



Minutes of the meeting of the MILTON KEYNES COMMUNITY CARE ASSEMBLY held on WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER 1999 at 6.30 pm

- Present:**
- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Councillor B Barton   | (Milton Keynes Council)                     |
| J Bromley             | (Milton Keynes Carers' Project)             |
| P Bromley             | (Milton Keynes Carers' Project)             |
| J Burgess             | (Milton Keynes Crossroads)                  |
| C Chapman             | (Milton Keynes Council)                     |
| E Clark               | (Age Concern)                               |
| R Griffiths           | (Milton Keynes Council for Disabled People) |
| S Heap                | (Milton Keynes Council)                     |
| D Jones               | (Milton Keynes Council)                     |
| C Meredith            | (Milton Keynes Community Health Council)    |
| D Moore               | (Milton Keynes Council)                     |
| K Page                | (Milton Keynes Council)                     |
| J Reed                | (Milton Keynes Council)                     |
| M Reeves              | (Buckinghamshire Association for the Blind) |
| L Ruddle              | (Milton Keynes Mind)                        |
| A Shepherd            | (Milton Keynes Council)                     |
| Councillor W Swepston | (Milton Keynes Council)                     |
| Councillor C Tilley   | (Milton Keynes Council)                     |
| Councillor C Turnbull | (Milton Keynes Council)                     |
| P Wareham             | (Milton Keynes Council)                     |
| Councillor I Wilson   | (Milton Keynes Council)                     |
- Apologies:**
- |             |                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| H Brown     | (Milton Keynes Carers' Project) |
| G Carter    | (African Caribbean Elders Club) |
| D Henderson | (MacIntyre Housing Association) |
| D Nickless  | (Milton Keynes Council)         |
| J Tibble    | (Milton Keynes Health Trust)    |

## **1.0 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED -

That Councillor Barton be elected Chair of the Assembly for the Council Year 1999/2000.

## **2.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

2.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 1999 were received, subject to the eleventh paragraph of Minute 3.0 (Community Care Plan) being amended to read:

‘David Jones stressed the important role of the Scrutiny Commission in the provision, commissioning and purchasing of services, and that scrutiny must stretch beyond the traditional boundaries of the Authority.

2.2 The following other matters were raised:

(a) Use of Abbreviations

It was asked that when possible, abbreviations should not be used, as this made the Minutes difficult to understand.

(b) Older People’s Services

It was reported that the Council was starting to develop services arising from the Joint Investment Plan for Older People which had been in place since April 1999.

(c) Joint Consultative Committee

It was reported that the Health Forum had assumed responsibility for the Joint Consultative Committee functions since April 1999.

It was also reported that the future of the Joint Consultative Committee’s associated Sub-Groups, such as the Joint Advisory Groups, were being reviewed and a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Health Forum.

Concern was expressed, that with the Forum being responsible for overall finances, there would be potentially no bodies carrying out the detailed work necessary to target resources where necessary.

### **3.0 COMMUNITY CARE PLAN - MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 Further to the last meeting of the Assembly, it was noted that a review of the Community Care Plan had been undertaken and those recommendations which were still to be completed identified, so that they might be picked up in other planning processes. The Assembly considered progress on individual recommendations.

3.2 It was reported that due to the limited resources available it had been necessary to prioritise the outstanding work and this was to be addressed as part of the Neighbourhood Services Strategic Plan, which would be considered at the next meeting of that Committee.

3.3 It was suggested that reference to the Community Legal Service should be included in future plans.

- 3.4 It was also suggested that a Health Improvement Programme for Milton Keynes would serve the needs of this Community better than a Plan for all of Buckinghamshire, although it was noted that the Programme did contain local priorities. It was noted that a Steering Group had been established to address this issue and already a Joint Investment Plan for Older People and Older People with Mental Health problems had been prepared. Also it was reported that the Council was meeting with the Chairs of the Health Trusts to progress this matter.
- 3.5 Concern was expressed by the representative of Milton Keynes Mind that the Council appeared to be setting up its own Family and Child Support Centre in West Bletchley, which she considered to be in competition to the existing successful service operated by MIND from Council property.
- 3.6 It was recognised that the Community Care Plan needed to maintain its focus on the persons it was designed to support and that if it was to be more successful a greater effort towards its implementation was needed, which included commitment from the Voluntary Sector.
- 3.7 It was suggested that a guide should be prepared which detailed the agencies/organisations responsible for implementing the various plan and the lines of accountability.

#### **4.0 PREVENTION SPECIAL GRANT**

- 4.1 The Assembly received a presentation and report on the scope and purpose of the Prevention Special Grant and the 'Saves Dependence' Project.
- 4.2 It was noted that the Council was required to prepare a 3-Year Prevention Strategy for vulnerable adults in Milton Keynes. In the first year, the Government had allocated nearly £60,000 to fund additional prevention services, with additional sums to be allocated in each of the next two years.
- 4.3 It was reported that an extensive consultation exercise with relevant agencies and Voluntary Sector organisations had been undertaken to identify appropriate schemes and ten schemes had been successful in being allocated funding in the first year.
- 4.4 It was noted that organisations which had not been successful in the first year would receive feedback on their applications. It was suggested that a brief guide could be prepared which would assist organisations wishing to bid in future years, subject to on-going funding commitments for schemes already adopted.
- 4.4 It was also suggested that the Scrutiny Commission could review how the individual schemes were progressed, when time and resources allowed. However, it was recognised that monitoring of the projects was essential to

ensure that a quality service was being promoted which reflected the Council's values.

**5.0 PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE: CARES' SPECIAL GRANT**

5.1 The Assembly received a presentation and report on the scope and purpose of the Carers' Special Grant.

5.2 It was noted that this Council was required to prepare a 3 Year Plan to fund innovative and flexible short break services for eligible carers, in order that they might have a break from their caring role. In the first year the Government had allocated nearly £60,000 with £147,230 expected in 2000/01 and £206,122 in 2001/2002. It was stressed that no money could be paid direct to carers.

5.3 It was reported that discussions had been held with providers as to the services necessary and the Assembly was requested to also make suggestions either in the meeting or direct to officers outside the meeting (Chris Chapman - MK 253302 or Alison Shepherd MK 253915).

**6.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be arranged.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.30 PM