



Minutes of the SOCIAL SERVICES CO-ORDINATING TEAM held on MONDAY
11 OCTOBER 1999 at 5.30 pm

Present: Councillors Lloyd (in the Chair), Long and Turnbull

Officers: D Jones (Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services) and S Heap (Members' Services Manager)

Apologies: Councillor Swepston and P Sutton (Head of Children's Services)

1.0 MINUTES

1.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 August 1999, were agreed.

2.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

2.1 Minute 2.1(a) - Fringe Event at Social Services Conference

It was noted that it had not been possible to arrange any sponsorship for a fringe event promoted by the Council.

2.2 Minute 2.2 - Modernisation of Social Services

It was noted that the modernisation agenda was on-going.

The Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services agreed to forward the full written report of the Performance Assessment visit and any supporting papers to the Team.

2.3 Minute 4.1 - Children's Advisory Panels

The need to revitalise the Panels was noted. As a result, two working groups centred on Early Years and Children's Residential Services are being proposed. The full Advisory Panel would only meet three times a year.

It would be necessary to identify appropriate participants for each working group.

2.4 Minute 5.0 - Children's Social Services - Performance Indicators

It was noted that the Audit Commission, in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, had established new performance indicators with regard to the 'Stability of Placements for Children Looked After' and 'Educational Attainment for Children Looked After'.

It was recognised that the Council's own monitoring and performance indicators provided to Members, needed to reflect these new indicators.

The Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services reported his intention to review the range of indicators measured by the Council, to ensure they reflected the needs of Members and met statutory requirements.

It was reported that the number of children in care was rising.

2.5 Minute 6.1 - Adult Social Care Services - Mental Health Issues

It was reported that Councillor Swepston was to hold a further meeting with Health Service providers, to discuss the interface between the various providers.

2.6 Minute 6.3 - Adult Social Care Services - Disabled Adaptations

It was noted that there was some slippage in partnership grants, which could provide additional resources for disabled adaptations in the current year.

3.0 INTER-AUTHORITY MEETING - 5 NOVEMBER 1999

3.1 It was reported that one of the themes for the meeting would be 'Partnership in Action', looking at the pooling of social care monies with health, leisure and housing budgets.

3.2 It was recognised that such an approach would require each 'partner' to have similar aims and priorities.

4.0 PRIMARY CARE TRUSTS

4.1 Consideration was given to Member representation on Primary Care Trusts. It was noted that representation was likely to be on the Board rather than the Executive. It was suggested that the local government governance role should be stressed in any discussions.

4.2 The Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services agreed to provide details of the likely structures of Primary Care Trusts.

5.0 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

5.1 Working with the Press

It was noted that a meeting was to be held between the Head of Children's Services and a local newspaper editor, to discuss how sensitive childcare issues are reported.

5.2 Quality Protects Newsletter

It was agreed that the newsletter should be circulated to Members.

5.3 Quality Protects Conference - 9 November 1999

It was noted that conference details were to be circulated.

5.4 Middleton Children's Home

It was noted that there should be consultation with the Regulation and Inspection Unit on appropriate resident/staff ratios.

6.0 SOCIAL SERVICES INFORMATION DATABASE

6.1 It was reported that the Implementation Steering Group was meeting weekly. Also, two social workers had been seconded to work on the implementation of the new system and pilot teams had been established to test data inputting.

6.2 It was also reported that the contract was due to be finally signed this week and the first milestone date of 14 December 1999 for installing basic data, was on course.

6.3 It was noted that there was some resistance from social workers to the inputting of their own notes, some as a result of limited IT skills.

6.4 It was requested that the Policy and Resources Committee should be informed at regular intervals of usage made of the system.

6.5 Councillor Long requested that he be provided with details of the training programme and the number of staff completing it.

7.0 REGULATION AND INSPECTION UNIT INSPECTIONS

7.1 It was reported that the procedure on follow-up inspections was being reviewed and would be reported to the Community Learning, Children's and Youth and Neighbourhood Services Committees. It would also be included in the News Sheet for the Policy and Resources Committee.

8.0 ACCESS TO PERSONAL FILES

8.1 It was noted that procedures on this issue were being reviewed.

9.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 It was noted that the next meeting was to be held on 8 November 1999 at 5.30 pm.

9.2 Councillor Lloyd's apology was also noted.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.25 PM