



Helen Wayland, Committee Administrator
Buckinghamshire County Council
Administration Division, County Hall,
Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1UA
Telephone: (01296) 382015
FAX: (01296) 382538 e-mail: hwayland@buckscc.gov.uk

AGENDA ITEM: 3

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM HELD ON TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2001, AT THE GREEN PARK CENTRE, ASTON CLINTON, COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 12.40 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Buckinghamshire County Council

Mr R H StG Carey (Cabinet Member for Care Services for Adults)
Mrs M A M Aston (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

Officers

Ms J Campbell (Assistant Director Social Services) (Adults)
Mr S Nolan (General Manager Care Services for Adults)
Mr P Scott (Head of Pupils, Students and Families)
Ms L Ward (Head of Quality Assurance and Inspection Unit)
Mrs H Wayland (Committee Administrator)

Aylesbury Vale CHC

Ms J Hunt

Aylesbury Vale Health Care

Mr K Nieland

Buckinghamshire Health Authority

Ms I Short (Chairman)
Mr J Spargo (Director of Partnerships and Planning)
Mr M Daly (Assistant Director, Partnerships and Planning, NHS Health Authority)

Chiltern District Council

Mr J A Banham

Ridgeway PCG

Ms C Erbetta

South Bucks CHC

Ms L Mallinder

South Bucks District Council

Mrs J Kverndal

Mr R Barber

South Bucks NHS Trust

Mrs E M Springford

Stoke Mandeville Hospital

Ms J Mee

Wycombe District Council

Councillor L Taylor

Ms C Hughes

Voluntary Organisation Representatives/User Carer Representatives

Ms A English OBE

Ms A Linington

Ms L Short

In Attendance:-

Locality Forum Representatives

Mr M Bailey

Mr T Parkin

Ms C Evershed

Mr R Taylor

Ms K Whitbread – Community Care Information Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were reported to have been received from Mr B Carmen, Ms J Downward, Mr B Paine, Mr S Jones, Mr N Roberts, Ms P Vincent, Mr S Young, Mr H Wadhwa.

MS ANITA ENGLISH

The Forum congratulated Anita English on being awarded the OBE in the new years honours list.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Mr R H StG Carey be elected Chairman of the Partnership Forum for the period until the meeting in June when a further election would take place.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

- 1 That Ms I Short be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Partnership Forum until the Partnership Forum meeting in June;**
- 2 That the appointment of a Vice-Chairman from the non-statutory sector be deferred until the next meeting.**

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2000 were agreed subject to the following amendment:

Minute 7 "Physical Disability Resource Centre" – "Partnership Development Steering Group" should read "Partnership Development Fund Steering Group".

4 MATTERS ARISING

In response to a query raised, John Spargo updated the Forum on the fast track discharge for rehabilitation referred to in the minutes under Item 6 "Hospital Discharge". At the time of the meeting it was thought that the interim funding from Government would enable fast track discharge for rehabilitation. It was noted that private sector homes currently were not offering this type of rehabilitation although it remained an objective. It was agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting on the options available and the experiences from other health authorities around the country.

5 REVIEW OF THE BUCKS DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTRE

The Forum received an update report on progress made towards the review of the Buckinghamshire Disability Resource Centre, from John Spargo who introduced the report and reminded the Forum that the review had been commissioned at the meeting on 19 July 2000 to provide objective expert opinion into the service provided by the Bucks Disability Resource Centre. The brief was to review the centre and to provide some alternatives for the future.

An executive summary of the consultants review was appended to the report and members were advised that full copies could be made available upon request. It was reported that the Partnership Development Fund Steering Group had been fully appraised of the conclusions of the review as a result of which a number of recommendations were set out for the Partnership Forum to consider. Members discussed the report and recommendations, during which a number of issues were identified. One Member suggested the name should be changed from Bucks Disability Resource Centre to Bucks Disability Resource Service.

Location/Accessibility

The Forum raised the issue of the location and accessibility of the centre and services provided. It was noted that the centre currently operated out of the Brookside Clinic in Aylesbury and that this had caused difficulties for clients in the South Bucks area. It was noted that the intention was to develop an outreach service possibly involving the use of a bus which would serve all of the areas within Buckinghamshire. The vision was to move away from the idea of a "centre" delivering services to the concept of a "service" delivering to clients in their own localities. In terms of a building, it was noted that wherever it was located it would be difficult to access for some clients.

Consultation

In response to some concern expressed over the extent of the consultation that had taken place, it was reported that an in depth analysis of services used by clients and where the clients were located in the county had been conducted by the consultants.

Strategy/Funding

The need for a coherent strategy for the service was highlighted and it was requested that the Steering Group be reformed. Janice Campbell offered to take this forward. Funding for the Centre was discussed and it was noted that it was the the intention to form a limited company with the employment of a Service Manager to promote and take forward the service with the intention that it would be self-financing.

In conclusion Irene Short emphasised -

- a) the need to progress the strategy;
- b) the need for a clear and flexible delivery model; and
- c) the assurance that robust monitoring was put in place.

It was agreed that a further report, containing basic strategy guidelines for the Partnership Forum be prepared for the Forum to consider.

RESOLVED

That a further report be submitted to the meeting of the Forum on 5 June 2001.

6 LANGUAGE SUPPORT SERVICES: AN UPDATE

The Partnership Forum received a report from Lynne Ward which updated and informed members of the progress made since the September meeting on developing a multi-agency Language Support Service. The proposal suggested that a minimum of six partners were required each able to contribute £8,000. It was acknowledged however, that committing resources was difficult during the present period of extensive organisational change affecting all the statutory agencies in Buckinghamshire. A number of proposals were outlined for consideration by the Forum.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- A member supported the work that had been carried out so far in principle and thanked those involved .
- The member representing South Bucks District Council commented that a more equitable split in funding could be made on the basis of population.
- How would smaller organisations, with limited funding access the service.
- A member asked whether all services had been looked into, including signing which had originally been suggested. It was noted that as the initiative developed it was likely to encompass a range of services.
- Need to progress the matter urgently in particular as it was previously identified as an early win for the Forum.

In terms of financial contributions, the member representing South Bucks District Council commented that a bid would be considered at their budget meeting in February. The member representing Wycombe District Council stated that the authority couldn't formally commit financially to the service but would want to offer support in other ways. A member highlighted that most of the voluntary sector groups were not budget holders but commented that the idea was a good one in principle.

The Chairman expressed the view that further work was required and suggested that a Business Plan should be produced setting out how the service would run stating how it would best serve all the partners involved. He commented that the service needed to be a partnership arrangement in order to secure the additional funding available from the European Social Fund. The Forum endorsed these comments.

RESOLVED

That a further report/Business Plan be submitted to a future meeting of the Forum on either 3 April 2001 or 5 June 2001.

7 BUDGET UPDATE

The Forum received an update on the County Council's budget position from the Sean Nolan. He explained that the next meeting of the Cabinet, on 5 February 2001, would be considering the budget proposals for the following year. It was reported that the Council Tax level would increase by between 5% and 6% and that the increase in resources available next year equated to approximately 7% for Social Services. However, this was still less than genuine spending pressures, which included the impact of the NHS Plan and the rising number of older people requiring services. Spending pressures had also meant that 2% efficiencies had to be found from each department within the County Council and also the freezing of the support costs had been imposed.

The point was also raised that the County Council and the Health Authority needed to explain jointly to Government that the financial aspects of the NHS Plan needed to be more coherent across Health and the County Council.

A representative from the voluntary sector expressed concern that no increase was to be made to voluntary groups. Members noted that the decision had been made not to increase the allocation provided. However, the Cabinet would investigate the possibility of diverting some corporate resources to voluntary organisations.

8 NHS PLAN/HIMP

John Spargo explained that the NHS Plan formed the background of the work of the NHS over the next few years. He reported that it was clear from the guidance received that the Government intended it to be followed rigorously with future funding, to some degree, dependent upon the achievement of the objectives set out.

The HIMP represented the delivery of the plan and local priorities and initiatives. Members were advised that the final HIMP document was due to be in place by Summer 2001.

9 DIRECT PAYMENTS

The Forum received an interim report from Janice Campbell on Direct Payments. She reported that the stakeholder meeting had not yet taken place, and was due to be held at the end of March 2001. The dilemma for the Steering Group was how to expand the service within the current framework with insufficient funding being allocated this year. It was reported that it was expected that the scheme would be extended to older people, those with physical disabilities and to ethnic groups.

During discussion, a member commented on the desirability of an independent organisation maintaining the service. Janice Campbell responded that advice received from the Social Services Inspectorate showed that there was a mixed picture over the country with some services being run independently by voluntary sector organisations and others by local authorities. The main aim of the service was to provide payments in a supportive manner with a need to look at overall services to support independence. The main concern at present was that the funding streams available were inadequate.

RESOLVED

That a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) **Health Economy Reconfiguration Project**

John Spargo highlighted a progress report which was available for members after the meeting for information.

b) **Future Agenda Items**

Members were asked to submit any items they may wish to suggest for future agendas to Helen Wayland.

11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates for future meetings were agreed. All meetings to commence at 10.30 am at the Green Park Centre, Aston Clinton.

- 3 April
- 5 June
- 24 July
- 25 September
- 27 November.

CHAIRMAN

CONTACT OFFICER : HELEN WAYLAND (01296) 382590