

# ITEM 4

Time commenced : 6.00pm  
Time finished : 8.15pm

## **SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH COMMISSION 16 JANUARY 2006**

Present: Councillor E Berry (in the Chair)  
Councillors Chera, Gerrard, Marshall, Khan, Skelton, Turner  
and Willitts,

Co-opted Members: Pat Hill, Philip Johnson and  
Elaine Jackson

In attendance: Councillors Hussain and Wynn

### **58/05 Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Leeming.

### **59/05 Late items**

There were no late items.

### **60/05 Declarations of Interest**

Ms Hill declared that she was a Non-Executive director of the Primary Care trust in Derby.

Councillor Chera declared a non prejudicial interest in relation to minute number 64/05 as he was a patient at the Surgery concerned.

### **61/05 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2005 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the inclusion of Councillor Marshall in the list of Members present.

### **62/05 Draft Revenue Budget 2006/07**

Councillor Hussain presented the Commission the Draft revenue Budget 2006/07 and detailed the implications for Adults Services.

He emphasised that he regarded Home Care Services as an essential service and that he intended to develop low level services like facilities to provide support with gardening and general home maintenance duties to help people living in their own homes. He emphasised however that he wanted to move away from the belief that these services were provided on demand instead, services would be provided to address specific needs and where without assistance an individual's independence would be compromised.

Councillor Hussain reported that there were a number of service pressures that the budget had had to respond to. These included the learning disabilities budget which was under pressure due to the fact that people with learning difficulties were now living longer. He reported that additional pressures were also being placed on the Physical Disabilities budget and informed the Commission that an additional £333k had been made available to cover any services that would no longer be provided by supporting people.

The Chair asked for details of the charges that people could expect to pay in order to receive help with Home care and whether any limits had been set on the amount a person would be expected to pay from their savings. Councillor Hussain reported that it had been suggested that those living in their own homes would be expected to pay until they had £20,500 remaining in savings as people in residential care did.

Councillor Skelton reported that following discussions with officers she had understood that people would be expected to contribute towards their care once their savings decreased to £20,500 until they had only £14,000 in savings.

Mick Connell, Assistant Director XYZ reported that this was the case in residential care however for Home Care charges £20,500 would be the cut off point. He said that a sliding scale introduced additional administration costs which would outweigh any income the Council would receive from charging for Home Care services on a sliding scale.

Councillor Khan felt that the £20,500 limit was fair but Councillor Berry believed that people would be discouraged from saving for their old age if they felt that their savings would be diminished.

Councillor Skelton referred to Council Cabinet papers from the 29 November 2005 which stated that shopping and laundry services and Luncheon clubs for the elderly would all be cut. She asked how this was consistent with the minutes of the 3 October 2005 of the Social Care and Health Commission which stated Councillor Hussain had stated that Social Care hours would not be cut. Councillor Hussain insisted that care would still be provided to those who were unable to survive without support but highlighted that many people now had washing machines in their own homes and that pre-prepared food was now readily available in supermarkets. Councillor Hussain highlighted that the Home Care Budget was not to be cut but that there would be a change in who received, which services targeting those who needed most. He stated that the Council would be commissioning the Voluntary sector to provide those with lower care needs with assistance as this was cost effective to the Council.

**Resolved to ask the Cabinet to review the proposals for the limit of £20,500 of savings an elderly person would be allowed before Home Care services would be free as the Social Care and Health Commission did not feel that this represented a fair method of funding Home Care.**

Councillor Wynn then presented the Commission with the implications of the draft revenue budget 2006/07 on Children's Services. He reported that Children's Services were undergoing a period of enormous change at the moment as the Council moved towards an integrated Children's Services Department.

Councillor Berry raised concerns about the Gatsby project funding and the impact this would have on staffing levels. Councillor Wynn reported that the Council was going through the transition to an integrated Children's Services Department as lean as it possibly could as he wanted to avoid a piecemeal approach to recruitment.

Councillor Skelton queried what contingency plans had been made to accommodate any unforeseen rise in the numbers of children in care. Councillor Wynn agreed that predicting these figures had proved extremely difficult. Councillor Berry asked whether the aim was still looking at paying agency a specific contract fee for looked after children. Councillor Wynn reported that current placements would not be disrupted for financial gain and that children would only be moved appropriately. He stated that bulk buying services would result in a 10% cost saving.

Councillor Berry queried whether foster carers allowances would be frozen. Councillor Wynn stated that foster carers would receive an inflationary increase. He reported that the intention was to substantially raise the rates paid to foster carers in 2007/08.

**Resolved to recommend to Cabinet that Foster Carers work be recognised in future with a pay increase that brings their rates in line with the suggested national rates.**

## 63/05 Reconfiguration of Primary Care Trusts in Derby and Derbyshire

The Commission received a presentation from Nina Ellis, Director of the Primary Care Trust (PCT) in Derby (???) detailing the proposals to reform the local PCTs to ensure that their services are provided cost efficiently and to the highest standard they could be.

The local PCTs were currently consulting on a number of options to merge the Derby and Derbyshire PCTs. The options were

- 1 PCT to cover Derby and Derbyshire to include Glossop
- To maintain the status quo and keep 1 PCT for Derby and 1 PCT for Derbyshire including Glossop
- A joint PCT for Derby and Derbyshire excluding Glossop
- 1 PCT for Derby and 1 PCT for Derbyshire excluding Glossop.

It was noted that any changes to the structure of local PCTs would not affect service provision for local people. Consultation on the proposals would run until 22 March 2006.

Councillor Turner felt that the proposals should be examined in terms of what was best for local people rather than what was best for the National Health Service.

Councillor Gerrard felt that a bigger PCT would not necessarily provide better services to local people.

Councillor Willitts believed that the proposals represented an internal revenue saving exercise by the NHS and did not feel that the Commission would be able to contribute significantly to the consultation as services on the ground for local people would not be affected.

#### **Resolved to**

- **Carry out a review on the options for the reorganisation of the Primary Care Trusts in Derby and Derbyshire (but not examining in detail whether Glossop should be included or excluded)**
- **Approve the scoping report for the review**
- **Authorise use of the Commission's research budget for conducting public consultation.**

#### **64/05 Reconfiguration of a GP Service**

The Commission received a report of the Director of Corporate Services asking the Commission to note the action being taken by the Central and Greater Derby Primary Care Trusts in response to the planned retirement of Dr J M S Paul.

**Resolved to note the report.**

#### **65/05 Second Quarter Performance Monitoring**

The commission received a report detailing the second quarter performance monitoring information. It was noted that there was little change in the figures.

The Commission queried whether there was a trainee scheme for Social Workers. It was noted that a scheme was being rolled out over the next few years.

**Resolved to note the report.**

#### **66/05 Update from the Patients and Public Forums (PPF)**

Elaine Jackson reported that PPF was working with the Primary Care Trust to build bridges following the break down in relationships because the PCT had previously failed to consult with the PPF. She said that the relationship had improved and felt that both sides were making positive steps to improving their relationship.

She informed the Commission that a Homelessness Conference had been arranged in the City for 8 February 2006.

Philip Johnson reported that the Hospicoms report had now been published and that costs were the biggest issue which needed to be addressed.

He stated that Greater Derbyshire PPF was still working on a report on Substance Misuse and that the PCT had just increased funding for this project.

The PPF was in the early stages of investigating provision for Children Looked After.

**Resolved to note the update.**

67/05 Call-in

There were no Call-in Items.

68/05 Matters referred to the Commission by the Council Cabinet

There were none.

69/05 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

Members considered the current forward plan to establish which reports they wished to consider at future meetings

**Resolved to examine the Best Value Review Adult Services at a future meeting.**

MINUTES END