



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

13 JULY 2004

SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board with a position statement regarding the progress of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report.

PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

3. The Panel had its first meeting on 9 June in which Members considered a wide range of information, extracted from various sources, to assist in the formulation of the Panel's Draft Work Programme for the forthcoming year.
4. As a result of the meeting the Panel agreed to the following draft work programme, later approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 15 June.
 - i) Direct Payments
 - ii) Working Team – Home Care Standards – to run concurrently with the review of Direct Payments
 - iii) User/Carer Involvement Policy
 - iv) Fair Access to Care Services
5. It was also agreed at that meeting that it was considered appropriate to establish an Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel comprising of members of the both the

Health Scrutiny Panel and the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel. This panel would look into the topic of Rehabilitation Services available to people who were discharged from hospital with particular reference to those patients with spinal injuries.

6. At the next meeting of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel on 6 July consideration will be given to the scoping of our forthcoming review into the investigation of the take up of Direct Payments.
7. Subject to agreement by panel members, the proposed terms of reference of the review are outlined below:
 - i) To gain an understanding of direct payments and examine their benefits and or disadvantages;
 - ii) Examine the extent of clients' knowledge of the availability of direct payments and what the authority is doing to disseminate information to clients;
 - iii) Examine any barriers to clients in accessing direct payments and whether or not there is a drop off rate for those clients who do take up the direct option;
 - iv) Examine the level of support clients receive if they opt for Direct payments;
 - v) Examine good practice in relation to increasing the take up of direct payments and examine other direct payment schemes; and
 - vi) Examine the methods of how the Council can significantly increase the take up of direct payments.
8. Once agreement has been reached on the remit of the investigation we will also receive a presentation outlining the issues from relevant officers from within Social Services. The panel will also meet with service users and carers.
9. To run concurrently with the review of Direct Payments the panel will also be establishing a working team to consider Home Care Standards. The membership of the working group and remit of the study will be considered at the panel's meeting on 27 July.

**COUNCILLOR CHARLES ROONEY
CHAIR OF THE SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL**