

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 AUGUST 2007**

Present: Councillors M McVeigh (Chairman); R Cole; Mrs A Faichney; G Garrity; A Jacob; J Kane; A Mossop; J Park; P Tyson; C Whiteside; D Wilson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Y R T Clarkson and D Banks.

Officers: N White, Scrutiny Support Officer, C Nicholson, Accountancy Services Manager; L Hannah, Technical Support Officer; J Walker, Project Officer (Cleaner Safer Greener South Whitehaven).

**CYPHC 05/07 Concessionary Fares**

The Committee considered a report on the council's concessionary travel scheme.

The Committee considered the recommendations in the report in detail. It noted that the council had two local discretionary schemes and the take up of those schemes so far during the year.

The Committee agreed that these schemes provided a useful alternative to the statutory bus pass option particularly in those areas of the borough where there was a limited local bus service. However it was unclear at this stage how far the changes to the national bus pass scheme would have on these local schemes or the level of funding that the Council might receive from the government for the national scheme.

In light of this the Committee agreed that subject to monitoring and budgetary constraints the local discretionary concessionary fares schemes be extended for the 2008/2009 financial year.

The Committee considered that as the bus passes would be eligible for off peak travel whether there was a peak time operating in Copeland. Officers agreed to take this matter back to the County Group who were looking at the scheme across Cumbria and come back to the Committee with the group's view.

The Committee further considered that, as more information on the funding of the national scheme was expected shortly, a report be submitted to its next meeting on this. An update on the usage of the concessionary travel scheme would also be useful as part of that report.

**RECOMMENDED** – that (A) the information on the new national free off-peak local bus travel scheme detailed in the report be noted, and

(B) subject to monitoring and budgetary constraints the council's local discretionary concessionary fares schemes be extended for the 2008/2009 financial year.

**CYPHC 06/07 Mental Health**

The Committee were reminded that it had requested that a scoping exercise into the decision to close mental health wards in Whitehaven by the North Cumbria NHS Trust.

The Committee noted that Cumbria County Council had advised that its Health and Well-being Scrutiny Committee had been consulted on the NHS strategy for changes to mental health services in late 2003, and asked for some modifications to the original proposals which were agreed to. Since then that Committee has been regularly monitoring implementation. This has included the NHS Trust responsible for the services (now called the Partnership Trust) reporting to the Committee at 6-monthly intervals

The changes to mental health wards in West Cumbria have been discussed with the Committee in advance of the changes taking place, and (at least to date) the Committee has supported the changes being made. There have however been concerns brought to the Committee's attention over how the changes are being implemented, including concerns about staffing shortages due to vacancies.

Because of these concerns, in January 2007 two members of the Committee visited Yewdale Ward and met nursing staff, and were generally happy with what they saw. One of them was Anne Bradshaw, Copeland's representative on the Committee.

At the Committee meeting in April, the Patient and Public Involvement Forum for mental health brought to the Committee a letter expressing further concerns about Yewdale Ward. In the light of this, the Cumbria Primary Care Trust was working with the Partnership Trust on a written response to the points raised, and there would be a special meeting the Health and Well-being Scrutiny Committee on this issue.

The Committee considered that as this issue was receiving considerable scrutiny from the County Council over some time it would seem unnecessary to duplicate this scrutiny.

It agreed that Copeland Councillors attend the County Council's Special meeting on this matter and the Chairman of that Committee be asked if it would be permissible to ask questions.

The Committee agreed that Councillors Mrs Y R T Clarkson, Mrs A Faichney and C Whiteside as well as the Council's representative Councillor G Garrity attend the Cumbria County Council's special meeting on Mental Health Services.

**RESOLVED** – that Councillors Mrs Y R T Clarkson, Mrs A Faichney and C Whiteside as well as the Council's representative Councillor G Garrity attend the Cumbria County Council's special meeting on Mental Health Services.

**CYPHC 07/07 Work Plan**

The Committee considered its current work plan.

The Committee felt that the work done by Cumbria's Constabulary Community Police Support Officers in Copeland should be given a higher profile.

**RESOLVED** – that Gary Armstrong, Cumbria Constabulary Community Police Support Officer be invited to give a presentation to the next meeting of the Committee on the work of the Community Support Officers.

The Meeting Closed at 11:15 am

Signed:.....

Date:.....