

OXFORDSHIRE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on 20 November 2008 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 3.35 pm.

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Dr Peter Skolar - in the chair
Councillor Gail Bones
Councillor Surinder Dhesi
Councillor John Farrow
Councillor John Flood (in place of Councillor Dr Christopher Hood)
Councillor Richard Langridge
Councillor Lesley Legge
Councillor Susanna Pressel (in place of Councillor Joe McManners)
Councillor Don Seale
Councillor Lawrie Stratford
Councillor Rose Stratford

Co-opted Members: Mr Harry Dickinson
Mrs Ann Tomline

Other Members in Councillor Larry Sanders and Councillor Jim Couchman

Attendance:

63/08 DEMOGRAPHICS – JOINT SCRUTINY REVIEW (Agenda Item 8)

This Committee, together with the County's Social and Community Services Scrutiny Committee had commissioned this Review in December 2006. The review had intended to:

- Provide an understanding of the local and national picture in terms of statistics and demographic projections for the future
- Identify the significance of these projections for services for older people within the county
- In light of the above to identify all agencies who are involved and their role in relation to long term planning for the future
- Identify the processes all agencies should be following to ensure that long term planning is taking place in a strategic and co-ordinated manner.

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- Identify any good practice from outside the county

The aims of the review, defined in terms of indicators of success, were:

- For good practice to be highlighted and any gaps in future planning processes on the part of health agencies, the County Council, and external agencies; and for their significance to be identified
- To produce a selection of proposals on how a coordinated, long term planning process involving all agencies can be accomplished.

A panel of members had been drawn from the two Committees and the Panel had been working on this review since early 2007. A draft report had been produced and was attached at **JHO8** for members to consider and comment upon. The report would also be submitted to the Social and Community Services Scrutiny Committee in early December with the intention of presenting an agreed final report to Cabinet in January.

Councillor Jim Couchman and Paul Purnell were in attendance for this item.

The thanks of the review group were extended to Julie Dean and Michael Chard for their support to the Panel and for their extensive research undertaken in this area.

The Chairman of the Panel, Councillor Skolar introduced the draft report commenting that it did not contain any recommendations as such, but a series of red flags which informed the reader of where it was considered the major problems lay. It was proposed that an all day conference be convened in the spring, to which all parties with an interest would be invited, to look at the areas which had been flagged and to make take decisions.

Comments made by members of the Committee included the following:

- there was an emphasis on prevention which was very important;
- the draft report mentioned an expansion of the use of Telecare, which was vital;
- A separate section on BME people would be useful.

Councillor Jim Couchman, Cabinet Member for Social & Community Services, commented that it was a good document, setting out the current position well. He pointed out that the Government were vague with regard to the future funding of care and there would have to be a change in the way social care was provided in the future. He added

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that it was pleasing to see the increasing longevity of people with a Learning Disability had been addressed. He also pointed out that that everything was bound up by Extra Care Housing and the issues regarding this must be undertaken on a Partnership basis.

Paul Purnell commented that the demographic challenge needed the engagement of not just Health and Social Services, but also Transport, Housing etc. That was the great strength of this document.

Members of the Panel expressed their hope that the views expressed at the conference would give rise to an action plan. The intention then was to apportion tasks to partners accordingly.

The Committee **AGREED** the draft review document and looked forward to the planned conference with partners in the spring, after which it was hoped that various initiatives could be translated into an action plan and tasks apportioned out.