



Minutes of the meeting of the SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2006 at 7.30 PM

**Present:** Councillor Campbell (Chair)  
Councillors Drewett, Exon, Gerella, Latham and Long

**Officers:** K Page (Corporate Director - Neighbourhood Services), C Davies (Finance and Business Manager), J Reed (Performance and Quality Manager), C Powell (Overview and Scrutiny Officer) and G Lane (Committee Manager)

**Apologies:** Councillor Hoyle

**Also Present:** Councillor I Henderson and Ken Dixon

**SC14 MINUTES**

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the Social Care and Housing Policy Development Committee held on 3 October 2006, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**SC15 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE WHITE PAPER - "OUR HEALTH, OUR CARE, OUR SAY: A NEW DIRECTION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES"**

The Committee considered the new Health and Social Care White Paper - "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: A New Direction for Community Services".

Individual Members of the Committee made the following points regarding the provision of social care services:

- That social care services, whether provided by the voluntary or statutory sector, should be person-centred and organised to accommodate the specific needs of individual clients.
- That the promotion of Direct Payments and Individual Needs Assessments was vital to client choice and independence.
- That services should be configured to accommodate the diverse needs of clients, as typical of a multi-cultural society, and provide choice for clients without the financial means to purchase social care services from the private sector.

- That, in the provision of services, equality of access was vital to provide robust services and promote of social inclusion.
- That client involvement in the management of services was vital to the provision of robust social care services, although the promotion of client involvement was resource-intensive.
- That services should be configured to support domestic carers, by promoting their well-being and independence, and not co-opt them as a convenient source of unpaid labour.
- That it was difficult to reconcile the aspiration for a robust service organised to accommodate the specific needs of individual clients with the financial resources available, particularly in relation to the promotion of 'well-being'.
- That the creation of a robust system of monitoring and performance management was required to assess the performance of services and promote equality of access for service users, including Black and Ethnic Minority clients.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That Spokespersons assess which research techniques were the most robust and reliable to evaluate the performance of services and equality of access for service users.

**SC16**

**INTERIM REPORT OF QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OLDER PEOPLE REVIEW GROUP**

The Committee considered a progress report by the Chair of the Older People Review Group, Councillor Long, on the development of the Quality of Life Strategy for Older People.

Members heard that the Review Group had consulted with a range of witnesses, including Age Concern, officers and clients.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.00 PM