

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

18 DECEMBER 2007

SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the progress of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. Members of the panel visited the Community Wardens Scheme in Hull recently. Members met with the scheme managers and visited a number of the properties where wardens were based. The visit provided a useful insight into a scheme where wardens (who had no enforcement powers) played a large role within the community. The wardens undertook such duties as carrying out small repairs to elderly people's property, arranging lunch clubs, financial advice and referring people to other agencies, in addition to their role in reporting environmental issues and providing a visible presence on the streets.
3. A number of panel members also went out on patrol with Middlesbrough's street wardens in order to get a flavour for the work that they do and to discuss their role.
4. The meeting on 30 November involved a useful discussion with the Mayor about his perspective of the street warden service. A number of street wardens also attended the panel meeting to discuss their role and their feelings on the issue of whether or not wardens should have enforcement powers.
5. The panel's last scheduled meeting on the topic took place on 27 November and involved discussions with the police on how they worked with wardens. Details of the current enforcement powers that the council had at its disposal were presented along with details from the social care department on the performance and effectiveness of the service following the new management arrangements.
6. The panel will be discussing the draft final report at their meeting on 11 December. Evidence is still awaited from the Redcar Warden Service and this will be incorporated into the final report at a later date.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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