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**AGENDA ITEM: 2**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM HELD ON TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2001, AT THE GREEN PARK CENTRE, ASTON CLINTON, COMMENCING AT 10AM AND CONCLUDING AT 12 PM.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Buckinghamshire County Council**

Mr R H St G Carey (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care)

**Officers**

Mr D Jones (Strategic Manager Adult Social Care)

Ms K Kennally (Group Manager, Commissioning and Service Development Officer)

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)

**Chiltern District Council**

Ms K Brimacombe

**Chiltern and South Bucks PCG**

Mr S Young

**South Bucks CHC**

Ms L Mallinder

**South Bucks District Council**

Mr R Barber  
Ms J Kverndal

**South Bucks NHS Trust**

Ms E Springford

**Stoke Mandeville NHS Trust**

Ms J Mee

**Wycombe District Council**

Mr C Oliver

**Voluntary Organisation Representatives/User Carer Representatives**

Ms A English OBE  
Mr C Lumbers  
Ms L Short  
Ms C Stanners

**Others in Attendance**

Mr R Taylor (Aylesbury Vale Locality Forum)  
Ms V Ward (Wycombe Area PCG)

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

Apologies for absence were reported to have been received from

Mrs M A M Aston, Mr M Bailey, Mr J Beckerleg, Ms A Brett, Mr S Brogan, Ms J Campbell, Mr G Clark, Ms J Elliott, Ms S Jones, Mrs V Hall, Councillor M Hamilton (CDC), Ms J Hunt, Ms A Linington, Mr P Scott and Ms P Vincent.

**1 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2001 were confirmed.

## **2 MATTERS ARISING**

### **Joint Review**

Lynne Ward updated Members on the Joint Review thanking all users and carers who had responded to the position statement which was due to be completed and submitted on 1 October 2001. The next stage was the visit from the Review Team, case files had been identified for examination and the programme for the Review Team would be:

- November – Meetings between the reviewers and users/carers, staff and senior Members from the Authority
- December – Fieldwork with front-line staff
- January – Meetings with senior managers and representatives from other organisations, and
- Finally a report would be prepared and submitted to the Authority

## **3 EXECUTIVE PARTNERSHIP BOARD – UPDATE**

The Forum received the minutes from meetings of the Board held on 6 July and 23 August 2001. It was noted that the Terms of Reference had been agreed at the first meeting. A member commented on the membership of the Board asking whether any additional organisations would be represented. In response it was noted that the decision had been taken for only a small membership to ensure that the decisions needed were taken rapidly. However, the importance of close links between the Board and the Partnership Forum were emphasised.

It was reported that a discussion on the resources available from Health and Social Services had taken place at the meeting on 23 August 2001; the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care commented that this was encouraging and assisted in understanding the position of the respective authorities.

During discussion the problem of bed blocking was raised, the Chairman informed the Forum that this issue had been given the topmost priority with meetings being held at the highest levels.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care advised the Forum that a seminar into the problems experienced by Social Service departments throughout the South of the Country had been held during August 2001. Issues discussed included problems with the recruitment and retention of staff, the shortage of residential home places and associated costs and the problems for care homes to accumulate resources in order to comply with the new regulations which would come into force in 2007. A report had also been commissioned by the Cabinet Member from consultants Laing and Bussion into residential home provision over the next 10 years in Buckinghamshire. It would be launched during October/November 2001.

In conclusion, the Chairman endorsed the work of the Executive Partnership Board which was the first Board of its kind involving senior executives from both Health and Social Services.

#### **4 DEVELOPING JOINT COMMISSIONING OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES**

The Forum received a report from the Director of Partnerships and Planning BHA and the Strategic Manager, Adult Care Services, BCC on Developing Joint Commissioning of Health and Social Care Services.

Kate Kennally reported that the Executive Partnership Board (EPB), meeting on 23 August had reaffirmed Learning Disability and Mental Health services as a priority. However, any approach taken must be fit for all care groups. Following the agreement of early priorities by the Executive Partnership Board a template for joint commissioning had been developed. The approach would have a strong developmental aspect and would build upon mutual trust and support with joint decision making acknowledging the work that had already been carried out by all the agencies involved. Some elements were already in place e.g. the reprovisioning of Manor House. A number of posts had also been agreed at the EPB to take the work forward including the key post of Head of Integrated Commissioning who would oversee the development of the Joint Commissioning approach and would support the process.

During discussion, the importance of linking the resource allocation processes from both Health and Social Services with the Joint Commissioning process was highlighted. The EPB would ensure that links were made and that the process was affordable. A Member asked to what extent the development of commissioning to PCOs would be achieved according to locality. It was noted that some commissioning would need to be achieved countywide e.g. nursing and residential care, whilst the need of the localities would be recognised.

In conclusion, the Chairman welcomed the approach and emphasised the importance of making connections to do the best for the communities served.

#### **5 ATLAS OF NHS AND SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE**

The Forum received a report which summarised the main conclusions taken from an Atlas produced by the South East Regional Office which mapped a series of performance indicators from a range of information sources.

It was reported that the Atlas was the first document of its kind which compared the same performance indicators across the Country. John Spargo explained that the information was very useful and could be used for a variety of purposes including lobbying.

The report highlighted a number of resource and supply side issues and constraints including problems with recruitment and retention of staff and shortages of nursing home places.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care drew attention to the problems associated with the Counties bordering the London Boroughs where allocations for clients were considerably higher. This caused an inflationary effect on nursing home charges in the South of the County which the County was finding difficult to match.

He welcomed the document which echoed the problems within Social Services, and explained that a three pronged approach was being adopted by the County Council – lobbying through the Local Government Association, lobbying in conjunction with local authorities in the South of the Country and self help through the commissioning of the Laing and Bussion report.

During discussion a number of points were raised which included:

- A Member asked if any rationing of services was a likely as a consequence of the lack of resources. In response it was noted that the range and scope of services on offer would suffer but that the standards of service would remain unaffected.
- It was suggested that local MPs should be given a copy of the Atlas. It was noted that the Health Authority continually briefed MPs and would ensure that a copy of the report was passed on.
- A member questioned the support for community support services. It was noted that emphasis had shifted away from the first port of call being a residential or nursing home option to the least institutionalised option. The shift towards supported living was the policy objective. It was noted that a huge amount more could be achieved with additional resources and that more emphasis was now being placed on preventative services.
- A member commented that the statistics contained within the atlas may now have deteriorated, it was important to be aware of this factor and ensure the government was fully aware of the current position.
- A member questioned the helpfulness of Joint Commissioning. In response it was noted that it would offer a way in which to stimulate the market which would prove difficult on an individual basis but would be much easier with a collective approach.

### **Local Modernisation Review**

Robert Ferris updated the Forum with a presentation of the progress to date and future plans for the Local Modernisation Review. Copies of the presentation slides are appended to the minutes.

**6 BUDGETS AND PRESSURES**

John Spargo informed the Forum that Health was overspent in the region of £2m at the present with recovery plans in hand. The SaFF process was about to start

with the need to account for the overspend and also to understand the reason for subsequent years budget planning. It was not expected that Health would receive a large increase in resources for the coming year. This was also all set against significant changes over the coming months with devolution of budgets principally to the Primary Care Organisations.

David Jones reported on behalf of the County Council that a serious overspend had been identified within Children's Services and actions to contain it were being examined. The main area of overspend within the Adult Social Care portfolio was Learning Disabilities which reflected the pressure upon both Health and Social Services.

Work was being undertaken for next years budget with a Budget Review Group formed which would look at all services and report to the County Council's Cabinet meeting on 15 October 2001.

**7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Members were advised that a Mental Health workshop was to be held on 28 September 2001 at Green Park and were encouraged to attend.

**8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

27 November 2001 at Green Park, Aston Clinton

**CHAIRMAN**