



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE PARTNERSHIP BOARD
HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM, BUCKS HEALTH AUTHORITY,
VERNEY HOUSE, AYLESBURY, ON FRIDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2001
COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 1.35 PM**

Members Present:

Hugh Carey – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, BCC
Shaun Brogan – Chief Executive, Vale of Aylesbury, PCT
Keith Nieland – Chief Executive, Mental Health NHS Trust
David Jones – Strategic Manager, Adult Social Care, BCC
David Beckett – Assistant Director Strategy (for John Spargo)
Jayne Stone – Chief Executive, Wycombe Area PCG

Also in attendance:

Janice Campbell – Head of Community Care Adults, BCC

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from John Beckerleg, John Spargo and Steve Young

1 MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 25 September 2001 were received.

2 MATTERS ARISING

Minute reference 2

Progress on post of Head of Integrated Commissioning

It was reported that the advertisement would soon be placed. Members commented that interviews for the post should be held at the earliest opportunity. Following discussion it was agreed that the interview panel should include two representatives from Health and two from Social Services. It was suggested that Jenny Cook be approached as the external assessor, David Jones agreed to make contact. Members agreed that the interviews would be held during week commencing 10 December with the date to be finalised. Concern was highlighted that no post had yet been agreed for Children's Services, a member from health commented that this must be dealt with as a matter of urgency. It was also noted that David Jones would raise the issue with John Beckerleg and with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

Free Nursing Care

It was reported that progress had been made with Karen Chapman, the Lead Nurse undertaking the assessments. It was noted that payments to the Nursing Homes would be deferred until each assessment had been carried out and that the payments would be

backdated to 1 October. In response to a query over Mental Health residents, it was noted that Karen Chapman should be liaising with all nurses and a meeting with all Directors of Nurses, including Gill Cox, was planned for 7 November. It was reported that the current phase of implementation related to self funders only and that mental health clients would most likely fall into the second phase of the roll out from April 2003.

Progress on Continuing Care

It was reported that the criteria had been redrafted and was currently being tested in the areas of learning disabilities and palliative care, the principles had also been agreed. Implementation would be rolled out from 3 December with work still to be achieved to attach funding. The new criteria was reported to be more explicit and transparent and should be more easily understood by all parties. In response to a concern from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care over the arbitration aspect it was noted that if this should prove necessary the first stage would be for a multi-disciplinary panel then recourse to senior management and finally to a review panel.

Workshop to discuss pooled budgets

It was noted that a good response to the publicity for the workshop session, which would be held on 26 November 2001 at the Green Park Centre, had been received to date.

3 CHILDREN'S PLANNING

The Board was advised that the Children's Service's Planning Forum had yet to meet. Keith Nieland expressed concern over the lack of joint commissioning for Children's & Adolescent Mental Health Services which needs to be progressed at the earliest opportunity. It was agreed that a report would be submitted to the next meeting.

4 DELAYED DISCHARGES – STRATEGIES AND USE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Strategy for Older People's Services

David Jones introduced a report which set out the key points, recommendations and the Council's response to the Laing and Buisson report which reviewed the provision of residential care in the County over the next decade and placed it in a broader strategic context. During discussion it was noted that there were currently problems in purchasing residential care accommodation in the County which was particularly acute in the south where there were up to 50% self-funding clients. The amount that could be paid by Social Services was up to £100 less than that paid by self-funders. It was noted that following the launch of the Laing and Buisson report, an action plan was needed to help support the recommendations. Board members highlighted the need for more imaginative schemes; re-focussing to more community support, more investment in lower cost areas and more schemes for engaging the voluntary sector. During discussion a member reported that there was concern over a significant trend for nursing homes being reluctant to take on older people with mental health problems even those of a minor nature.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care commented that authorities should be more active participants in the market place encouraging commercial organisations to assist the Council in finding affordable sites for purchase and redevelopment and encouraging support from every level possible. David Jones highlighted that a number of well-

known providers had responded to the advertisement seeking expressions of interest to work in partnership to develop care homes and assisted living.

Keith Nieland commented on the need to look at the whole spectrum of care and also highlighted the potential capacity at the Manor House site, two thirds of which would be available over the next two to three years. Any future strategy for Older People's Services should also be progressed with Health and the key personnel within the primary care organisations. The need for public awareness, educating the public to support the family was also raised. In conclusion, members agreed that Health and Social Services should work closely together on any future strategy which needs to dovetail closely and explicitly with work on the other strategic frameworks e.g. the work within the Older Persons NSF.

Delayed Discharge Monitoring

Statistical data was tabled for South Bucks NHS Trust and Stoke Mandeville for members which detailed levels and causes of delayed transfers of care across Stoke Mandeville and South Buckinghamshire NHS Trusts. It was noted that much of the detailed causes for delays in South Buckinghamshire was missing which created difficulty in comparing across Bucks. However, the format was accepted as being useful and regular monitoring reports were welcomed.

Draft conditions for use of the special grant for community care services to prevent delayed discharges from hospital

The Board discussed the use of the £713,000 special grant recently allocated by the Government to help with delayed discharges. It was noted that the allocation of the funding must be achieved quickly with a deadline of 16 November for agreeing plans for its use.

Members of the Board highlighted concern over the speed in which decisions regarding the funding were to be made. It was noted that the funding would be available for the next two years only, but residents often needed supporting over a longer period. If additional beds were to be purchased there may be a problem financing them after the two-year funding lapsed. A member suggested negotiating strategies with the Nursing Home owners to purchase places initially at a higher rate with clear expectations that these were only short-term measures.

The Board proposed the following suggestions for the utilisation of the £713,000:

- i Purchasing Equipment
- ii Maintaining and extending the initiative at Chilworth House which was a short-term placement facility offering convalescent care for periods of between three to four days.
- iii The development of intermediate care was highlighted as a possibility.
- iv The conversion of acute hospital wards into step-down wards which would reduce overall nursing costs.
- v Utilising wards at Manor House Hospital and also places at Rayners Hedge in Aylesbury.

- vi Liaise with District Council Housing Departments over the possibility of setting up some warden-assisted accommodation to meet short-term needs.
- vii Creation of early assessment centres at Accident and Emergency facilities to offer early assessment to patients and avoid unnecessary admissions.
- viii Increased access to nursing home capacity

In conclusion David Beckett agreed to feed suggestions to a meeting that Joan Elliott was reported to be arranging to agree plans for the use of the money.

5 LEARNING DISABILITY INTEGRATION

The Board received a presentation from Janice Campbell on the integration of Health and Social Care. Following the presentation, members discussed a variety of issues including learning disability not featuring as a national priority and the lack of a budget to assist the work required in the integration process, which should be in place and signed off with partners by 31 March 2003. With regard to Human Resources it was reported that the top management layer had been more or less defined and that it may be necessary to commission some legal advice on a number of other staffing aspects, this would be avoided if possible. Janice Campbell went on to emphasise the importance of the primary care organisations in the process and informed the Board that discussions had already taken place with HIMP managers. It was noted that although there would not be a free standing Learning Disability Management Board there was a need to ensure the right model of governance was adopted.

6 MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATION

Keith Nieland informed the Group that a high level workshop involving primary care organisations would be held to agree the framework for mental health integration. Bob Fitzpatrick would be progressing the process with Janice Campbell. Dates for the workshop would be confirmed.

7 FUTURE ROLE OF LOCALITY FORUMS

The Board was informed that the posts for the Locality Forum Development Workers and the post of Community Information Officer were jointly funded by Health and Social Services. The funding for the posts would cease on 31 March 2002 and 31 July 2002 respectively. Members of the Board were invited to consider their extension for a further period. Following discussion, members agreed that funding for all of the posts would be extended until 31 March 2003. If funding could not be identified for the Community Care Officer from the Social Services budget this would be identified from the Partnership Development Fund.

8 BUDGET UPDATE

David Jones explained the position of the County Council and the actions that had been taken to stay within budget for the current year. A large gap in funding had been identified for 2002/03 and the implications were currently being quantified in consultation with stakeholders.

David Jones informed the Group that a consultant had been employed to help look at:

- a) the extent of the core services
- b) the effects of reducing discretionary funding

- c) identification of ways of improving economy and income
- d) the impact that the reduction would have on the national performance indicators.

David Jones informed members that following compilation of this information a report would be prepared which would be shared with colleagues in Health. Members of the Board were also invited to join a meeting with the consultants on Friday, 9 November at 12.00 in Mezzanine Room 1, County Offices.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care highlighted his concern over the serious budget problems which were common to South East England as a whole.

Shaun Brogan explained that a similar situation was expected for Health which was further pressured with the hypothecation of budgets which led to less flexibility. It was reported that the elements of the SAFF were not yet known, however, it was hoped that Mental Health might be included in a target for next year. Whilst some aspects of the Older People's Services agenda may not be among the national priorities, many access performance targets such as delayed transfers of care, emergency admission levels, intermediate care provision and trolley waits which directly relate to older persons services were certainly high priority.

It was highlighted that a mechanism should be found for briefing GPs; this could be achieved via the Rural Practices Group, for example. David Jones agreed to co-ordinate attendance by Social Services representatives at the meetings once known. In conclusion it was agreed that a budget update item should be a standing item for meetings of the Board.

9 SOCIAL SERVICES PERFORMANCE – EXTRACT FROM SOCIAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER

David Jones introduced the item and explained that the statement from Alan Milburn had been a surprise, it had not been anticipated that Buckinghamshire would be identified in the bottom fourteen performing authorities. This had impacted on the morale of staff and services at an especially difficult time when there were a number of other pressures upon the service, not least the budget situation and the start of the Joint Review. The impact of Social Services and Health performance indicators on each other was acknowledged.

10 JOINT PRIMARY CARE FACILITATOR – MENTAL HEALTH AND OLDER PEOPLE

The Board received a job profile for the post of Joint Primary Care Facilitator Mental Health and Older People. Members were supportive of the post which could make a significant impact and David Jones would forward this to Joan Elliott to consider a contribution from the promoting independence grant.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None was received.

12 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- 1 Children's Planning
- 2 Learning Disability and Mental Health Integration
- 3 Budget Update

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 7 December at 9.15 am. Venue to be agreed.