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AGENDA ITEM: 2

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM HELD ON TUESDAY 24 JULY 2001, AT THE GREEN PARK CENTRE, ASTON CLINTON, COMMENCING AT 10AM AND CONCLUDING AT 12.04 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Aylesbury Vale CHC

Ms E Young

Buckinghamshire County Council

Mrs M A M Aston (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

Officers

Ms J Campbell (Head of Community Care for Adults)

Mr D Jones (Strategic Manager Adult Social Care)

Ms K Kennally (Service Development Officer)

Ms H Richards (Quality Assurance Manager)

Mr P Scott (Head of Pupils, Students and Families)

Ms L Ward (Head of the Inspection Unit)

Mrs H Wayland (Committee Administrator)

Buckinghamshire Health Authority

Mr R Ferris (Head of Corporate Affairs and Health Improvement)

Ms I Short (Chairman)

Mr J Spargo (Director of Partnerships and Planning)

Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Trust

Keith Nieland (Chief Executive)

South Bucks CHC

Ms C Hatfield

Stoke Mandeville NHS Trust

Ms J Mee

Wycombe District Council

Ms C Hughes

Voluntary Organisation Representatives/User Carer Representatives

Ms A English OBE

Ms A Linington

Ms C Stanners

Ms P Vincent

Others in Attendance

Mr M Bailey (Wycombe Locality Forum)

Mr A Parkin (Chiltern and South Bucks Locality Forum)

Mr R Poxton (Institute for Applied Health and Social Policy, Kings College, London)

Mr R Taylor (Aylesbury Vale Locality Forum)

Kathie Webber (Buckinghamshire County Council)

Ms K Whitbread (Community Care Information Officer)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were reported to have been received from

Mr R Barber, Mr J Beckerleg, Ms A Brett, Mr S Brogan, Mr R H St G Carey, Mr G Clark, Ms J Elliott, Mrs V Hall, Councillor M Hamilton (CDC), Ms J Hunt, Ms J Kverndal, Ms L Short, Ms E Springford, Ms J Stone and Mr S Young

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 5 June 2001 were confirmed.

2 MATTERS ARISING

None were received.

3 VALUING PEOPLE – A NEW STRATEGY FOR LEARNING DISABILITY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Forum received a report and presentation from Janice Campbell on the New National Strategy for Learning Disability which was published in March 2001.

The presentation highlighted a number of issues including the development of the Learning Disability Board which would be in place by October 2001. The Board would have wide-ranging responsibilities for updating the Joint Investment Plans, overseeing inter-agency planning and commissioning integrated services. The importance of user and carer participation was emphasised with a number of issues which require addressing to enable a greater involvement of users and a stronger voice for learning disabled carers. The Forum noted that two meetings, one for carers and one for users would be held towards the end of September. Service users at all centres across the County had been consulted as part of the JIP preparation and feedback from this was then taken to the user conference, which was held in April. This was a key part of the development of the action plan for the JIP.

The Forum noted that resource issues; insufficient personnel to deliver and insufficient financial resources to meet the new demands placed by the strategy had been identified. During discussion members were advised that action to identify additional funding sources was being investigated with the intention of raising the profile and promoting Learning Disability in other organisations.

In terms of new Government money to finance the implementation of the strategy, it was noted that it was not clear at this stage how it would be delivered. One concern for Buckinghamshire however, was that the county was ahead with re-provisioning and had no large day centres as in other areas, this may impact on any future funding received.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Janice Campbell for her presentation and requested that an update be submitted to the meeting of the Forum in November.

4 COMMUNITY CARE PLAN

The Forum received a report and a copy of the draft Community Care Plan 2001-2004. Introducing the report, Hedy Richards informed members that the draft would be going out for wide consultation during July and August and would be co-ordinated through the Locality Forums. Members noted that the Plan covered a four-year period and was a basic map or tool for users and carers and others providing a wide picture of structures and services available in the County. The plan also contained a summary which would be updated annually.

A number of positive comments were received from the Forum who welcomed the Plan in particular the format and language used which would be easy to access by all users, it would also offer a very important reference point.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People highlighted the 16 to 18 age group being omitted from the document. A discussion on whether Children's Service's should be included within the document ensued with the comment that there was already a Children's Plan in place. It was suggested that the document could contain some sign posting of Children's Service's.

The omission of a map showing the PCG/PCT areas was highlighted, in response it was agreed that the areas would be added to the map on page 5 of the Plan.

Members discussed the possibility of extending the plan as a joint Health and Social Care Community document picking up broader issues from the Joint Investment Plans and drawing sources from a wider base. It was noted that this was the intent and hopefully it would be viewed as a joint plan.

During discussion a member asked if any progress had been made towards obtaining a representative for the Forum from the Learning and Skills Council. It was noted that a request had been made but no response had yet been received. The member suggested that a letter addressed to Susan Jones at the Learning and Skills Council may yield results.

In conclusion the Panel noted that it was essential that any further comments were received before the deadline of 7 September 2001.

5 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCALITY FORUMS

The Forum received presentations from Tony Parkin (Chiltern and South Bucks Locality Forum), Bob Taylor (Aylesbury Vale Locality Forum) and Malcolm Bailey (Wycombe Locality Forums) on the work that they each carried out in their areas.

Tony Parkin explained the Terms of Reference of the Locality Forums, and Joint Planning and the Local Modernisation Agenda, Bob Taylor went on to explain the important role of the Locality Forums in public consultation exercises. In conclusion, Malcolm Bailey highlighted issues of involving the individual using a person scenario. He advised members that he had produced a report which dealt with the patchy nature of the involvement of users and carers. The report set out work that had been carried out and offered suggestions for future work, it could be made available to members on request.

The presentation highlighted the types of questions and issues which may affect an individual's involvement and motivation and explained why the involvement of individuals was important in the process.

During discussion a number of comments were received which included:

- The engagement of users and carers and the tools which could be used was discussed with a number of challenges highlighted including the involvement of the housebound. It was explained that in order to engage this group a number of safeguards had to be put in place. These would include discussions with those who delivered services to the housebound to see how the workers could help and to gain their co-operation.
- A member highlighted mental health and the importance of obtaining carer's feedback to put together the right sort of services for this group.

- A member stressed the importance of having two user/carer representatives on any important high level Committee.

In conclusion the Chairman thanked the Locality Forum Development Workers for their interesting and useful presentations and stressed the importance of their frontline experience.

6 FEEDBACK FROM THE EXECUTIVE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

David Jones explained the purpose of the Executive Partnership Board which would be responsible for planning, commissioning and monitoring joint work and for supporting the work of the Learning Disability Partnership Board. It was explained that it was intended to review and evaluate the work of the Board in approximately six months. The Board was committed to the development of the integration of Learning Disability and Mental Health services by the autumn and would also look at new posts to take the work forward.

The Forum then received a presentation from Richard Poxton of the Institute for Applied Health and Social Policy, Kings College, London who had conducted a piece of research on partnership issues around joint working between Health and Social Services. A number of strengths and weaknesses were highlighted in the survey which included:

Strengths

- The start of working towards a seamless service was identified and its application to patients and users had commenced.
- The building blocks for partnership were in place.
- Good joint planning of services.
- Some good working relationships were identified.
- A few joint posts were referred to.

Barriers and weaknesses

- Pressures resulting from changing personnel/lack of consistency.
- Organisational change and financial pressures.
- In-built tensions – localisation and central direction.
- Differing priorities between Health and Social Services.

- Lack of joint working tradition at a strategic level.
- Relationships between Primary Care Organisations and Social Services.
- Whole care systems need thought.
- Political level – lack of connection.
- Pace of change may differ for each organisation.
- Perception of lack of drive and application.

Aspirations for change

- Real seamlessness.
- Joint working at primary care level and purchasing services jointly.
- Development of Direct Payments.
- Whole systems approach on an array of projects.
- Focus on learning disabilities as a breakthrough.
- More attention to developing a shared culture.
- More attention to working with clear shared agenda and more emphasis on sharing learning.
- Greater mutual awareness.
- Pooled budgets particularly learning disabilities, also mental health and then older people.
- Cross-agency working/ co-locations.
- Scheme delegation.
- Greater user engagement.
- Streamlined decision making.

In conclusion it was noted that a progress report on the development of the Partnership Board would be made to the next meeting of the Forum in September.

7 LOCAL MODERNISATION REVIEW – UPDATE

John Spargo reported that the first phase of the modernisation review process was almost concluded, this was a critical phase which audited how well the health economy and partners were placed to deliver and develop the objectives of the NHS Plan. The second phase would commence in the autumn with the compilation of an action plan to deliver the targets for the next few years. It was noted that the

The Executive Partnership Board would be an important component representing the implementation arm of the process. The Forum was advised that an event for staff and service users on the process had recently been held with another event planned. An update report would be submitted to the Forum in due course as the work developed.

8 PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE GRANT

The Forum received a report from Joan Elliott, Head of Social Care for Older People, which updated members on the Promoting Independence Grant 2001/2002. It was reported that from 2001/02 a new Promoting Independence Grant replaced the previous Partnership and Prevention Special Grant but had similar aims to the previous grant and broadly similar conditions.

Introducing the report, David Jones explained that an action plan had been submitted to the Department of Health on 30 June 2001 which had been written in agreement with Primary Care Chief Executives on behalf of their respective organisations. It was reported that the two Primary Care Groups and one Primary Care Trust had agreed a total contribution of £149,153 required from 1 April 2002 and were committed to a joint review with Social Services of the schemes which would be running out of funding in December of this year.

9 BUDGETS AND PRESSURES

David Jones informed members that budget issues for the County Council would increase over the coming months. There was concern as spending was well in excess of the Standard Spending Assessment allocated by government. During September the County Council would be scrutinising spending plans and pressures and there would then be an opportunity for consultation. The Forum raised concern about the future budget highlighting the lack of resources to fund residential care. David Jones explained that a report had been commissioned by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care from Laing and Buisson to review the residential care of older people in the County.

It was noted a report would be submitted to the next meeting.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A member requested that the Forum consider inviting a representative from the Probation Service to join the membership. It was agreed that the membership would be extended to cover Probation and a letter would be sent requesting a nomination.

CHAIRMAN