

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

8 FEBRUARY 2005

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 panel have embarked on the evidence gathering for their second review, the impact of the amended Fair Access to Care Policy. At the first meeting the panel received a presentation from the Head of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, Ruth Hicks, in order to 'set the scene' for the review. As such the panel was informed about why the revised eligibility criteria had been implemented and how its impact was being monitored.
4. Following that meeting the panel has progressed with the review and has received further details regarding the financial implications of removing services from those people falling within the moderate banding. For future meetings, the panel will be looking at a number of case studies regarding the experiences of people who are no longer eligible to receive social services care, how those service users are sign-posted to alternative care, and the development of preventative services.
5. The panel will also discuss details regarding the views and experiences of service users. A number of panel members will also be able to attend a meeting of the Validation Panel; the panel meets monthly to examine a sample of cases to ensure consistency in social services' appliance of the eligibility criteria.

6. The review is on schedule and it is anticipated that the panel will approve the final report in March.
7. The panel has also received the draft Community Strategy and has had the opportunity to comment on the priorities, aims and content on the section regarding Social Care.

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