

**SOCIAL SERVICES SUB COMMITTEE
15 DECEMBER 1998**

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

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillors Mrs Clifford and Mrs Shillcock

Also Present: Councillor Bettison

15 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed Diane Hedges of the Berkshire Health Authority to the meeting.

16 Substitute Members

In accordance with Standing Order No 38 Councillor Ryan attended the meeting as a substitute for Councillor Mrs Shillcock and Councillor Jones attended the meeting as a substitute for Councillor Mrs Clifford.

17 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 September 1998 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18 Urgent Items of Business Under Standing Order 7

The Chairman gave notice of two items of urgent business under Standing Order 7 as follows:

- (i) Childminder representations (Item 8); and
- (ii) an issue relating to a child that had received the authority's services (Item 9).

Both items would be considered due to the timescales involved in the exempt part of the agenda.

19 **Review of Daycare Provision for Children Under Section 19 of the Children Act 1989 (Item 1)**

The Director of Social Services & Housing introduced a report giving details of the progress of the Daycare Review of Childcare Services for children aged 0 to 8 years in Bracknell Forest Borough. It was noted that during the review the Government had introduced a National Childcare Strategy with a requirement for the local authority to produce a Childcare Plan by February 1999 for children aged between 0 and 14 years. The responsibility for producing the plan had been given to the Education Department through the Early Years Development Partnership. The Partnership, established in November 1997 had commissioned the Early Years Development Plan 1998 to 2001 referring to the provision of early years services to young children up to the age of 4 years and also referring to the provision of after school holiday services for children with special needs. The Director outlined the importance of assessing the areas of overlap between the different plans so as to avoid duplication of work. The Sub Committee considered the results of the consultation exercise undertaken regarding the review and noted the various agencies involved within it and the progress made since the last Section 19 review. It was proposed to take the Child Care Plan and Section 19 Review to the next meeting of the Social Services & Housing Committee in January 1999. This report had already been adopted by the Joint Advisory Sub Committee for Children Services.

RESOLVED that the Sub Committee

- (i) notes the outcome of the Daycare Review; and
- (ii) approves that these findings be used to inform and be integrated into the Borough's Childcare Plan required to be published by February 1999 and revision of the children's services plan in March/April 1999.

20 **Establishment of Local Area Child Protection Committees (Item 2)**

The Director of Social Services & Housing introduced a report advising Members of the progress made in the establishment of a Bracknell Forest Area Child Protection Committee. A transitional Area Child Protection Committee had been set up on a Berkshire-wide basis to oversee child protection issues in the first year of unitary authorities. Since the unitary authorities had been established in April 1998, a report had been submitted to the transitional Area Child Protection Committee regarding the proposed way forward for new Area Child Protection Committees, and this was accepted on 11 September 1998, with its recommendation endorsed. The report identified a new structure which would establish a Bracknell Forest Area Child Protection Committee working to the same terms of reference as defined for the Berkshire Area Child Protection Committee. The Committee would comprise of officers drawn from the agencies involved with the responsibility to respond to child protection matters. A core group of these agencies with primary responsibility for child protection, health, police, social services and education would also form an Area Child Protection Committee Executive. It was proposed that an initial meeting

of the Bracknell Forest Area Child Protection Committee would meet in January 1999 with the new Committee becoming operationally responsible from April 1999.

RESOLVED that the Sub Committee approve the proposed Area Child Protection Committee structure and endorses the process outlined in paragraphs 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9 of the officer's report for the shadow Area Child Protection Committee to be formed in January 1999, becoming operational from April 1999.

21 **Development of a Local Youth Offending Team (Item 3)**

The Sub Committee considered a report regarding the progress made in the development of a Youth Offending Team for the Bracknell Forest area. A Multi-agency Youth Offending Team Steering Group had been set up under the Chairmanship of the Director of Social Services & Housing to start detailed planning on the shape and size of the proposed local Youth Offending Team. Various models had been considered and it was proposed that the Y.O.T., which would come into operation on 1 April 2000 would be somewhere between the minimum and maximum models. The membership of the Youth Offending Team would include a Probation Worker, Social Worker, Police Officer, Health Authority nominee and nominee of the Chief Education Officer as required by Section 39 of the Crime and Disorder Act. The Youth Justice Board, set up by the Government to oversee the implementation of Youth Offending Teams and to monitor the Youth Justice system in general, would provide guidance on the recruitment of the Youth Offending Team Manager. It was noted that the report would be referred to the next Social Services and Housing Committee.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Sub Committee notes the progress being made by the Multi-agency Youth Offending Team Steering Group in the preparation for a local Youth Offending Team; and
- (ii) endorses contingency plans for a stand-alone Youth Offending Team for Bracknell Forest, in the event of negotiations with another local authority being unsuccessful.

22 **Items Submitted for Information**

The following items were submitted for information only;

- (i) **Proposed Changes to Community Health Services in East Berkshire (Item 4)**
Diane Hedges of the Berkshire Health Authority attended the meeting to inform the Committee of the progress made on the consultation on proposed changes to Community Health Services in East Berkshire – August 1998. At

the meeting of the Berkshire Health Authority Board on 30 November 1998 consideration had been given to the results of the consultation exercise with regard to the areas of community services namely dentistry, podiatry, speech and language therapy, health visitors and school nurses.

Dentistry

It was noted that the dental service recommendations were now subject to implementation and would involve closer working with clinicians and the targeting of the service to particular client groups. It was considered that by targeting the service to certain client groups, that needs would still be met whilst reducing expenditure.

Speech and Language Therapy Service – East

Diane Hedges outlined that the proposal would be to continue the work on a major theme currently undertaken but use intervention methods to reach clients earlier and hence save funding in the long term. It was proposed to simplify the management structure.

Podiatry Service Review – East Berkshire

It was noted that there were an extensive list of recommendations in this area as the last review had taken place in 1994. The aim of the recommendations was to meet some of the unmet needs in order to develop a better service. Diabetic screening would be organised so that there would be access for everyone on the PCG basis. The location of the services being determined through discussion with the PCG.

Health Visiting Review

The review proposed a local focus to health visiting centred around PCG to avoid duplication of services.

- (ii) Quality Protects Initiative (Item 5)
- (iii) Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of the Social Services Inspectorate 1997/98 (Item 6)

23 **Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following Items which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following categories of Schedule 12A of that Act:

- (4) Information relating to services provided to particular individuals (Item 7, 9)

- (13) Information related to a proposal by the authority to give under (Item 8) any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which, requirements would be imposed upon a person.

24 **Events in Nursing Homes (Item 7)**

The Committee received and noted an item containing exempt information regarding recent events in local Nursing & Residential Care Homes.

25 **Child Minder Representations (Item 8)**

The Committee received a report containing exempt information regarding child minder representations in the process of the Council cancelling a Child Minder's registration.

RECOMMENDED that the Chief Executive or the Director of Corporate Services be authorised, subject to consultation with a panel of 3 Members in political proportionality of 2 to 1, to determine applications for registration as a child minder and whether the registration of a child minder should be cancelled.

26 **Report of the Director of Social Services & Housing (Item 9)**

The Director of Social Services & Housing gave an oral report containing exempt information regarding a child which had received services from the Council.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 9.30pm

CHAIRMAN