

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSITION SUB COMMITTEE
15 JULY 1997

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

Also present: Councillors Grayson, Jones, Mrs Pile and
County Councillor Mrs A J Williams

3. Social Services Area Planning 1997/98. (Item 1)

The Borough Housing Officer submitted an information report detailing the functions of area planning and the membership and terms of reference of the Bracknell Area Planning Group.

It was noted that the Bracknell Area Plan 1997/98 had been circulated to all Members of the Social Services Transition and Housing Committee for information.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

4. Social Services Work Programme - Progress Report. (Item 2)

The Borough Housing Officer submitted a brief overview report of progress to date on the issues of strategy, structures, service delivery, service planning, communication/consultation, support services, personnel, information technology, property, transport and finance and answered Members questions thereon.

Some concern was expressed at the progress being made to date in certain issues, particularly in the need to recruit staff at an early stage. However, it was noted that the Personnel Protocols needed to be adhered to, although the principle of transferring staff over from the County as soon as possible was generally supported.

Members noted that there would a series of seminars on social services issues at which many of the items within the work programme would be raised.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5. The Responsibility of a Social Services Department. (Item 3)

The Borough Housing Officer submitted a report briefly describing the roles and responsibilities of a Social Services Authority and in particular dealing with people with physical disabilities, people with mental health problems, people with learning disabilities, children and families, quality assurance, complaints, access and emergencies issues and the effects of the Gloucester judgement.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6. A Caring Future - Consultation. (Item 4)

The Borough Housing Officer reported that the Social Services Panel, which had been overseeing Social Services through the transition stage up until May 1997, had supported the concept of wide consultation, particularly with users and carers, to encourage people to become involved in the decision making processes of the new Social Services and Housing Department.

Accordingly a consultation exercise had been carried out in relation to the Consultant's recommendations in the "Social Services - A Caring Future" report and details of the responses received, together with Officers' comments were reported.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7. **Family Support Strategy. (Item 5)**

In a detailed report the County Director of Social Services outlined the work undertaken by Berkshire Social Services to develop a framework to re-focus services for children around family support.

The report detailed the aim of family support, together with Berkshires Families Support Strategy which included the strategies key principles.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 8.30pm.

CHAIRMAN