

**SOCIAL SERVICES SUB COMMITTEE  
2 DECEMBER 1997**

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

**8. Minutes**

The minutes of the Sub Committee held on 15 July 1997 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**9. Joint Planning Arrangements (Item 1)**

The Director of Social Services and Housing submitted a report advising Members of the proposals for joint planning arrangements which would need to be put in place to replicate or supersede those currently used by the County Council in relation to the Health Authority. Joint planning with Berkshire Health Authority had been the subject of continuous discussion between the officers of the respective authorities as well as bring the subject of a seminar in September from which had emerged a set of proposals and a preferred model for the continuing joint planning arrangements which would need to be in place from 1 April 1998. The proposed model would seek to create six new planning groups reflecting the aims of the six new unitary authorities, working as primary planners with the Health Authority on health and social care issues. The six local joint planning groups would drive the joint planning mechanism and would be fed by customer focused groups in each unitary area. This would enable the development of the Community Care Plans and Children's Services Plans, responding to the needs of the communities that their respective authorities cover. It would be intended that the central planning groups would have a direct relationship with the JCC which would undertake a role as main co-ordinating body for the groups on certain issues, such as Joint Finance and joint commissioning. In addition to the JCC, a Chief Officer's group would be comprised of Directors of Social Services from the unitary authorities, with a remit of developing an overview of the Children's Services Group, Joint Agreement Group, Joint Commissioning Management Group, and Joint Finance Administration Group. The central planning groups would draw together some of the inter authority issues which the Health Authority would need to address across more than one authority and it would also make recommendations through the chief officer's group to the Joint Consultative Committee. The role of the JCC would be to endorse proposals for the use of joint finance money in support of projects which supported the agreed priorities of the Health Authority in the unitary authorities.

It was noted that the model was broadly supported by the unitary authorities having been reported to the JCC during November.

In response to a question, the Director of Social Services and Housing responded that the model would bring together both the Health Authority and the Trusts, together with voluntary organisations, carers groups and users groups, to address local issues under one umbrella. Locality Commissioners would be responsible for working with the unitary authorities on health issues and to develop relationships with the range of health services. The Health Authority would have an overarching role but would act on issues identified by each unitary at a local level in order to identify to those areas on which the budget should be targeted.

The service plan for the department would be reported to the January Social Services Transition and Housing Committee to outline the plans for the next financial year. Some concern was expressed that members of the committee should be involved in joint working in order to ensure representation of Bracknell Forest views. The Director agreed to provide a report setting out how this process would link with the decision-making and policy setting role of elected members.

**RESOLVED** that the Social Services Sub Committee notes the progress made on the joint planning arrangements and endorses the current proposals.

10. **Progress Towards Transition (Item 2)**

The Director of Social Services and Housing submitted a report giving details of the progress made to date towards transition and highlighting the main areas outstanding for further work. The Director gave details of the progress made in the areas of structures, recruitment, office accommodation, budget construction and joint arrangements. In response to a question, the Director reported that work was underway to look at enhancing the Forestcare Service so that Bracknell Forest would provide both this and the emergency duty service from 1 April 1998. The service would be managed by the Social Services arm of the department with a specific emergency duty team along similar lines to that currently operated in the County. This model would be subject to review and developed at a future date.

**RESOLVED** that the Social Services Sub Committee notes the progress made towards transition.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded 9.05pm.

**CHAIRMAN**