

## JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 2.00 p.m.

### PRESENT

Councillors R.E. Barton, B. Blakeley, D. Hannam, M.M. Jones, P.W. Owen, N.P. Roberts, S. Roberts, G. Williams.  
Observers – Councillors M. Ll. Davies, G.C. Evans, C.L. Hughes

### ALSO PRESENT

Corporate Director Social Services, Health, Social Care and Well-Being Partnership Manager (D. Hesketh), Administration Services Manager (R. Davies) and Committee Clerk (Mrs. J. V. Pring).

### APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors S. Frobisher, N. J. Hughes and, E.R. Jones.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Corporate Director Social Services and Housing tabled a briefing note to inform Members of developments in respect of Denbighshire's first Single Plan for Children and Young People. It was one of three statutory plans which the Council was now required to produce and it consolidated previous planning requirements such as the Single Education Plan and the Children's Services Plan.

The Plan needed to be finalised by July 2008 and published by September 2008.

The draft Needs Assessment, which underpinned the Plan, had been produced and copies were available at the meeting. A consultation workshop had been held earlier in the day and a further one was scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> January to which Members were invited. Details of other specific events to target consultation were included in the Briefing note. In addition written comments from individuals and organisations were also welcomed.

The intention was for the Plan to cross reference entirely with crucial work already being undertaken to improve prospects for children and young people.

### 661 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor D. Hannam be appointed Chair for the meeting. In the absence of any other nominations it was:

*RESOLVED that Councillor D. Hannam be appointed Chair for the meeting.*

### 662 URGENT MATTERS

There were no urgent items.

### 663 DRAFT HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING STRATEGY 2008-2011

The Corporate Director Social Services and Housing introduced the report, the purpose of which was to inform Members of the development of the Health, Social Care and Well-Being Strategy 2008-2011. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, the Health, Social Care and Well-Being Partnership Manager (D. Hesketh) took Members through the main issues, explaining that this was the second round of the HSCWB strategy which would present a consolidated vision of what the statutory partners and others would expect success to look like in March 2011. It would also act as the commissioning context for the statutory agents in using their resources jointly to achieve this vision. It was important that the strategy delivered

demonstrable improvements in health and well-being and streamlined effective health and social services.

Referring to section 2 of the draft relating to 'Our Environment', Councillor R E Barton stated that the period of the Strategy was 2008-11 but the Local Development Plan was not due to be adopted until 2012. The Corporate Director acknowledged this anomaly and agreed on the importance of basing the strategy on an established framework.

Councillor Barton also felt there should be a sliding scale in respect of the themes listed on page 26 as it was not always possible to give a straight yes or no response. Councillor C. L. Hughes suggested that an additional topic relating to the Provision of Better Information should be included. However the Corporate Director suggested that this could be incorporated under 'Early Intervention and Crisis Support'.

In response to questions from Members, officers provided the following responses:-

- There were no easy answers in terms of identifying additional resources to meet the aspirations. The key was to achieve the best value for existing resources. It was possible that some new services, such as Telecare, would prove less expensive but would be more effective.
- Officers were attempting to cost the actions in the Plan and identify where funding would come from particularly in the health stream. No additional funding was available for the Strategy but efforts were being made to obtain external funding for some services.
- The definition of poverty was wide ranging but it was generally accepted that those with an income of 60% below the average earnings were considered poor. The biggest concern was families who were below this threshold and had little or no chance of improving their situation. The Corporate Director stated that the Welsh Assembly's target to reduce child poverty by 2010 and eradicate it by 2020 was particularly challenging.
- The issue of affordable warmth had been a key factor in the Council's investment in the Housing Improvement Programme
- The aspiration to improve play provision needed to be co-ordinated via schools, town and community councils and voluntary groups in order to achieve the best use of community recreational facilities.
- Strenuous efforts would be made to ensure the involvement of school councils, youth forums and disabled groups. There was a budget proposal in the 2008 bids to invest more money in youth services. However it was important to be aware of all the facilities and services already available for young people and to promote and encourage youngsters to use them.
- Progress was being made in terms of supporting professionals to take a more holistic approach although certain areas of specialism would always be needed. Progress had also been made through the introduction of the Health Service's Single Point of access initiative.
- Denbighshire continued to record a very low number of patients whose discharge from hospital had been delayed due to social care reasons. The discharge of patients with mental health problems had been more challenging and there had been instances of recurring difficulties with Domiciliary Care but overall performance remained strong.
- A number of initiatives were available to reduce isolation amongst older people, including the Befriending Scheme which had been set up following grant funding under the Older People's Strategy. The Denbighshire Night Rider scheme was another example of the assistance being offered to the vulnerable or isolated.

**RESOLVED** that the draft Health, Social Care and Well-Being Strategy 2008-11 be endorsed and recommended for adoption by full Council.

The meeting closed at 3.15 p.m.