

Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Care)



Councillor Ted Hanley
Chair of Scrutiny Board
(Adult Social Care)

Membership of the Board:

Councillor Ted Hanley (Chair)
Councillor Judith Chapman
Councillor Brian Cleasby
Councillor Patrick Davey
Councillor Sharon Hamilton
Councillor Arif Hussain
Councillor Valerie Kendall
Councillor Mick Lyons
Councillor Ralph Pryke
Councillor Karen Renshaw
Councillor David Schofield
Councillor Shirley Varley
Ms Joy Fisher
Sally Morgan
Betty Smithson

The Chair's summary

Cllr Ted Hanley, Chair of Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Care)

Being the Chair of Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Care) for the 2010/11 municipal year has been a real privilege.

It has been an interesting and, at times challenging, year. I would hope that not only have we held the Executive to account but also added value and assisted them in making some very difficult service provision decisions.

I would like to thank my fellow Board Members for their hard work. My thanks go also to the officers who have provided us with expert opinion and evidence throughout the year, whilst getting on with their day job. This also applies to our co-optees who bring an invaluable perspective and we welcome Betty Smithson to the Board.

Without doubt, our main pieces of work this year has been around the various service reconfigurations the City is experiencing. I believe our work has helped the overall level of debate in these difficult times and provided in most situations a level of consensus on the way forward.

I also believe the Scrutiny Board has shown the need for public involvement in Scrutiny and in all decision making and the Board next year will continue its work on how Adult Social care consults with the public during service changes.

Having such a large and broad remit, I feel the Board has tried to choose its topics for Inquiry with care. We have tried to receive regular updates on most of the major projects and kept a watching brief on numerous other schemes and previous recommendations. It has been inevitable however that some important issues have not been addressed. The challenge for next year will be to focus on the issues that really matter and where Scrutiny involvement can make a difference.

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Inquiry into Residential Care services for Older People

Summary

The Scrutiny Board is clear that the current arrangements for public sector residential care are not sustainable in the long term, particularly in the light of the significant budget reductions.

Therefore the Board has concluded that the 'do nothing option' is not an option but rather a need to review future provision and consider all alternative options.

Anticipated service benefits

By making the recommendations it has the Board is of the view that a robust, appropriate and sustainable residential care service can be secured for the future

Our recommendations

That the range of options as presented by officers are appropriate models that can be tested for each establishment.

That the criteria presented provides a sound framework for considering the most suitable option for an establishment and should be adopted by Executive Board. In addition the Board recommends that Care Quality Commission ratings are included within these criteria. The Board also recommends that inclusion issues are incorporated when looking at the impact on communities where facilities are located.

The Board recommends the Executive Board agree the consultation methodology and structure and that it determines the consultation timetable appropriate having regard to statutory obligations.

The Board also recommends that the consultation includes; ad hoc community groups specific to a local area, neighbourhood networks and advocacy groups.

Other Comments from the Board

Independent sector homes generally had more modern facilities and required less updating and were therefore able to provide a cheaper unit cost for services.

The acknowledgment that as any phased decommissioning programme is implemented the unit cost of providing residual local authority provision will rise.

The current pay differential between independent and voluntary sector employed carers and those employed by the local authority could be more justifiable by the local authority providing more specialised services in collaboration with NHS colleagues

The overall reduction of people needing permanent residential care was due in part to the success of the Local Authority policy of developing a range of alternative care packages that had allowed people to remain in their own homes longer and other housing options such as sheltered and extra care housing.

Inquiry to review Domiciliary Care and Reablement

Summary

In the same way as the Scrutiny Board has stated that the 'do nothing option' is not an option for the future of residential care, Members are clear that the current arrangements for public sector homecare are not sustainable. In fact the futures of both service sectors are inextricably linked

Anticipated service benefits

The Scrutiny Board has firmly reached the conclusion that the direction of travel with regards to domiciliary care and the Community Support Service, (which includes the development of reablement services), must be a policy of promoting independence and the shift away from traditional task based and long term services moving towards modern personalised choice based services.

Our main recommendations

The concerns of the Board are not over the strategies for the future delivery of homecare services in Leeds but ones in relation to the costs of in-house provision when compared to that provided by the independent sector.

If care at home continues to be the desired option for older people as opposed to care provided in long term residential settings, why should someone with a personal budget have to pay more for a local authority service, (if that is their preferred service provider) when it can be bought at a cheaper rate independently?

The Board supports the standardisation of employee contracts to ensure that all contain a flexibility clause

The Board is of the view that the current costs differential between Independent providers and Council in house provision for Domiciliary Care should be robustly investigated to assure value for money. Any attempts to simply move In house providers onto Reablement tasks, without this investigation will result in less than best value.

Other Work of the Board

Adaptations Strategy and performance monitoring

The Board continues to play an active role in helping deliver the Leeds Adaptations Strategy. This year this has involved partners in the ALMO/BITMO. The Board has continued to track recommendations made in previous inquiries regarding adaptations.

Leeds Safeguarding Adults Partnership Annual Report 2009/10

Members of the pay particular attention to safeguarding and considered the content of the 2009/10 annual report and the work programme of the Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board for 2010/11. The Annual Report provides assurance that all the partners have committed to a continuing programme of work designed to achieve excellence in Safeguarding practice in Leeds

Assessment of Adult Social Care Commissioning (Performance Rating) for Leeds City Council 2009/10

The judgment reached by the Care Quality Commission is that adult social care services in the city have improved in 4 of the 7 domains considered in 2009/10. Leeds is now rated as having 3 domains where it has been awarded the highest rating of 'excellent' and has been judged as 'performing well' in the remaining 4. This has resulted in an overall judgement as 'performing well'. The judgement for 2009/10 represents significant progress from last year.

Requests for Scrutiny – Crisis Centre and Mental Health Day Services

Requests were considered for Inquiries into the decommissioning of the Crisis Centre and the reconfiguration of Mental Health Day Care services. (The former was also subject to a Call In). The Board has agreed to keep a watching brief over the Crisis Centre and undertake an Inquiry into Consultation during service reconfiguration.

Outcome of recommendations made in 2009/10

The Board regularly tracks the progress of recommendations made in previous inquiry reports. This municipal year the Board tracked recommendations covering the following topics;

- Mental Health,
- Personal Budgets and self Directed Support
- Adaptations
- Transitional Arrangements for Disabled Young People into Adult Social Care

The Board was pleased to note that the majority of these recommendations had now been implemented and therefore the majority no longer required tracking.

The Board's full work programme 2010/11

Review of existing policy

- **Self Directed Support – Evaluation Report**
- **Neighbourhood Networks**
- **Adult Social Care Commissioning Services**

Development of new policy

- **Vision for Leeds 2011 – 2030**
- **Leeds Adaptation Strategy**
- **Scrutiny Inquiry – Residential Care Provision for Older People**
- **Scrutiny Inquiry – Domiciliary Care and Reablement**
- **Scrutiny Inquiry – Self Directed Support and Personal Budgets**
- **New Strategic Plan**

Monitoring scrutiny recommendations

- **Self Directed Support and Personal Budgets – Formal response
Scrutiny recommendations and tracking of recommendations**
- **Independence Wellbeing and Choice – response to Scrutiny
recommendations**
- **Transitional Arrangements for Disabled Young People into Adult
Social Care – response to Scrutiny recommendations**
- **Supporting Working Age Adults with Severe and Enduring mental
Health Problems - response to Scrutiny recommendations and
tracking of recommendations**
- **Domiciliary Care and Reablement – tracking of recommendations**
- **Adaptations - tracking of recommendations**

Performance management

- **Adaptations**
- **Directorate quarterly performance reports**
- **Performance of Independent Homecare Service providers**
- **Adult Social Care – Self Assessment**
- **Assessment of Adult Social Care Commissioning (Performance
Rating) for Leeds City Council 2009-10**
- **Leeds safeguarding Adults Partnership – six month progress report**

Requests For Scrutiny

- **Leeds Crisis Centre**
- **Closure of mental Health services**

Briefings and Visits

- **Residential Care Homes**

Call Ins

- **Leeds Crisis Centre**