

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 21 September 2010.

PRESENT: Councillor Brunton (Chair), Councillors Dryden, C Hobson, J Hobson, Ismail, Kerr, Khan, Mawston, Purvis, Sanderson and J A Walker.

OFFICERS: J Bennington, C Breheny, P Clark, A Crawford and J Ord.

**** PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Councillor Coppinger, Executive Member for Social Care.

**** ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Junier.

**** APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cole and Williams.

**** DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were made at this point of the meeting.

**** MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 28 July, 2 August, 24 August and 2 September 2010 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS – ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

In a report of the Senior Scrutiny Officer the Board was reminded of arrangements for individual Members of the Executive to attend meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and update Members on their respective work in terms of their aims, aspirations, objectives, priorities and any emerging issues. The process was part of the arrangements of 'holding the Executive to account' and also provided the opportunity for the Board to identify or highlight any issues of concern.

NOTED

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SOCIAL CARE

The Chair welcomed Councillor Coppinger, Executive Member for Social Care, to the meeting who highlighted some of the current priority areas of work, which included the following: -

- a) ongoing work in relation to personalisation and the introduction of personal budgets which would be further rolled out later in the year;
- b) challenges of the radical changes arising from the White Paper Equity & Excellence – Liberating the NHS including the proposal for local authorities to take on the public health role and the role of scrutiny;
- c) two major projects involving Levick Trust and refurbishment of Stewart Park;
- d) future role of the Older Persons Partnership given the corporate nature of many of the issues currently being examined;
- e) role of Local Strategic Partnership;
- f) safeguarding vulnerable adults.

In discussing some of the main issues Members acknowledged that certain areas such as personal budgets and the implications of the White Paper would be the subject of more detailed discussion in the future.

Members supported the current consideration being given to the possible strengthening of the support to the Older Persons Partnership.

ORDERED that the Executive Member for Social Care be thanked for the information provided.

EXECUTIVE FEEDBACK – CHILDREN’S TRUST

As part of the scrutiny process and in a report of the Executive Office Manager it was reported that the Executive had considered the findings of the Children’s Trust Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel.

The Executive and the Corporate Management Team had considered and supported the Service Responses.

It was noted that an update would be submitted to the meeting of the Board to be held on 13 January 2011.

NOTED

FLEET SERVICES – FINAL REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

The Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Panel outlined the Panel’s findings, conclusions and recommendations following its scrutiny examination of Middlesbrough Council’s Fleet Services.

The Board considered the following recommendations of the Panel based on the submitted evidence: -

- i) That an exercise is undertaken to identify all vehicles being used across the local authority. This should be with a view to ensuring that, as far as possible, Council departments make use of Streetscene’s fleet management and vehicle repair and maintenance services. Departments should be reminded of potential liability issues and the possible cost benefits of utilising Fleet Services.
- ii) That all Middlesbrough schools are contacted regarding the potential liability issues of purchasing /using non-Fleet Services minibuses and advised of the benefits of utilising the service. Schools should also be advised that those, which do use their own vehicles, should maintain sufficient records to satisfy any potential police of VOSA requirements.
- iii) That a system is put in place to ensure that drivers carry out the required daily checks on their vehicles.
- iv) That the possibility of increasing the availability of public MOT testing, together with the possible development of a local HGV testing facility, is examined as part of the ongoing review of depot arrangements.
- v) That progress made is reported back to the Environment Scrutiny Panel in approximately six months.

Members sought clarification on a number of areas and specifically referred to recommendation two suggesting that the Chair of Governors of the respective schools be advised that this should be regarded as a priority.

ORDERED that the findings and recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive including the suggested revision to recommendation two as outlined.

MATCHDAY PARKING – FINAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

A Final Report of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel relating to its scrutiny review of Match Day Parking had been circulated.

ORDERED that in the absence of the Chair of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel consideration of the Final Report relating to Match Day Parking be deferred to the meeting of the Board to be held 19 October 2010.

PERSONAL BUDGETS – FINAL REPORT OF SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

The Chair of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel outlined the Panel's findings, conclusions and recommendations following its scrutiny review of Personal Budgets.

The Board considered the following recommendations of the Panel based on the submitted evidence: -

- i) That a starter pack be developed in partnership with service users which contains real life case studies and provides advice on helping people to find local reliable services that help individuals to stay safe and make the most of their Personal Budget.
- ii) That a universal Information, Advice and Advocacy Strategy be developed to enable anyone in need of services / support to be aware of what information is available in Middlesbrough and where people can access it from. Helping people to remain independent and prevent them developing higher level needs is of key importance in delivering this agenda.
- ii) That a citizen's portal be developed to enable service users to see the different types of services on offer in Middlesbrough, how much those services cost and how other service users rate them. Provision of this information in a brochure format to also be developed. The structure of the citizens ' portal will enable an accreditation or kite mark to be awarded by the Council to user led organisations, with a view to providing assurances to service users that they can shop with confidence from the services listed via the portal.
- iii) That as part of the portal mechanism and work undertaken with the Voluntary and Community Sector that a section be created within the portal to provide information on employing a Personal Assistant. This could involve creating a space where people can advertise for a Personal Assistant, as well as highlight user led organisation with banks of trained / specialised Personal Assistants for meeting the specific needs of service users.
- iv) That given the benefits offered by peer support and peer advocacy further work be undertaken in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector to develop these types of services for service users to access on an independent basis. In addition efforts to develop user led organisations and micro providers are to be continued to enable service users to benefit from the offer afforded by a more diverse social care market place.
- v) That a mechanism be developed to measure the quality of life outcomes for service users in receipt of a Personal Budget. These arrangements need to assess how safe people feel, whether they are receiving the level of service they expect and whether the support they are receiving is helping to improve their quality of life. A mechanism that monitors the effectiveness of assessment support and advice offered to those who partake in the assessment process but who are not eligible for publicly funded social care support to also be developed.
- vi) That to ensure an equitable provision of service for all client groups a single resource allocation system be developed, as at present there are four separate resource allocation tables. These reflect the unit costs of service delivery for each of the client groups (Learning Disabilities, Mental Health, Physical Disabilities and Older People) and it has been suggested nationally that this may be inequitable.
- vii) That in line with the Panel's previous recommendations on training for Personal Assistants that a record is maintained of the number of Personal Assistants who have participated in any training offered by and on behalf of the Council, as well as the

number of who have been subject to CRB checks. All service users are to be encouraged to undertake a CRB check when employing a PA and the reasons as to why CRB checks are not undertaken by service users employing a PA are to be recorded.

ORDERED that the findings and recommendations of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

SCRUTINY REVIEWS - CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS

It was confirmed that no requests for scrutiny reviews had been received from the Executive, Executive Members, Non- Executive Members and members of the public since the last meeting of the Board.

NOTED

SCRUTINY PANELS – PROGRESS REPORTS – HEALTH SCRUTINY – WHITE PAPER IMPLICATIONS

A report of the Chair of each Scrutiny Panel was submitted which outlined progress on current activities.

Specific reference was made to some of the potential implications of the White Paper Equity & Excellence-Liberating the NHS with specific regard to the proposals to abolish Primary Care Trusts.

ORDERED as follows:-

1. That the information provided be noted.
2. That representatives of NHS Middlesbrough be invited to attend a meeting of the Board and further consideration be given to the implications of the White Paper with specific regard to PCT estate, interests/liabilities should PCTs be abolished.

CALL IN REQUESTS

It was confirmed that no requests had been received to call-in a decision.