



Minutes of the meeting of the SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2006 at 7.30 PM

**Present:** Councillor Campbell (Chair)  
Councillors Drewett, Hoyle, Long and Snell (substitute for Councillor Gerella)

**Officers:** K Page (Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services), J Moffoot (Head of Democratic Services), P Sanders (Assistant Director Leisure, Learning and Culture), R Solly (Community Safety Manager), (J Boothroyd (Overview and Scrutiny Manager) and L Sung (Senior Committee Manager)

**Also Present:** Councillor I Henderson, P Cheryan (Senior Voice), V Dendy (Sheltered Housing Warden – Courtney Lodge), N Gibbard (Sheltered Housing Warden – Hungerford House), A Wright (Sheltered Housing Warden – Everglade) and D Rumens (MK Pensions Association).

**Apologies:** Councillors Gerella and Latham

**Number of Public Present:** 1

**SC03 MINUTES**

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the Social Care and Housing Policy Development Committee held on 22 March 2006, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**SC04 QUALITY OF LIFE STRATEGY FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

The Committee considered two report by the Assistant Director Leisure, Learning and Culture and the Community Safety Manager on the Quality of Life Strategy for Older people.

The Committee was advised of the current provision in place for older people and the proposed long term strategy plans for the following areas:

- (a) Libraries
- (b) Lifelong Learning

- (c) Leisure Facilities
- (d) Grant Aid
- (e) Outdoor Education
- (f) Sports Development
- (g) Community Development
- (h) Economic Development
- (i) Cultural Development

The Committee considered older people's access to leisure services in respect of:

- (a) Older people on means tested benefits and low income
- (b) Large proportion of older people living in rural areas
- (c) Availability and cost of Concessionary travel
- (d) Availability of the mobile library service
- (e) Disability issues
- (f) Marginalisation
- (g) Increased cost of non-vocational courses
- (h) Lack of area based activities
- (i) Wider consultation of the BME community
- (j) Choice and access to a range of activities for differing levels of ability

The Sheltered Wardens raised some of the more practical issues that they considered to be of importance to older people such as isolation and exclusion issues relating to older people who were frail or disabled. In this case, transport to the doctors or hospital, a visitor or a short trip was of more importance. With regard to older people living in sheltered housing, a peripatetic service bringing leisure provision to older people would be of valuable benefit.

The Committee was advised that a taxi voucher scheme was being considered as part of the Community Transport Scheme.

The Community Safety Manager reported on the crime and safety project which aimed to reduce crime and the fear of crime amongst vulnerable adults in Milton Keynes. Crime among older people was relatively low although areas of deprivation reported higher levels.

The project was set up by the Community Safety Partnership and members of the project include adult social care, housing, trading standards, Primary Care Trust, Thames Valley police, Bucks Fire and Rescue and Age concern.

The Committee was advised that distraction burglary was an area where mainly frail and older people were targeted. Recent surveys had suggested that frail and older people feel more vulnerable and would use redways less often through fear of crime.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a small working group consisting of two Members and a service user explore the issues as considered by the Committee, with particular emphasis on:
  - (a) Transport
  - (b) Local and peripatetic service
  - (c) Rural challenge
  - (d) Marginalisation

## **SC05**

### **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2006/2007**

The Committee considered topics for inclusion in the Committee's Work Programme:

Members outlined the following topics for consideration:

- (a) The relationship between social care and the Primary Care Trust – budget context.
- (b) Further development of joint commissioning between the Primary Care Trust, Children's Services and Adult Social Care.
- (c) Affordable Housing and link with sustainable communities and the Housing Needs Survey.
- (d) Delivery of the Decent Homes Standard.
- (e) Learning Disability Day Service.
- (f) Older People Quality of Life Strategy – continuation.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Committee, at its next meeting, give consideration to housing needs with emphasis on affordable housing and sustainable communities and in addition, the relationship between social care and the Primary Care Trust.
2. That the topics outlined above be incorporated into the Committee's Work Programme for the 2006 – 2007 Council Year.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.45 PM