

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

14 DECEMBER 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 an update on 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 Direct Payments review has reached its conclusion, following approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 30 November the report has been distributed to the Executive Officer in order to seek the service response. It is anticipated that the report will reach the Executive in February.
4. Along with the Scrutiny Support Officer I have met with the Head of Adult Services to discuss the issues regarding then new topic for review of the Fair Access to Care Policy. The overall aim of the review will be to examine the impact of the revision to the Fair Access to Care policy, which was implemented in March 2004.
5. The next review is underway, the Terms of Reference for the have been agreed by the Panel and are as follows:
 - (a) To establish if there has been a rise in the number of critical/substantial service users.
 - (b) If such a rise is found establish whether those service users previously assessed as having a moderate/low need now have a critical/substantial

need and to analyse to what extent this increase could be linked to the change in policy.

- (c) Examine the current social services financial position to ascertain if there is scope to review the provision outlined within the existing policy.
- (d) Examine how social services ensure that a consistent approach to the assessment of service users is maintained.
- (e) Examine the effectiveness of the Council's process of sign-posting service users with moderate/low needs to alternative provision.
- (f) To assess if there is any evidence to suggest that the change in policy has resulted in an increased burden on carers.

6. The panel will be receiving evidence from the following:

- a) Officers from Social Services, including Ruth Hicks, Head of Adult Services;
- b) Benchmarking with other authorities;
- c) Older People's Partnership; and
- d) Service Users/Carers.
- e) A number of members of the panel will also have the opportunity to attend the Validation Panel.

7. The panel will receive its first evidence at its meeting on 21 December and it is anticipated that the panel will approve its final report in March 2005.

**COUNCILLOR CHARLES ROONEY
CHAIR OF THE SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**