

ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 FEBRUARY 2010

Present – Councillors P Allen, Burrows, L Byrne, Chadwick, Greenhalgh (Chairman), Hall, Iqbal, Lord, R Ronson and F A Rushton.

Co-opted Members:

Mr G Evans	-	Age Concern, Bolton
Mrs E Tatman	-	Bolton Arts Forum
Mr J Firth	-	LiNks Representative

Also in Attendance:

Councillor Sherrington	-	Executive Member for Adult Services
Mr M Devargas	-	Assistant Director, Corporate Resources and Committee Chief Officer Support
Mr A Kilpatrick	-	Chief Officer for Health and Social Care
Ms E Miller	-	Assistant Director – Strategy and Commissioning
Ms C Jones	-	Head of Access and Inclusion
Mr I Hutchinson	-	LiNks Co-Ordinator
Mrs S Wootton	-	Senior Scrutiny Officer

Apologies were received from Councillors Clare, Morgan and Rock

Councillor Greenhalgh in the Chair

35. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Committee held on 1 December 2009 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be signed as a correct record, subject to the addition of Councillor Rushton on the list of those present at that meeting.

36. DECISION MONITORING REPORT

The Director of the Chief Executive's Department submitted a report detailing the progress of decisions previously taken by this Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

37. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

The Director of the Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which puts forward a list of suggested issues which the Committee may wish to receive reports on or investigate further during the current Municipal Year.

Members were informed that this report could be updated at any time throughout the Municipal Year as it was a rolling document. Where Members had an item for the Scrutiny Committee, this would be considered and added to the Work Programme accordingly.

Resolved – That the Work Programme as now submitted be approved.

38. LINKs – UPDATE

Mr Ian Hutchinson, a representative from the LINKs attended the meeting to provide an update to the Committee regarding the work of the LINKs over the last year.

Members were provided with an overview of how the LINKs operated which had been initially established to give local communities a stronger voice on how their health and social care services were provided and delivered. The Bolton LINK was an independent network made up of individuals, community groups and organisations with an interest in health and social care, working together, to speak as one voice to influence and shape local health and social care services within Bolton. The LINKs covered the Borough and were concerned with all publically funded health and social care services as well as issues that impacted on the health and well-being of the local community.

By way of an update, the Committee were informed of the following:-

- Two LINKs representative attended respective Scrutiny Committees at Bolton Council and would subsequently give feedback to the Governing Board;
- Strategic partnerships with numerous organisations were underway;
- The 2010/2011 work plan was on going and was shortly due for publication;
- The Annual Report was on-going and the final copy should be ready in April 2010;
- Membership had increased from 200 to 450 and following two events in Bolton Town Centre, 140 members were recruited;

- Training was taking place for all members with mandatory training for “Enter and View” inspections and members of the Governing Board attended a Safeguarding Adults training session with LINKs’ staff;
- Work was being done to raise the profile of the LINKs through various conferences and events, as well as the introduction of a quarterly newsletter and liaising with the NHS to carry out a national campaign of raising the awareness of LINKs;
- The LINKs website was now in place which was updated regularly with both outcomes of meetings, reports from the Government, events and news. Articles had been placed in the Bolton News and Bolton Scene amongst other publications to provide further information regarding the work of the LINKs
- The LINKs had been provided with statutory powers which they had been able to utilise when sending letters to various organisations to obtain information.

Members were provided with a copy of the Annual Report for 2008/2009 as well as a copy of the Department of Health’s guidance on LINKs. There was still quite a lot of work to do, in order to establish themselves alongside Government proposals and influences.

Much discussion took place in reference to the following:-

- Inspections and when LINKs would start to carry them out; and
- The profile of the LINKs;

Resolved – (i) That Members thanked Mr Hutchinson attending the meeting and for his informative update to the Committee;

(ii) That Members requested that this update be made available to Area Forum meetings.

39. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT 2009

Ms Ellen Miller attended the meeting to provide the Scrutiny Committee with a summary of the Care Quality Commission’s judgment on Bolton Council for 2008/2009.

Members were advised that the report gave an assessment on how Bolton Council’s performance had improved in 2009. Only one of the seven outcomes assessed was now not classed as “Excellent”, which was an improvement from two in 2008. This outcome was in relation to “Economic Wellbeing” and it particularly focussed on employment opportunities for people with disabilities, for which Bolton Council was assessed as performing well.

The assessment was essentially based on the “Performance Assessment Notebook” which collates performance data. A self-assessment was also undertaken which described how the Council performed against the assessment framework and well

outcomes were delivered. Regular meetings throughout the year and an Annual Review Meeting with the Council's Business Manager and the Performance Lead from the Care Quality Commission took place in order to arrive at the outcomes that had been made.

The assessment considered how the Council and its partners delivered outcomes for potentially vulnerable people in the borough, against seven outcomes for adults:-

- Improved health and well-being;
- Improved quality of life;
- Making a positive contribution;
- Increased choice and control;
- Freedom from discrimination and harassment;
- Economic well-being; and
- Maintaining personal dignity and respect.

Members were pleased with the results following the assessment and they congratulated those who worked on the report for their efforts and hard work. Much work was still to be done to achieve the final excellent mark whilst maintaining those already awarded with being excellent, which would be carried out through continuing to liaise with the service.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

40. CARERS STRATEGY – UPDATE

Ms Catherine Jones attended the meeting to give a presentation to the Committee regarding an update on the Carers Strategy.

There were over 28,000 carers in the Borough, who needed support from the Local Authority to continue in their caring role. There was a dedicated Advice and Information Service for Carers (Bolton Care Support) which now operated extended opening hours and offered a drop in service for carers.

Members were provided with a copy of the Multi-Agency Carers Strategy which was published in April 2009, which effectively built on what had already been achieved. The Strategy had been developed with carers and key partners, which established the service's commitment to improving support to carers over the next three years in Bolton. The Strategy supported the priorities identified in Bolton's Community Strategy, the Local Area Agreement and the Bolton Plan. It also linked to the Integrated Business Plan that had been developed by the Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust to develop services for people with mental health problems and/or substance misuse problems and to the Strategic Plan developed by NHS Bolton that aimed to improve the health of all people in Bolton.

The presentation included the 10 issues that had been identified as important to carers in Bolton, which were:-

- Recognition;
- Carer's Voice;
- Information and Advice;
- Benefits and Finance;
- Emotional Support;
- Access to Breaks;
- Health and Well-being;
- Training to Care;
- Support in Emergencies; and
- Employment, Leisure and Learning.

Much discussion took place regarding these 10 issues and Members were pleased with the progress that had been made. Members congratulated the service regarding the Strategy and looked forward to see how this would progress over the next three years.

Resolved – That Members thanked Ms Catherine Jones for her informative presentation and that the presentation be noted.

41. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

The Committee received the extract of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

a)	Executive Member for Adult and Community Services held on 20 January 2010; and
b)	Adult and Community Services Policy Development Group held on 9 December 2009 and 19 January 2010.

Resolved – That the minutes of various meetings be noted.

(The meeting commenced at 6.02pm and ended at 7.55pm)