

AGENDA ITEM: 11h

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

3 MAY 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.

PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

2. The Board will be aware that the final report from the panel's last review, Fair Access to Care Services, was approved at the last Board meeting. As such the report is awaiting the response from the service area and the report and service response will be submitted to the Executive on 17 May.
3. The panel had its final scheduled meeting on 19 April and received information on the Corporate Performance Plan and the implementation of scrutiny recommendations for previous panels concerned with Social Care. However as the meeting was inquorate it was rescheduled for 3 May.
4. The Government has recently produced reports and policy documents to promote the use of direct payments. One of the recommendations of the panel's review of Direct Payments was to write to the government to outline the confusion regarding the name 'Direct Payments', which is one of the areas the government is now considering. Many of the Government's recommendations to improve the Direct Payments system are also similar to those recommended by the panel.
5. An additional meeting of the panel has now been arranged for 16 May. Jan Douglas, Director of Social Care, will be in attendance at the meeting to present details of the 'Independence, Well-being and Choice' Green Paper and to seek Members' views as part of the consultation process. The Green Paper sets out the proposals for the future direction of social care for all adults of all age groups in England,

6. The invitation to attend the panel meeting has been extended to all Council Members.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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