



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD IN ROOM 1, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HEALTH AUTHORITY, VERNEY HOUSE, AYLESBURY ON THURSDAY 23 AUGUST 2001 COMMENCING AT 2PM AND CONCLUDING AT 5.30PM

PRESENT

Hugh Carey – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care BCC
David Jones - Strategic Manager, Adult Social Care BCC
John Beckerleg – Strategic Manager, Children and Young People BCC
John Spargo – Director of Partnerships and Planning BHA
Lynda Lake-Stewart - Director of Clinical Services (for Chief Executive, Vale of Aylesbury PCT)
Jayne Stone - Chief Executive Wycombe Area PCG
Steve Young , Chief Executive Chiltern and South Bucks PCG

Also in attendance:

Kate Kennally – Group Manager, Commissioning and Service Development, BCC
Gavin Kinsman – Accountancy Manager BCC
David Beckett – Partnerships and Planning, BHA
Varsha Raja – Strategy and Commissioning Manager BCC

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Shaun Brogan, Chief Executive Vale of Aylesbury PCT (Lynda Lake-Stewart attended)

1 MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 6 July 2001 were received.

2 MATTERS ARISING

Members agreed to extend the membership of the Board to include Keith Nieland. Committee Administrator to send letter of invitation.

3 RESOURCES FROM HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Board received presentations from Gavin Kinsman and John Spargo which outlined the resources available from each authority.

Social Services- Gavin Kinsman explained the breakdown of the County Council's budget with reference to the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) being the government allocation based on what it considered the Council needed to spend to provide a standard service. It was reported that Social Services was currently spending 20.6% more than it's SSA. It was noted that this should be viewed against the fact that the amount received was among the lowest allocations of all the shire Counties.

The Board discussed the provision of day care for older people noting the under utilisation of the service which was largely due to the increased frailty of its users and also to transport issues. Members were advised that a root and branch review of older peoples day services had been carried out, copies of which would be sent to all Board members. Possible opportunities for sharing resources where there were common problems were discussed with the view that one care pathway should be followed offering different services along the way.

Health - John Spargo outlined spending on Partnership Services from Health explaining that the figures available were not comprehensive and reflected those collected and required for making returns; they did not therefore properly reflect the total spend. It was noted that no returns were made for physical disability and that, these statistics would prove important to inform the Physical Disability Strategy. It was agreed that it was important to obtain this information and to jointly agree definitions with a mechanism to define and categorise in a meaningful way. This could be achieved though focussing on a few target areas in the first instance. It was also suggested that the Joint Commissioning approach could serve as a vehicle for obtaining this information.

The Board discussed intermediate care and noted that a key driver for the allocation of the social services performance grant would be performance on intermediate care in the current year. The Chairman suggested that residential and nursing home spend and intermediate care could be an area to be given early consideration.

3 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PERFORMANCE IN THE WIDER CONTEXT

The Board received a paper which detailed the main conclusions from the Atlas of NHS and Social Care Performance as they related to the performance of the Buckinghamshire Health system. The report also contained an analysis of neighbouring health economies with which Buckinghamshire was likely to be merged into a Strategic Health Authority. John Spargo introduced the item and explained that the atlas formed the basis of nationally shared information on a range of issues. A number of issues facing the local Health economy area were reported. These included an articulate population with low need but high demand and also problems encountered with a high proportion of self funders causing difficulties in driving up charges and in delayed discharge.

4 A TEMPLATE FOR DEVELOPING JOINT COMMISSIONING IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The Board received a report which set out an approach to developing Joint Commissioning that built upon work that had been carried out by Richard Poxton, reported to the meeting on 6 July and from comments received from the Board. These including the early priorities for developing Joint Commissioning for learning disability and mental health services.

A number of elements where Joint Commissioning was already occurring were reported and it was noted that in developing the approach there was a need for better co-ordination of approaches rather than replacing them with new ways of working. In order to develop the work it was recommended that Joint Commissioning posts needed to be established from the outset. The following posts were identified:

- a) Head of Integrated Commissioning – to oversee the development of the Joint Commissioning approach, working across Health and Social Care to support the Joint Commissioning and Modernisation process; and
- b) Mental Health Joint Commissioning Manager – to support the above.

It was noted that a joint Learning Disability Strategy Manager was in post until March 2002 at which time the post would be refocused to joint commissioning.

The Board was informed that a benchmarking exercise had been carried out by South East Region Mental Health, the results would be sent to all Board Members.

Members discussed the report and agreed with the incremental and pragmatic approach that it advocated. The pooling of budgets was highlighted and the need to gather momentum on this issue as quickly as possible. The importance of user/carer involvement was emphasised and it was noted that the Specialist Planning Groups would be approached to support this with user/carer members nominated to be part of the membership on the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

It was agreed that appointments to the posts identified should be pursued with any comments on the job description/person specification to be passed to John Spargo by 30 August.

5 Children's Services Planning Forum

The Board was informed of the outcome of the last meeting of the Forum and an updated diagram showing the inter-connections with Children's Services and other parts of the strategic agenda was tabled. It was reported that the Forum had agreed that a separate Children's Services Planning Forum and Commissioning Board would be formed (with some co-membership with the Executive Partnership Board), including representation from the Primary Care Organisations. It was felt by members of the Forum that the focus at the Executive Partnership Board was on Adult Services and that the Children's Board would be the equivalent to the Executive Partnership Board for Children's services it would not be accountable to the Executive Board. Members noted that the Children's Board would pull together the work of a number of groups operating in Children's Services and would feed into planning for Children's issues.

Members discussed the proposal at length some concern was expressed over the separation of the two functions. The transition of clients from Children's to Adult's services was highlighted as a possible problem. It was noted that the post of integrated Commissioning Manager would hold a key pivotal role between the groups to ensure that the necessary bridging took place.

In conclusion, it was agreed that further discussion was needed. A report from the Forum and from a representative of the PCOs would be submitted to the next meeting.

6 Learning Disability Integration Project

The Board received a report from Janice Campbell which detailed three items arising from the last meeting of the Modernisation Executive Group (MEG) on the development of an integrated Learning Disability Service for agreement by the Board, these being:

- a) Letter of Agreement to the Plan;
- b) Lead Primary Care Organisation Arrangements; and
- c) Additional Resources for the Integration Project.

The Board discussed the report and noted the letter of agreement. With regard to the proposal for the identification of a lead Primary Care Organisation for Learning Disability it was agreed that this should be progressed as soon as possible. It was noted that no figure for the additional resources required to cover the costs involved had yet been quantified but that this would be reported to members once identified.

7 Free Nursing Care - Update

The Board received a report from David Beckett which updated members on the implementation of the free nursing policy setting out the key points and issues arising from the release of the draft guidance and accompanying documentation. It was reported that key roles had been identified to manage the responsibility locally, posts to include a Nursing Home Co-Coordinator and lead nurse.

It was reported that £80m would be made available nationally to pay for self funding residents from October 2001-March 2002 and the local allocation would be weighted according to results of the survey of self funders recently submitted. The survey was carried out in July and showed that Buckinghamshire had a greater proportion of self funders than the national average. It was reported that using the data submitted in the survey, mid and South Bucks would receive £1.2m to support the initiative. The sum received would be based on the amount of clients in care on 1 October with no additional funding for those entering care beyond this date.

Key issues that were discussed at a recent meeting were highlighted which included:

- a) Concern over available resources and capacity
- b) Need for clarity over the devolution of resources from the Health Authority to the Primary Care Organisations
- c) Assessments currently being undertaken in nursing homes with 500-600 to be carried out over the next 4 to 8 week period. Nursing Home staff were reported to be assisting with the task.
- d) Karen Chapman had been identified as the lead nurse role.

The move towards single assessments was discussed and it was reported that the expectation was for links to be made to the single assessment process being introduced as part of the Older Persons NSF. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care expressed his concern over the complex situation which he believed represented a significant decline over that which had been previously expected.

8 Delayed Transfers of Care in the South East Region

The Board received a paper on delayed transfers of care in the South East which reflected the work carried out in the area on a number of key issues which accounted for performance in the South East on access to care being substantially worse than the remainder of the Country.

Members discussed the issue and agreed that there was a multiplicity of factors which affected the South East as opposed to the North of the Country including the high costs of key worker housing which affected recruitment in the region.

9 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 25 September 2001 commencing at 2.30pm, in Seminar Room 1, Amersham Hospital.

10 Agenda Items for next Meeting

1. Oral update on Learning Disability (as a Matter Arising from the minutes)
2. Progress on Continuing Care
3. Children's Services Planning Forum – Update
4. Mental Health Integration
5. Transition of Health Authority to Primary Care Organisations