



Minutes of the meeting of the NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 1999 at 7.30 pm

Present : Councillor Swepston (Chair)
Councillors Barton, I Henderson, Long, Squires, Tallack, Tilley, Turnbull, I Wilson and Woodcock

Officers : D Jones (Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services), D Nickless (Head of Neighbourhood Services - Housing), D Boobier (Head of Policy and Support Services), M Jones (Head of Legal and Property Services), T Huff (Finance Manager), C Chapman (Neighbourhood Services Commissioning Unit Co-ordinator), D Moore (Principal Manager, Regulation and Commissioning), K Page (Head of Neighbourhood Services Adult Social Care), M Legg (Lead Commissioner Adults), J Reed (Strategy and Performance Manager), A Shepherd (User/Carer Involvement Officer) and W Marsden (Senior Committee Manager)

Apology: Councillor Bartlett

NS27/00 **MINUTES**
RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 1999, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

NS28/00 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Seven questions were submitted in accordance with Standing Order P28, by members of the public to the Chair, mostly referring to the Review of Mental Health Day Service - Clubhouse Development.

The Chair stated the questions raised issues that the Council would like to discuss over a longer period of time, before being able to provide detailed answers. However, any member of the public who wished to ask their question could if they wished.

The Committee and the authors of the questions agreed that the Chair should write an official acknowledgement of the questions received, and the agenda report on the Review of Mental Health Day Service Clubhouse Development be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

The Chair agreed to arrange a meeting via the Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services office and authors of the questions, to discuss this issue and any outcomes arising in order that they might be reported to the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

Question from member of the public :

“As the larger proportion of users of Milton Keynes Mind’s Families Support Group are health referrals, has this Committee considered seeking the £30,000 it needs to save from next year’s budget from Buckinghamshire Health Authority, MK Community Trust or some other Health Related Service rather than depriving the Mental Health Day Services, one of its badly needed providers of Mental Health Drop-ins by causing NSF Wishing Well and MK Mind to bid against each other.”

Answer:

The Chair stated that he would respond to that point and other questions.

NS29/00 REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH DAY SERVICES - CLUBHOUSE DEVELOPMENT

RESOLVED -

That consideration of the report be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

NS30/00 FUTURE DIRECTION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

The Committee considered an outline proposal for the development of integrated local service centres and related changes in the structure of Neighbourhood Services.

The Committee adjourned to hear a member of the public on this item.

RESOLVED -

1. That the outline proposals be approved.
2. That a more detailed report be submitted to the next meeting.

NS31/00 STRATEGIES FOR CARERS

The Committee considered an update on the various planning processes being undertaken in relation to services for carers, and whether to endorse the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Carers Strategy 1999 - 2004.

The Committee adjourned to hear a member of the public on this item.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Carers Strategy 1999 - 2004, be endorsed.
2. That the Milton Keynes Carers Strategy and Action Plans 1999 - 2002 be the subject of further consideration.
3. That the Action Plan outlining specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely outcomes and resources necessary to deliver the strategy over the next three years, be brought to the next meeting.

NS32/00 NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN AND INTEGRATED SERVICE PLAN FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES 1999/2000 TO 2000/01

The Committee was updated on progress towards the objectives outlined in the current Neighbourhood Services Strategic Plan

RESOLVED -

That the progress made on implementing the Plan be noted.

NS33/00 GENERAL FUND 1999/2000 PROJECTION

The Committee was advised of actual expenditure to date against profiled estimate and the projected position for the year 1999/2000.

RESOLVED -

1. That the latest projections of the 1999/2000 budget, be noted.
2. That the carry forward of £150,000 in the older people placement budget from 1999/2000 to 2000/01 to enable the maximisation of placements over the next 17 months, be noted.

NS34/00 TRAVELLER ISSUES

The Committee was updated on progress in developing a comprehensive partnership strategy for Travellers' Issues and a proposed structure for the central office was presented to the meeting.

The Committee adjourned to hear a member of the public on this item.

RESOLVED -

1. That the current levels of unauthorised encampments and recent activity levels, be noted.
2. That progress in developing a variety of initiatives through the Travellers' Steering Group and Joint Planning Forum, be noted.
3. That the operation from January 2000 of a central office, in accordance with the proposed structure, co-ordinating all activities related to Travellers in Milton Keynes, be noted.

NS35/00 REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR THOSE WHO ARE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

The Committee considered an overview of the current provision of services for the deaf and hard of hearing.

The Committee adjourned to hear a member of the public on this item.

RESOLVED -

1. That the implementation of the recommendations of the review report, as indicated in the **Annex** to these Minutes, be approved.
2. That the wider issues of accessibility and communication be referred to the Equalities Panel.

3. That the current assessment, information and equipment services be combined.
4. That the assessment, equipment and information aspects of the current service provision, be re-tendered, and approval of the specification be delegated to the Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services, following consultation with service users.
5. That an Action Plan arising from the recommendations of the review report, setting out specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely outcomes, and resources be submitted to the next meeting.

NS36/00 REGULATION AND INSPECTION UNIT FOLLOW-UP POLICY

The Committee considered, in accordance with the requirements of Local Authority Circular 94/16, whether to agree the Regulation and Inspection Unit Follow-Up Policy.

The Committee adjourned to hear a member of the public on this item.

RESOLVED -

That the Regulation and Inspection Unit Follow-Up Policy be agreed.

NS37/00 REGULATION AND INSPECTION UNIT ADVISORY PANEL

The Committee received the Minutes of the Regulation and Inspection Advisory Panel held on 5 October 1999.

NS38/00 QUESTIONS ON COMMITTEE'S NEWS SHEET

(a) Service Deficit Reporting

Councillor I Henderson expressed disappointment regarding the lack of progress in developing the service deficit system and that the system was not recording the whole picture of deficits.

The Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services reported that with the formation of the new Commissioning Unit, a more project based approach will be developed often in conjunction with health.

(b) Manor House Re-Provision

Councillor I Henderson asked a question about an estimated 19 residents from Manor House who may end up living in Milton Keynes and also expressed concern that funding was often initially forthcoming but tended to get lost before it became consolidated in a budget, and later there are substantial sums of money to find for care.

It was noted that a detailed report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee, which would include a very full legal agreement (Section 28a) which would deal with the ring fencing of money.

(c) Home Care Best Value Review

Councillor I Wilson asked whether the Members' Seminar to be arranged in December 1999, was to involve discussions about the way forward for the service.

In answer the Chair stated that the Seminar would reflect discussions at the last Committee meeting, and would be a helpful way forward to discuss all issues surrounding Home Care.

NS39/00

DISABLED ADAPTATIONS BUDGET

At the request of the Councillor I Wilson, the Committee considered the following Item:

“It is a matter of concern to this Committee that the total budget for the year for disabled adaptations was fully committed by half way through the year. This leaves no possibility for hundreds of people waiting for adaptations to have the work that they need carried out this financial year. In the more serious cases this could prevent people from remaining at home safely and involve them having to access expensive home care or even residential care.

Officers are requested to bring a report to the next meeting of this Committee giving the following information:

- (a) the date by which the budget for the year was fully committed;
- (b) the total number of adaptations on the list awaiting funding, for both the Council's own stock and for private and RSL stock;
- (c) a breakdown of the length of time that people have been waiting for the adaptations that still need funding;
- (d) the total cost of carrying out the above work;
- (e) proposals for funding the work and details of where this is reflected in the Council's budget for the next three years; and
- (f) targets to clear the backlog.”

The Committee noted that the Housing Improvement Team on Disabled Adaptations had recently commenced its work and would report back to a future meeting.

RESOLVED -

That a progress report be submitted to the next meeting.

NS40/00

BUDGET SETTINGS FOR 2000/01, 2001/02 AND 2002/03

At the request of Councillor I Wilson, the Committee considered the following Item:

“That the following proposals of the Policy and Resources Committee be brought to a special meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee to be held before Christmas, with papers from officers giving full details of the rationale for the cuts and their implications, and in particular the effect on service users.

- D13 Savings in 2001/02 and 2002/03 on the learning disability service at Tower Drive
- G13 Delete part time finance post
- G14 Hold benefit clerical post vacant for one year
- G15 Delete 2 Benefit fraud posts
- G16 Bring forward the Year 2 benefit post savings agreed with ISE
- G17 Freeze Regulation and Inspection part time post for one year
- G18 Adult care structure efficiency savings
- G19 Stop grant payment to pre-school playgroup
- G20 Tender the mental health drop-in and befriending services provided by NSF and MIND
- G21 Close the laundry at Neath Hill
- G22 Externalisation of part of the home care service
- G23 Reduced management costs for home care
- G26 Reduce the number of hours of home care service provided per week
- G28 Increase in income from new charging scheme for domiciliary care
- G30 Revise eligibility criteria.”

RESOLVED -

1. That the proposals of the Policy and Resources Committee, detailed above, be discussed at a special meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee to be held in early January 2000.
2. That officers provide full details of the rationale for the cuts and their implications and, in particular, the effect on service users.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 10.53 PM