

## ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES REVIEW PANEL

Meeting held on Wednesday 25 January 2012 at 5.30 pm

### MINUTES – PART A

**Present:** Councillors Margaret Mead (Chair), Donald Speakman, Councillor Lynne Hale, Pat Clouder

**Officers:** Hannah Miller, David Vowles, Kay Murray, Trevor Moses

**Apologies:** Jane Avis

#### **A01/12 MINUTES** (Agenda item 1)

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Adult Social Services Review Panel's meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011 be signed as a correct record.

**A02/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** (Agenda item 3)  
Councillor Clouder declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 as she has an interest with CAFCO  
Councillor Hale declared a personal interest in respect of one of the homes in Part B as she had been in correspondence with the liquidator. (PWC)

**A03/12 URGENT BUSINESS** (Agenda item 4)  
None

**A04/12 EXEMPT ITEMS** (Agenda item 5)  
The allocation of items between Part A and Part B of the Agenda was confirmed and the care Homes within Serious concern was to be taken as Part B.

The Chair welcomed and introduced Kay Murray, Head of professional Standards to the Panel.

#### **A05/12 CARERS STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION** (Agenda item 6)

The carers strategy of 2008-11 is being updated with the 2011-16 aligned with the Coalition Government's 2011 refresh of the National Carers Strategy. This is in place to recognize the value of preventative services which save the Council/health services from increased expenditure in the long term on the person carer and the carer.

The strategy has been developed jointly by DASHH, CFL and the NHS which includes all the relevant client groups. It has been circulated for consultation to a wide variety of stakeholders. The comments received from the stakeholders have been incorporated into the strategy.

Officers advised the panel that a bidding process is under way and there have been 2 sessions where meetings have been held to explain the process. .

There were concerns that small organisations were losing out as they were expert in their core functions but not expert in compiling bids. The panel discussed a suggestion that small organisations could join and work with each other to bid as a consortium.

A number of other concerns were expressed: that groups would have difficulty identifying who had personal budgets to market to and that stopping grants before awarding Contracts was causing financial difficulty.

Officers explained that even handed guidance was being given to all groups although officers are aware of small groups still needing guidance on how to submit applications. However all carer's groups were pleased with the approach. In trying to assist groups to be more commercial there was a three year transition period to allow groups to be more commercial. Grants were being rolled over into the New Year until contract awards were made by committee in April. The contracts are expected to start in August.

Councillor Speakman had concerns in regards to young carers not receiving enough education due to their caring responsibility and lack of childhood- he posed the question "If you knew of an 11 year old looking after a mother, what would you do?" Officers explained to the panel that the Council would work together with the family to ensure the child is receiving help with their carer's responsibility and the young carer is not falling behind with their education.

There are schemes in place already to help young carers take a break from being a carer; having another carer come in to take over while the child can go out with their friends.

Councillor Speakman also expressed concerns at the number of young carers in Croydon (555 child carers in Croydon aged between 5-14yrs). The officers explained to the panel that of the 555 young carers in Croydon, there is a broad spectrum ranging from providing prescriptions to a full time carer; the Council work with the families to do everything they can to support the young carers.

Councillor Clouder asked in reference to page 8 ( and the 20,000 extra breaks) who would fund the breaks? Officers replied that this would be through personal budgets. "Breaks" can sometimes mean 1 hour not 2 weeks away. Some voluntary groups can provide this. They also offer traditional breaks. Half of all carers are now on personal budgets. Surveys were being conducted.

The Panel was asked whether the commissioning process would bring forward the right people into the market. It was stated that we were looking at the Croydon market only. We were encouraging groups to be more commercial and to perform dual roles, in other words providing support to the carers as well as the cared for.

The chair asked if the latest version of the strategy action plan could be sent to the Members of the panel when it becomes available.

The Chair informed the panel that the Community Support Team open Day on 28 November 2011 was a success and had received positive feedback from those who attended.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**A06/12**

**Dignity in care campaign** (Agenda item 7)

The report explained the importance of the Dignity in Care Campaign. This is a campaign aimed at improving the culture and quality of care services in order to ensure people are treated with respect and dignity at all times. The report explained what is being done to improve this campaign.

The Chair informed the panel of the dignity in care website and where one could sign up to become a Dignity Champion. ([www.dignityincare.org.uk](http://www.dignityincare.org.uk))

There is an error of figures in 3.9, page 3 of the report. The correct number of Dignity in Care champions in Croydon Council is 161.

The Officers discussed with the panel possible ideas in attracting people to sign up as dignity Champions. There was a discussion about whether officers should be available to sign members up as dignity champions at the forth coming full Council Meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**A07/12**

**FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME** (Agenda item 8)

The Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny discussed with the panel the future reports for the next two Adult Social services review Panel

**RESOLVED:** that the report be agreed. And that the following reports will be coming to the panel for the next 2 meetings:

**18<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

Dignity Update report  
Domiciliary Care  
Homes Causing Serious Concerns Part B  
Work Programme

**17<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

Complaints Report  
Homes Causing Serious Concerns Part B  
Work Programme

**A08/12 PROPOSED DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS** (Agenda item 9)

- Wednesday 18 April 2012 at 5pm
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at 5.00pm

**A09/12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair thanked David Vowles for all his hard work and his contribution towards the panel and wished him well for the future.

***SUMMARY of proceedings of exempt part B proceedings***

*(Section 100C(2) LGA 1972 requires a summary to be provided without disclosing the exempt information where in consequence of exclusion of parts of the minutes which display exempt information the minutes of the meeting would not be intelligible as a record*

***Report B2/12***

*The report contained details of three Care Homes causing serious concerns. Each home was discussed in turn identifying why it was causing serious concern and after each discussion the Councils actions on each Home was noted.*

**A10/12 CAMERA RESOLUTION** (Agenda item 10)

**RESOLVED:** that the Press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or proceedings to be conducted, that there will be disclosure of confidential or exempt information falling within paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

