

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY PANEL  
18 JANUARY 2010  
7.30 - 8.20 PM**



**Present:**

Councillors Turrell (Chairman), Harrison (Vice-Chairman), Baily, Mrs Fleming, Phillips, Mrs Shillcock and Brossard (Substitute)

**Executive Member:**

Councillor Birch

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Councillors Blatchford and Leake

**Also Present:**

Andrea Carr, Policy Officer (Overview and Scrutiny)  
Mira Haynes, Chief Officer: Older People & Long Term Conditions  
Zoë Johnstone, Chief Officer: Adults & Commissioning  
Glyn Jones, Director of Adult Social Care & Health  
Amanda Roden, Democratic Services Assistant

**1. Apologies for Absence/Substitute Members**

The Panel noted the attendance of the following substitute member:

Councillor Brossard for Councillor Blatchford.

**2. Minutes and Matters Arising**

The Chairman thanked the Director of Adult Social Care and Health and his team for the services provided during the severe winter weather.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 1 December 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

There were no declarations of interest relating to any items on the agenda, nor any indications that members would be participating whilst under the party whip.

**4. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

5. **Performance of Health and Social Care Public Bodies**

The Panel noted that Tim Inkson, local area manager for the Care Quality Commission in Berkshire, was not able to attend this meeting but would attend the next meeting of the Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 2 March 2010.

6. **2010/11 Draft Budget Proposals**

The Director of Adult Social Care and Health gave a presentation in respect of the Council's Draft Budget Proposals for 2010/11.

In year savings had been achieved via reductions in staff related expenditure, such as delaying a month or more before recruiting to a vacant post. The Primary Care Trust had assumed responsibility for the cost of some continuing health care which had benefitted the Council's financial position.

The Commitment Budget included a 60% saving through modernising Home Care, Learning Disability Initiatives and an Area Based Grant increase of £18,000. There had been a reduction on most grants but the Carers and Mental Health grants had seen increases.

Demographic pressures in the Borough included an increase in the number of older people, and the number of young people previously supported by the Children, Young People and Learning Department turning 18 years old and moving onto the Adult Social Care and Health Department for support. Demographic pressures also included people who encountered injury or illness and needed support such as those with dementia.

Draft budget proposal savings included Better Commissioning, The Look In, and Day Care. Better commissioning for domiciliary care for older people would be sought. A consolidated hourly rate of £14.40 had been set and letters sent to agencies offering this rate. An estimated £110,000 could be saved with no reduction in service.

The Look In received an annual income of £70,000, however the cost of food was £24,000, equipment rental was approximately £24,000 and staff salaries cost £83,000. Subsequently there was a subsidy of £60,000. Costs had increased by 15% in two years and the subsidy had been reduced slightly. Charities had been approached regarding the possibility of running The Look In under the Council's terms and conditions and possibly with rate relief from the Council. There was potential for The Look In to be run in a different way with a paid co-ordinator and volunteers.

It was noted that a paper on modernising day care would go to the Executive on 19 January to launch a 13 week consultation to look at future options. The proposal was to provide support in a more cost effective way and to look at alternatives such as voluntary sector service options. The Downside Resource Centre had been closed for some time due to issues with the water system but interim measures would remain in place until after the consultation in case an alternative option for the centre was found.

In the Capital Programme £40,000 had been committed for Adult Social Care computer software which was due to be implemented next month. There was £335,000 in the Capital Programme for the Carers Accommodation Strategy and the suitability of the Eastern Road day services building would be investigated. One possibility would be to move the community team currently based at Waymead to an

alternative Town Centre location and to use Waymead Short Term Care Unit for a support related function. There was also £155,000 of smaller grants from central government in the Capital Programme for use in the areas of Mental Health, Social Care, and Adult Social Care IT Infrastructure.

Arising from the Members' questions and comments the following points were noted:

- Legal advice had been sought regarding the proposal for better commissioning. There was no need to go to tender and purchasing would be suspended from any agencies providing below a 2-3 star standard of care. Care would continue to be provided in the same way unless a provider decided against the rate offered.
- Funding in the Supporting People budget was declining. Guidance was in place to find alternative sources of funding and the aim was to keep the same level of service but at a reduced unit cost.
- There was capacity in the Borough for alternative day care services to Downside Resource Centre, such as Ascot Alzheimers and Sandhurst Day Centre. Personalisation and personal budgets would be used to fund other options. Some community centres in the Borough were under used at certain times of the day.
- The report going to the Executive regarding modernising day care was commended and Members were advised to read the report.
- The lease for Eastern Road day services could not be altered but alternative uses for the building were being investigated.
- There was concern that the voluntary sector would become under pressure if requested to take on additional services. There was the possibility that some trained and experienced staff could be employed in an effort to deliver services in a different way.
- Service users' budgets would cease when they no longer needed support. Budget monitoring reports showed when clients left services for different reasons.
- The approach to dealing with pressures within Adult Social Care at the Council was positive.
- The rate of £14.40 per hour for agencies was designed to cut the expense of using high cost providers and would not result in any reduction in service quality. It was expected that the majority of providers would continue to provide services for the Council. The rate was set at the right level for Bracknell Forest and was governed by national regulations.
- Inflation assumptions were queried. The Chairman was advised to contact Chris Herbert, Borough Treasurer, directly for further clarification if needed.

**CHAIRMAN**