

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a MEETING held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2000.

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

Mrs G Hill also attended the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 26.

Minute numbers 88(2), (3) and (4), 98(4) and 101(3) are not within the Committee's delegated powers and have been referred to the Policy and Resources Committee.

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

85. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2000.

86. **Public Participation**

(i) Grant Aid to Voluntary Organisations 2001-2002

Veronica McAndry Director of Voluntary Action West Wilts

Fran Lewis Development Worker for Splitz

asked questions and made statements regarding the proposed cuts in the Grant Aid to Voluntary Organisations Budget to which the Chairman replied.

(ii) Budget Cuts and Implications for Users of Services

Brian Maslen, a member of the West Wilts and Swindon Users Group asked a question regarding the proposed budget cuts and the impact these may have on service users to which the Chairman replied.

(iii) Statement from User and Carer Representatives

The Chairman read out a statement from User and Carer representatives stating that they did not feel they had been adequately consulted on the items to be discussed at the meeting.

87. **Revenue Budget Review of 2000-01** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services highlighting some of the major pressures on the Committee's budget in 2000-01,

Resolved: *To note the report.*

88. **Revenue Budget 2001-02 to 2003-04** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services giving details on the service implications of setting a budget at the approved level in 2001-2002 and an indication of the position in years 2002 -03 and 2003-04,

Resolved:

- (1) *The Social Services Committee regrets that the Government has not recognised the external pressures faced by Wiltshire Social Services, has ignored the fact that current spending is 18% above the existing standard spending assessment (SSA) and has this year limited the SSA increase to a mere 2.3%.*
- (2) *To request the Policy & Resources Committee to continue to lobby the Government for a more appropriate level of funding, taking into account the high cost of delivery of services in a rural County such as Wiltshire.*
- (3) *To request the Policy & Resources Committee to recognise the considerable difficulties and the implications for service Users and Carers arising from the financial guidelines currently set for the Committee.*
- (4) *To request the Policy & Resources Committee to reconsider the Social Services Committee's budget allocation when further information is available on specific grants from the Government and following discussions with Wiltshire Health Authority on the appropriate allocation of responsibilities for Health and Social Care.*
- (5) *To reject the proposal in the budget paper for a 10% cash reduction in grant aid to voluntary organisations, and ask that a report be brought to the next meeting of the Committee on how an alternative saving of £196,000 can be achieved.*

89. **Grant Aid to Voluntary Organisations** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services and letters in support of the Splitz organisation,

The Chairman moved that the provisional decisions made by officers in respect of the allocation of grant aid for 2001-02 be noted.

Mr JE Syme moved and Mrs M Salisbury seconded the following amendment:

“To maintain the current level of grant aid to Splitz in 2001/02, to award a grant of £500 to the Warminster and Westbury Visually Handicapped Club and to award a grant of £1,000 to Warminster Community Services Limited.”

Following debate, the Chairman agreed to a recorded vote and voting was as follows:-

For the amendment (6)

Mr TR James	Mr PWL Sample
Mrs VCS Landell Mills	Mr JE Syme
Mrs M Salisbury	Mrs JM Wood

Against the amendment (7)

Mr RG Catton	Mrs JB Savage
Mrs C Crisp	Mrs JH Seager
Lt Col DBW Jarvis	Mrs I Throp
Mr AG Peach	

The amendment was therefore lost.

Mr JE Syme then moved and Mr TR James seconded the following amendment:

“That Splitz be awarded a grant of £10,000 for the financial year 2001/02.”

Following debate the Chairman agreed to a recorded vote and voting was as follows:-

For the amendment (6)

Mr TR James	Mr PWL Sample
Mrs VCS Landell Mills	Mr JE Syme
Mrs M Salisbury	Mrs JM Wood

Against the amendment (7)

Mr RG Catton	Mrs JB Savage
Mrs C Crisp	Mrs JH Seager
Lt Col DBW Jarvis	Mrs I Throp
Mr AG Peach	

The amendment was therefore lost.

The Chairman then moved an amendment which was carried. This then became the substantive motion which was put to the meeting and carried. It was therefore,

Resolved:

- (1) *To award a grant of up to £3,000 to Splitz if this would help Splitz to raise funds from other sources.*
- (2) *To note the provisional decisions made by officers in respect of the allocation of grant aid for 2001-02.*

(Note:

Mrs G Hill declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item arising from her friendship with the Managers of Voluntary Action West Wiltshire and Splitz and remained in the Chamber and spoke on this matter.

Mr AG Peach declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item and remained in the Chamber during the debate and voted on this matter.

Mr PWL Sample declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item relating to the Headway organisation and remained in the chamber, spoke and voted on this matter).

90. **Services Provided Under Section 117 Mental Health Act 1983** On considering a joint report by the Director of Social Services and the Solicitor to the Council updating members on the action taken since the meeting of this Committee held on 7th September 2000,

Resolved:

- (1) *To note that although some action has been taken since the last report to the Committee, it has not been possible to conclude as yet the work on the potential costs to the County Council of the Appeal Court Judgement.*
- (2) *To note that more detailed work on the financial implications to the County Council is required before the committee can be sufficiently informed to be able to make a policy decision on repayment to individuals.*
- (3) *To agree that expenditure of £12,000 be committed to progress this work.*

91. **Charges for Domiciliary and Day Care Services 2001-02** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services regarding a review of the present level of financial contributions made by users towards the cost of domiciliary and day care services,

The Chairman moved the following motion:

“To approve the scale of charges for domiciliary and day care services in 2001-02 as set out in the appendix to the report subject to further legal advice with regard to higher rate attendance allowance/disability living allowance and charging.”

Following debate the Chairman agreed to a recorded vote, voting was as follows:

For the motion (7)

Mr RG Catton
Mrs C Crisp
Lt Col DBW Jarvis
Mr AG Peach

Mrs JB Savage
Mrs JH Seager
Mrs I Throp

Against the motion (5)

Mr TR James
Mrs VCS Landell Mills
Mrs ME Salisbury

Mr PWL Sample
Mrs JM Wood

It was therefore,

Resolved: To approve the scale of charges for domiciliary and day care services in 2001-02 as set out in the appendix to the report subject to further legal advice with regard to higher rate attendance allowance/disability living allowance and charging.

92. **Capital Programme – 2001/2002** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved: To approve the Committee's priorities for capital funding in 2001-02 as set out in Appendix A of the report subject to the inclusion of Sarum House as priority number 7 in 2001-02 at a cost of £258,000.

93. **Debt Monitoring** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved: To note the report.

94. **Joint Review Action Plan** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved:

(1) To approve the Department's action plan in response to the Joint Review as set out in the appendix to the report.

(2) To agree that a report be brought back to Committee in October 2001 on the progress achieved in implementing the Action Plan.

95. **Performance Assessment Framework** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved: To note the report.

96. **Wiltshire Home Care Service: Options for the Future** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved: Subject to the normal consultation processes to agree that:

- (1) *80% of the in-house Home Care Service be tendered on the basis of three contracts covering areas coterminous with the proposed new Primary Care Trusts.*
- (2) *From September 2002 80% of home care services currently purchased from a large number of independent sector providers should also be provided through three larger block contracts awarded through the tendering process.*
- (3) *20% of the Home Care Service be retained in-house to ensure that the County Council is able to meet its statutory duties at all times and to provide specialised, skilled services within the County.*

97. **Adult Care Transport** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services on the current budgetary problems faced by Social Services adult care transport,

Resolved:

- (1) *To note the report.*
- (2) *To await a further report early in the New Year on the results of the feasibility studies detailed in paragraph 17 of the report.*

98. **Creation of Care Trusts** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services seeking approval to the principle of establishing three Care Trusts within Wiltshire co-terminus with the proposed Primary Care Trust (PCT) boundaries, with effect from 1st April 2003,

Resolved:

- (1) *To support in principle the establishment of three Care Trusts, co-terminus with the boundaries of the proposed Kennet & North Wiltshire PCT, South Wiltshire PCT and West Wiltshire PCT, with effect from 1st April 2003.*
- (2) *To agree that further work be undertaken on the detailed proposals and that an implementation plan be developed, with further reports back to the Committee at future meetings.*
- (3) *To support the necessary consultation process being conducted jointly with the Health Authority and Primary Care Groups.*
- (4) *To ask The Policy & Resources to note the above decisions.*

99. **Supporting People** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved:

- (1) *To note the progress made to date in developing the Supporting People programme in Wiltshire.*

- (2) *To approve the decision making structure as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.*
- (3) *To approve the pooling of the £62,255.82 Wiltshire County Council allocation with the respective allocations of the Wiltshire District and Swindon Borough Councils.*
- (4) *To approve the draft Supporting People Team structure set out in Appendix 2 of the report, upon which a partnership bid to the DETR for Supporting People development monies will be based, and that the Commissioning and Strategic Group move to appoint a Supporting People Manager at the earliest possible date.*
- (5) *To agree that attendance at meetings of the Supporting People elected members group be an approved duty for the purpose of claiming attendance travelling and subsistence allowances.*

100. **North Wiltshire Partnership Board** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved:

- (1) *To support the proposal from North Wiltshire and Devizes and Ridgeway Downs Primary Care Groups that a "Partnership Board" be established for North Wiltshire.*
- (2) *To appoint Mrs JH Seager and Mrs JM Wood to serve as members of the North Wiltshire Partnership Board.*
- (3) *To agree that attendance at meetings of the North and West Wiltshire Partnership Boards be considered as an approved duty for the purpose of claiming attendance, travelling and subsistence allowances.*

101. **Integrating Education and Libraries Services and Children and Families Services** On considering a joint report by the Director of Social Services and the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved:

- (1) *To approve in principle the integration of the Education and Libraries Service with the Children and Families Division of Social Services.*
- (2) *To ask officers to prepare detailed proposals for consideration by the Education and Social Services Committees.*
- (3) *To ask the Policy and Resources Committee to note the decisions taken on this matter by the Education and Social Services Committees.*

102. **Wiltshire Area Child Protection Committee Annual Business Plan** On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved: To note the Annual Business Plan of the Wiltshire Area Child Protection Committee for April 2000 – March 2001.

103. **William “Doc” Couch Trust** On considering a joint report by the County Treasurer and the Solicitor to the County Council,

Resolved:

- (1) To advise the executors of the donor’s estate of the County Council’s gratitude in receiving such a generous endowment.*
- (2) To request that members of the Awards Sub-Committee and the County Council make application to the Charity Commission for a Scheme to appoint the County Council as trustee of the William “Doc” Couch Trust.*
- (3) To request that a further report dealing with the arrangements for managing and administering the Trust be brought forward on completion of the scheme.*
- (4) To request that a report be brought to Policy & Resources and Education Committees on future arrangements for the administration of County Trust Funds generally.*

104. **Appointment to Bath & District Community Health Council**

Resolved: To appoint Mrs Susan Marshall to fill the current vacancy on the Bath & District Community Health Council for the remainder of the current term of office ending 31st August 2002.

105. **Conferences and Seminars**

The Committee received a verbal report from the Chairman and Mr PWL Sample who had both attended the Annual Social Services Conference in Edinburgh on 17th - 20th October 2000.

106. **Report of Sub Committee**

Education & Social Services Scrutiny Sub Committee

Resolved: To receive the minutes of the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Sub Committee meeting held on 26th October 2000.

107. **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved: To agree, in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in minute numbers 108 and 109 below because it is likely that if members of the public were

present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Act.

108. Day Care Services for Older People, Trowbridge Area On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

- (1) To authorise consultation with day centre users, their carers and with members of staff on proposed changes to the existing arrangements for day care currently provided at the West Wiltshire Community Care Centre.*
- (2) To authorise Officers of the County Council to enter into negotiations with the Orders of St John Trust Care Homes on the following issues:*
 - (i) An extension to the existing contract for day care in West Wiltshire and Salisbury to meet the assessed future need for day care in the Trowbridge area;and*
 - (ii) A TUPE transfer of County Council staff currently employed in the provision of day care at the West Wiltshire Community Care Centre to the Orders of St John Trust Care Homes.*

On terms to be agreed by the Directors of Corporate Services, Environmental Services, Social Services and the County Treasurer.

109. Information Systems 2000+(IS2000+) Project On considering a report by the Director of Social Services,

Resolved:

- (1) To note the savings of £400,000 achieved in 2000-01 by the suspension of the IS2000+ project, which is being used to reduce the Department's overspend.*
- (2) Subject to resources being made available, to agree to proceed with a reduced IS2000+ project, at the reduced cost indicated in the confidential appendix to the report, with the potential for some funding to be obtained from the Information Management capital grant.*

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 a.m. to 1.20 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.

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