



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH COMMISSION 6 December 2004

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

### WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMMISSION FOR 2004/05

#### RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 Members are asked to consider and approve a topic for the next detailed review.

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Commissions are required to set their annual work programme, which is subject to approval by the Scrutiny Management Commission. Members were invited to submit suggestions for the next topic review to form part of the work programme for this Commission for the forthcoming year. The following suggestions have been received so far.

##### **1. To review looked children after services**

Members may wish to examine the services to looked after children under the different types of settings such as foster care and residential. The review may examine whether employing full-time foster carers provides better opportunities for recruiting and retaining foster carers than the current remunerations package being offered.

##### Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officers' Commentary

The total number of children looked after by the authority has steadily decreased from 523 in 1996/97 to 388 in 2001/02. It has remained around this level over the last three years and although this is higher than other similar sized authorities, the pressure for them is upwards.

The social care budget has come under increasing pressure over the last few years primarily due to the placement of children with Independent Fostering Agencies. Social Services have responded to these pressures by introducing improved allowances to the foster carers working for Derby Social Services to address recruitment and retention problems. The budget for this area of work has been raised from £57,000 in 2003/4 to £1.78m for 2004/05.

The Best Value Review of Services for Children Looked After final report and the improvement plan was presented to the Council Cabinet on 9 September 2003.

## **2. To review residential and nursing care placements in Derby and compare the numbers and costs with other similar sized authorities**

### Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officers' Commentary

According to the 2001 Census there are 46152 people over the age of 60 in Derby (20.8% of total population). There are 80 residential care homes providing 1975 beds in the city, ten of which are run by the Council offering 330 places. There are also 27 homes with nursing offering 887 beds in the city (non by the Council).

This area has also been the subject of Best Value Review, the Adult Services Residential and Nursing Care BVR Final Report was presented to the Council Cabinet on 20 February 2002. The report stated that Derby was spending approximately £16.3m annually on residential and nursing services, which amounted 43% of budget allocated to Adult Services. The report also found that nearly 1500 extended stay residents used residential and nursing care, as well as 1100 short stays during 2001/02. The report compared Derby's performance with other authorities and found that overall its performance was amongst the top quartile.

Progress on the action plan was developed as part of the review is regularly presented to the Council Cabinet.

The Commission may examine the type of provision available in the city; unit cost of the provision and how it compares with similar sized authorities and the projected future demand for nursing and residential placements.

## **3. To review Alternative Day Care provision for people with high level needs**

### Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officers' Commentary

A report presented to the Council Cabinet on 20 July 2004 identified up to 79 people with high level needs requiring dedicated day care and short break provision. This includes approximately 20 Rycote users. The authority is entering into contract with Winged Fellowship Trust (renamed Vitalise) for day service for 10-12 people daily and block purchasing two beds at Sky Larks. This proposal was considered by this Commission in September's meeting and requested the Cabinet to:

'examine its strategy for commissioning services from the independent sector and assesses whether the Council is getting value for money by paying relatively high unit cost'.

The topic review could examine the level of satisfaction with current provision against the cost of provision and how this compares with other types of provision (short stay), future demand for this service over the medium to long term and how this could be met.

**4. To review the use of parks and playing fields for young people**

Young people often complain that they have nothing to do due to lack of appropriate facilities. It is suggested that the Commission looks at parks and playing fields and following consultation, examine what could be made available for the young people.

Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officers' Commentary

This is not within the Social Care Commissions' area of responsibility. The suggestion could be referred to Culture and Prosperity Commission, as it is falls within its remit.

**5. To consider why single people may not apply for two bedroom accommodation with Derby Homes**

- 90% of single people have families and most over 55 Years of age are taken ill at times, when they would like their families or a friend to stay with them. This is impossible in 1 bed flat.
- People are in receipt of the higher rate of the Disability Living Allowance could be looked after by their family and thus reduce strain on community resources.

Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officers' Commentary

The eligibility criteria developed by Housing Allocations Policy establishes the basis for offering accommodation. This topic falls under the remit of Community Regeneration Commission.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Mr M Hussain 01332 255597 e-mail mahroof.hussain@derby.gov.uk
<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 - Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

- 1.1 None

**Legal**

- 2.1 The Constitution allows Commission's to undertake in-depth reviews and submit two reports to the Council Cabinet each year.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 None

**Equalities Impact**

- 4.1 Proportionately higher proportion of the patients and visitors to the hospital are older people

**Corporate Objectives and Priorities for Change**

- 5.1 The report supports the Corporate Objectives of **cost effective services** and contributes to the Corporate Priority **to develop plans to modernise the fostering service and residential and community care for adults to meet the level of demand and the requirements of the National Care Standards Commission.**