

AGENDA ITEM: 11 (d)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

12 JANUARY 2010

SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Overview & Scrutiny Board notes the progress of the Social Care & Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. The Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel last met on 10 December 2009, where it received information from the Executive Director for Social Care and Parking Solutions Manager in respect of its current topic of review, the Blue Badge Parking Scheme.
4. The panel heard that there were a number of issues to be considered in terms of the way in which the scheme currently operates in Middlesbrough. The panel learnt that when issuing a Blue Badge under the discretionary criteria an individual's GP is contacted and asked for a medical opinion, for which a fee is charged. However, in other areas of the UK an occupational therapist / physiotherapist, employed specifically to undertake such assessments, is used to help to determine an individual's eligibility.
5. The panel was therefore keen to gain the Primary Care Trust's (PCT) view on how medical assessments for Blue Badges are commissioned in Middlesbrough and whether the current model is offering consistency for applicants as well as value for money. The PCT have been contacted and invited to attend the panel's next meeting, scheduled for 14th January 2010.

6. The Panel also received information from the Parking Solutions Manager with regard to the current enforcement policy and the action taken when a person is found to be misusing a Blue Badge. The Panel was interested in looking at some examples of best practice in terms of enforcement and information from a number of local authorities, identified by the Department for Transport as 'Centres of Excellence' for their Blue Badge Parking Schemes, will be received at the Panel's next meeting.
7. The meeting on 10 December 2009 also provided the Panel with the opportunity to consider the draft final report on the Quality of Home Care Services. The panel agreed the report as well as the conclusions and recommendations and the report has been submitted to OSB for approval.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

9. No background papers were used in preparing this report.

Councillor P. Purvis
Chair, Social Care & Adult Services Scrutiny Panel

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