

Community Services Committee – 2 November 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the **Community Services Committee** held on **2 November 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr R A Amner (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs L Hungate (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr T G Cutmore

Cllr K A Gibbs

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr Mrs J R Lumley

Cllr G A Mockford

Cllr J M Pullen

Cllr S P Smith

Cllr J Thomass

Cllr Mrs M J Webster

Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	- Chief Executive
S Clarkson	- Head of Revenue and Housing Management
G Woolhouse	- Head of Housing, Health and Community Care
S Garland	- Community Safety Officer
M Martin	- Committee Administrator

ALSO ATTENDING

G Court	- Clinical Network Development Manager, Essex SHA
A Lipscomb	- Consultant Paediatrician, Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust

Note: Cllr T G Cutmore had replaced Cllr T G Goodwin as a Member of this Committee.

465 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

466 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins declared a personal interest in item 12 by virtue of being a Member of Great Wakering Parish Council.

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest in item 12 by virtue of being Rochford Parish Council's representative on the Rochford Crime and Disorder Partnership Group.

Cllr Mrs J R Lumley declared a personal interest in item 9 by virtue of being employed by Anglia Polytechnic University.

467 NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE – CONSULTATION

The Chairman welcomed Mr Court and Dr Lipscomb to the meeting. The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care in conjunction with the presentation provided by the representatives from the Strategic Health Authority and the NHS Trust.

Members noted that:-

- No facilities in Essex are currently equipped and staffed to meet the Level 3 standards.
- Essex needs to develop neonatal care to the new improved national standard, which will result in better facilities, more staff and more specialist training.
- Currently Essex relies on hospitals at Great Ormond Street, London and Addenbrooks, Cambridge.
- An expert panel has examined the options for Essex and recommended that the best proposal for an Essex Level 3 centre would be one based at Broomfield Hospital in Chelmsford.
- This would enable the safe transfer of babies and their mothers from the other four hospitals.
- All hospitals in the network would work as one team providing total care for each baby.
- Each local hospital in Essex would be a Level 2 Unit linked to the Level 3 Centre at Broomfield, and would continue to provide high dependency care and short-term intensive care.
- Babies would return to their local hospital after a period of intensive care.
- Women and babies who live near the county's borders would continue to be able to choose Level 3 centres in London and Cambridge.

In response to Member concerns, the following was noted:-

- There would no removal of funds from any of the 4 spoke hospitals for this initiative.
- Despite the fact that it was not anticipated that the new Level 3 centre would be operational until 2009, it was considered that it would be adequate to meet projected requirements.
- The long lead in time would allow for the recruitment and training of nurses with specific neo natal experience.
- Nurses would not be taken from the spoke hospitals. The Strategic Health Authority would work closely with Essex University and the Anglia Polytechnic University for appropriate training.
- There would be 10 cots provided at Broomfield and 1 at each of the other 4 hospitals.
- Babies would only be transferred to the Level 3 hospital once they had been stabilised at the spoke hospital.
- Teaching facilities would be maintained at the spoke hospitals.

- Close liaison with Addenbrooks Hospital, which provides an acute neonatal service, would enable lessons to be learned.

Resolved

That Member comments on the proposals for a new Neonatal Intensive Care Service be forwarded to Essex Strategic Health Authority. (HHHCC)

468 THAMES GATEWAY SOUTH ESSEX (TGSE) HOUSING STRATEGY

The Committee received the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care, which invited Members to consider the draft TGSE housing strategy, proposed priorities and action plan, but requested that it be deferred to the next meeting of this Committee on 1 December 2004, in order that Members might receive an individual copy of the draft strategy.

The Head of Service confirmed that this would still allow sufficient time to respond to the consultation. The draft of the Regional Housing Strategy was also scheduled to become available during December and would be forwarded to Members as soon as it became available.

Resolved

That consideration of this item is deferred to the next meeting of this Committee to be held on 1 December 2004. (HHHCC)

469 PETS IN SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION

The Committee received the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management, which advised Members of the progress made towards allowing tenants in sheltered accommodation to keep companion animals.

The results of the tenant survey, which had been carried out at the request of the Animal Welfare Charter Sub-Committee, were noted but Members of the Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item to the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee once it had considered the Animal Welfare Charter, prior to its consideration by Full Council.

Cllr Mrs M J Webster requested that Members be supplied with the following additional information relating to the survey:-

- Name of the sheltered accommodation unit
- Number of residents
- Number of residents with dementia
- Number of forms distributed
- Number of forms returned
- Number of pets in sheltered units
- Number of residents who had to get rid of pets before taking up residence
- Number and details of wardens with pets.

In response to a question, Members noted that:-

- There are 12 schemes
- 13 wardens
- 1 warden supervisor
- 4 wardens with a dog
- 2 schemes with rabbits
- 2 schemes with tortoises.

However, it was noted that the survey had related specifically to companion animals such as cats or dogs rather than caged birds or fish.

Resolved

That this item be considered by the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee once it has met to consider the Animal Welfare Charter. (HRHM)

470 CRIMINAL DAMAGE

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive which updated Members on criminal damage relating to Council property over the past year.

Members noted:-

- the increase in the number of incidents comparable to the previous year.
- the increase in the cost of incidents at the Council's leisure buildings
- the case load of the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator was already growing steadily, working in tandem with the local Police. Already, the first Anti-Social Behaviour contract was in place.

Members noted that a report would be going to the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee in due course providing an evaluation of the success of the Dispersal order initiative. The Chief Executive advised that the Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator would be invited to attend at the same time to speak to Members about his role and work carried out to date. Members were keen to learn more of the work carried out at Great Wakering Sports Centre and requested that the Centre Manager be invited to the same Overview & Scrutiny meeting.

Members were of the opinion that the future focus in respect of criminal damage should be on prevention rather than cure, particularly around those annual events, such as Halloween, which in recent years had attracted such incidents. Members were pleased to note that the Police had been liaising with shop owners this year in the lead up to Halloween and also noted that increasing the hours of the Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator would help provide a further resource to help ensure a more co-ordinated approach to be taken next year. It was acknowledged that the issue of criminal damage and associated nuisance should be picked up in the new Crime and Disorder

Reduction Strategy currently being drafted. A major improvement would be to encourage more people to report acts of criminal damage. Publicity should be given to this and the work of the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator via Rochford District Matters.

A Member congratulated the Council's Community Safety officers in particular on their response recently to a local resident.

Resolved

- (1) That the Rochford Crime and Disorder Partnership be requested to focus specifically on Criminal Damage (including initiatives around such periods as Halloween) as one of the key topic areas in the production of the 2005-2008 Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and Action Plan.
- (2) That a request be made to the Home Office for the allocation of £5,000 from their Anti Social Behaviour budget for the further funding of the "Hyper" project at Great Wakering Sports Centre.
- (3) That a request be made to the Home Office for funding under their Anti Social Behaviour budget to extend the Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator's post over the remainder of the two year contract from 22.5 hours per week to 37 hours per week. (CE)

471 TOWER CARAVAN PARK: REQUEST FOR ALTERATION OF SITE LICENCE CONDITIONS

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which related to an alteration of site licence conditions.

Resolved

That the proposed alteration to the site licence condition be approved, subject to the caravan mentioned in paragraph 3.2 of the report being moved as far as is practicable when it is sold. (HHHCC)

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chairman

Date