

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSITION SUB COMMITTEE

10 FEBRUARY 1998

Present: Councillor Angell (Chairman)
Councillors Barnard, Bayle, Miss Haydon, McCormack,
Ryan, Mrs Shillcock, Mrs Sutcliffe and Worrall

Also present: County Councillor Mrs A J Williams

11. Minutes

The minutes of the Sub Committee held on 2 December 1997 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12. White Paper - "The New NHS : Modern - Dependable". (Item 1)

The Director of Social Services and Housing reported that the Government's White Paper into the National Health Service had been published in December and set out the Government's intention to modernise the NHS and in so doing emphasise the elements of quality, efficiency, changing roles and responsibilities, as well as providing a different approach to the command and control model of previous years.

The report summarised the important elements of the consultation paper and noted that, at a local level, the changes and developments proposed would have a significant impact on the way in which local authorities engaged with the Health Service on planning for local services, particularly at three levels, namely: elected member or senior officer involvement with Trust Boards; borough-wide planning on Board health care issues affecting the whole population, and specific planning in relation to the health improvement programme and its interface with the Community Care and Children's Services Planning Process.

Members noted that under the new proposals local authorities would be included in the health improvement programme.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the new direction set by the White Paper "The New NHS : Modern - Dependable" be noted; and
- (ii) the extent to which the role of the local authority would change in the planning and commissioning process, which underlies the proposed changes in the NHS, also be noted.

13. Joint Arrangements (Item 2)

The Director of Social Services and Housing submitted a detailed report updating Members on the progress being made in relation to joint arrangements for specialists services and answered Members questions thereon.

RESOLVED that the progress being made in relation to joint arrangements be noted and the proposed mechanism for Members to appraise themselves of the details contained within the joint agreement, be endorsed.

14. **Progress Towards Transition - Update. (Item 3)**

The Director of Social Services and Housing submitted a progress report updating Members on progress made towards transition from the key areas of recruitment and personnel, office accommodation, property and transport and information technology.

Officers and Members paid tribute to all the staff responsible for the series of successful moves which had recently taken place to Time Square from various properties.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the progress made towards transition, as reported, be noted; and
- (ii) the Sub Committee places on record a vote of thanks to all those staff responsible for the series of successful moves to Time Square.

15. **Corporate Maintenance Contracts. (Item 4)**

The Borough Surveyor reported that contracts were being put in place to deal with the maintenance of buildings and plant, including Social Services establishments. Such contracts provided access through which maintenance could be carried out, controlled and paid for.

Members noted a copy of a report submitted to the Finance & Property Sub Committee on 19 November 1997 which indicated the action being taken to deal with planned and reactive maintenance and service contracts.

RESOLVED that the action being taken to deal with building and plant maintenance, as reported, be noted.

16. **Crime and Disorder Bill. (Item 5)**

The Director of Social Services and Housing submitted a detailed report setting out the key proposals in relation to the Crime and Disorder Bill published in December 1997. The Bill set out the Government's proposals to implement key elements set out in the White Paper "No more excuses : a new approach to tackling youth crime in England and Wales".

Both the White Paper and the Bill intended to provide a consistent framework for the application to youth justice across England and Wales by providing two elements, a Youth Justice Board which would be based on drawing together a network of local agencies to deliver a range of youth justice services to the courts, and youth offending teams which would place a duty on local authorities, through their Social Services and Education provision, to provide teams in partnership with other relevant agencies to link with community safety and crime reduction partnerships which will also be a requirement under the new legislation. The Bill acknowledged that in many areas such arrangements were already in place and the intention was to ensure a greater consistency across local authorities. However, no indication was given as to which authority should take the lead on the management of such teams and this was left to local agencies to determine. Youth offending teams will be required to deliver community intervention programmes for young people aimed at enabling them to face the consequences of their activities, to develop a positive attitude and to divert a young person from further offending anti-social behaviour.

It was noted that various meetings were being convened locally and at a national level to discuss the implications of the recommendations of the White Paper and on what is contained in the Crime and Disorder Bill. Through the existing Youth Justice Team, which is managed by the Social Services Department at the County and will shortly be managed by Bracknell Forest, the core of the Young Offending Team already existed. Therefore the major task would be to identify relevant representatives from the police, probation and throughout education services who could be drawn into running a new team.

No reference had been made to additional funding which might be available to support new developments, but clearly to develop such a team would not be without additional costs to the agencies concerned.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the report on the contents of the White Paper and Crime Disorder Bill be noted;
- (ii) the proposed development of a youth offending team and the young offenders planning team in the Bracknell Forest area in response to the White Paper's suggestion be noted; and
- (iii) the Director of Social Services and Housing make representations to the Home Secretary on the need for additional resources to support the establishment of youth offender teams and for adequate funding for the provision of remands to secure accommodation.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm
and concluded at 9.15pm.

CHAIRMAN