Court, Amesbury** On considering a report by the Directors of Social Services and Environmental Services,

Resolved:

- (1) *To authorise Officers of the County Council to enter into negotiations with the Orders of St John Trust Care Homes and, as appropriate, Signpost Housing Association on the sale of freeholds or leasehold extensions of the Paddocks, Trowbridge and Buckland Court, Amesbury on terms to be approved by the Director of Environmental Services and the Solicitor to the Council.*
- (2) *To request that progress reports be brought back to future meetings of the Committee together with any proposals for the Committee’s decision.*

Note: Mr PWL Sample and Mr AG Peach declared non-pecuniary interests in the above item as members of Salisbury District Council and took part in the discussion but did not vote.

57. **Mental Health: Independent Inquiry Report concerning David Roberts: Update on Action Plan** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved: To note the progress made in implementing the Recommendations of the Independent Inquiry.

58. **Regulation 22 Visits to Local Authority Children's Homes** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved: To agree that reports on Regulation 22 visits to Local Authority children's homes should be considered by members of the Joint Children's Working Party rather than by the Social Services Committee.

59. **Visits to Local Authority Children's Homes** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved: To note the reports on the three children's homes in Wiltshire.

60. **Appointment to Social Services Inspection Advisory Panel** On hearing that the Panel is due to be reconstituted with effect from 1st October, 2000,

Resolved: To appoint Mrs I Throp as the Committee's representative on the Social Services Inspection Advisory Panel for a period of eighteen months (from 1st October 2000 to 31st March 2002) and to thank Mrs Throp for her previous service on this Panel.

61. **Conferences and Seminars**

- (1) British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering/LGA Seminar – The New Adoption Agenda, 10th October 2000, Westminster

Resolved: To nominate the Chairman to attend the above seminar and to agree that attendance be an approved duty for the purpose of claiming attendance, travelling and subsistence allowances.

- (2) LGA Conference on the New Agenda for Social Care, 19th September 2000, Central London

Resolved: To nominate Mrs C Crisp to attend the above Conference and to agree that attendance be an approved duty for the purpose of claiming attendance, travelling and subsistence allowances.

(3) Audit Commission/SSI Joint Review of Social Services in Wiltshire

Resolved: To approve attendance at the Joint Review Seminar on 12th October, to which all members of the Council will be invited, as an approved duty for the purpose of claiming attendance, travelling and subsistence allowances.

(4) Supporting People Forum – 17th July 2000 The Committee received a verbal report on this Forum from Mrs Seager.

(5) Quality Protects Seminar – 18th July 2000 The Committee received a report on this Seminar from those members that attended.

62. **Reports of Sub-Committees**

Resolved: To receive the minutes of the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee meetings held on 29th June and 24th July 2000.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 a.m.-12.15 p.m.)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Marie Todd, of the Committee Services Unit, direct line (01225) 713011.

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115.

09/06