

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
- SOCIAL WELL-BEING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2006

Present: Councillors Mrs M Woodburn (Chair); J Jackson; G Garrity; J Close; Mrs A Faichney; F Gleaves; S Meteer

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs W Metherell, F Heathcote.

Officers: T Capper, Democratic Services Manager (Item 5); Ms D Cochrane, Regeneration Team Leader; Ms C Nicholson, Accountancy Services Manager;

Also present: Cllr G Clements

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2006 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to it being noted that Councillor Close had submitted his apologies for the meeting.

OSC-SOC127 Arrangement of the Agenda

It was agreed that Item 8 should be taken after the Code of Conduct training and that the other items would follow thereafter.

OSC-SOC128 Housing Strategy

Members received reassurance that the housing strategy made the appropriate links to the Supporting People Strategy.

RESOLVED: that an update on the implementation of Supporting People strategy be provided in six months.

OSC-SOC129 Concessionary Travel

Members noted the report and that there were consistently around 4,000 live users of the bus pass. It would appear that approximately 2,000 people used their vouchers for rail travel. Members continued to feel that a broad a choice as possible should be offered subject to resources and

RESOLVED: that the concessionary travel scheme continue to be supported and that a report be sent to the Executive recommending a one-year trial of a railcard, subject to the underspend continuing and to a similar regional grant settlement being received for 2007-08.

OSC-SOC130 Mental Health Consultation

During discussion at their meeting yesterday, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Social Well-being wanted the following views to be known and considered in formulating any Council response:

- The administration is not as important as service delivery and Members wished to express concern as to whether the recent changes were delivering an effective local service.
- The name, they felt, was unimportant.
- They wanted to know why learning disability services in South Cumbria were not being transferred (page 6).
- They wanted to see Membership based on 'need' and not on size of population.
- They are supportive of staff membership.
- They wanted further information about how 5,000 members were going to be attracted – they felt that some of the documentation was unclear that members do not have to be service users.

- They felt that as LSPs were supposed to make sure that local targets were delivered that there should be LSP representation. They also wanted to make sure that a new trust would apply the same commitment to existing strategies, such as the Cumbria-wide housing and supporting people strategies.
- They felt that not only was the thinking correct to lower the age limit to 14, but that there should be a 'special place' available for 'youth' representation and wanted further information as to how young people will be attracted.
- They felt that the Governors' Council was far too large for effective decision-making and governance – it was felt that smaller area-based groups should feed into a smaller central body.

OSC-SOC131 Forward Plan

The forward plan of key decisions to be taken by the Executive was received and noted.

OSC-SOC132 Work Plan

The joint work plan of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was submitted and noted.

The meeting closed at 4.30 pm

Chair.....

Date.....