



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>ADULT SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH &amp; HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL</b>
Date and time	<b>WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2010 AT 6.00PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT</b>
Present	Cllrs Margaret Webster (Chairman), Ivan Bulwer, John Hobart, Ian Stephens
Present (non-voting)	Paddy Noctor (non-voting)
Officers Present	Ian Anderson, Jon Baker, Kim Ball, Mark Howell, Marian Jones, Vicky Jones, Chris Mathews, Suzanne Wixey
Stakeholders	Dr Jennifer Smith
Cabinet Members	Cllr Roger Mazillius
Apologies	None

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9. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meetings held on [15 July 2010](#) be agreed.

10. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Cllr Bulwer declared a personal interest in item 7 as he was Chairman for the Executive Committee for two Abbeyfield Residential Homes in Ryde.

Cllr Hobart declared a personal interest in item 8 as he was once a Board Member for Medina Housing Association.

Cllr Mazillius declared a personal interest in item 7 and 8 as his son was a Director of a company who provided an architectural related service to Medina Housing.

11. [Performance Management](#)

The Panel was presented with a report which set out the council's performance and strategic risks for the first quarter of 2010/11 ending 30 June 2010 within the Panel's remit.

Members were advised that the “Your Care Pathway” was introduced in February 2010. This provided information, support and advice around the personalisation agenda and personal budgets, as well as offering help with planning support. The pilot was proving successful both in terms of enabling more people to receive personal budgets as well as providing capacity for care management staff.

With regard to Plan My Care, the Panel was advised that it was a tailor-made internet-based tool which consisted of two elements; one being a support planning tool which would help people to prepare their support plans and a community site which would provide a platform for users and carers to find the care and support they required. The pilot for the initiative would launch in October 2010 and would provide people with a greater level of independence when preparing their support. The development phase for the project would be cost neutral to the council and the second phase would come from the Transforming Social Care Reform grant.

A User Led Organisation (ULO) was being set up on the Island as part of the personalisation approach to be run by and for the people of the Island who were directly affected by disability and/or age.

On the area of the National Indicator (NI) 130 (Social Care clients receiving self directed support), the Panel was advised that continued progress was being made and a figure of 13.2% had been achieved. The introduction of new initiatives during October 2010 should ensure that the NI130 target of 30% would be met by the end of March 2011. There was confidence that sufficient funds were in place to achieve the target. The Panel was further advised that approximately 300 individuals had personal budgets established. Members were also advised that the Government’s ultimate target from 2012 would be 100%. An awareness raising DVD had been produced and been widely distributed to providers, staff and service users, and copies could also be made available for members.

Members were advised that following evaluation it was decided not to progress further with the FACE Resource Allocation System and to continue the use and development of the In Control Resource Allocation System.

The Panel was also advised that the Working Together for Change project was reaching its conclusion which enabled local providers to develop services in a more flexible way in line with the personalisation agenda.

It was noted that the 13.32% performance level for NI 146 (Percentage Of Adults with Learning Disabilities in Employment) was disappointing but the Island’s higher rate of overall unemployment needed to be recognised as a contributory factor.

With regard to Supporting People, the reassessment process of support needs for clients in sheltered services had gone well and those in most need would benefit.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Performance Management Report be noted.

12. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan for the period October 2010 to January 2011 was reviewed and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Housing provided an update on the Local

Investment Plan (LIP) - (Homes and Communities Agency) which had been approved at the meeting of the Cabinet on 12 October 2010.

The Panel was advised that the LIP was received by a peer review team who had praised its concise and coherent style and the clear prioritisation of needs.

The LIP was an essential element of attracting funding to the Island in order to enable the delivery of a continuous plan of providing affordable housing in the ensuing years. The needs of working Islanders in lower paid professions would be addressed who, whilst contributing positively to the Island's economy, were unable to qualify for a full mortgage.

There would also be substantial investment in employment for the Island over the coming years in relation to the Pan Meadows development, as well as sites at East Cowes, Worsley Road, Newport and Asheys in Ryde. Pan alone had resulted in 65 specific new posts, including 10 apprenticeships. It was anticipated that the first homes would be ready for residents to move into by March 2011.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Forward Plan be noted.

13. **Public Health Annual Report 2010**

Dr Jennifer Smith, Director of Public Health, presented a report which concentrated on Working Towards a Smoke Free Island, issues on Ageing Well, Change 4 Life (Eat well, move more, live longer) and progress made against recommendations of the 2009 annual report.

The Panel was advised that smoking remained the single most significant preventable contributor to ill health and an Island approach to reducing access to tobacco was required.

On the Island alone, 700 young people a year become long term smokers with a total of 15,000 current smokers, although modelled estimates suggested 20,000 – 28,000. 270 people a year died from smoking related illness and 300 babies a year were born to mothers who smoked.

Recommendations on the issues of smoking which were being put forward were as follows:

- The Island Strategic Partnership to commit to reducing smoking prevalence amongst Island residents by 1% per year from 2010 to 2015
- All contributors to the tobacco control programme to establish appropriate targets against which to monitor and evaluate performance.
- Isle of Wight NHS to redouble their efforts to maintain St Mary's Hospital as a smoke free site
- The Children's Trust to develop a programme of activity to promote and develop smoke free environments for children

With regard to Ageing Well, it was noted that out of a population of 140,000, the Island had 32,000 people of 65 years of age and over and 5,000 people aged 85 and over.

Recommendations on the issues of Ageing Well which were being put forward were as follows:

- To develop a campaign to raise awareness of depression specific to the over 65 population;
- Maximise health promotion opportunities for individuals to stay healthy and well into their old age;
- Public Health will carry out a falls needs assessment, which will be fed into the Falls & Osteoporosis Multi-Agency Strategy Group;
- Promote uptake of bowel cancer and aortic aneurysm screening;
- Improve uptake of seasonal flu and pneumococcal vaccination by improving access and targeting activity at areas where performance has declined.
- Promote opportunities for older people to remain economically active if that is their choice.

The Panel was then advised that with regard to Change for Life 26,000 adults were obese and 43,000 overweight and that the promotion of eating better and exercising more was a major priority.

Recommendations on the issues of Change for Life which were being put forward were as follows:

- Identify a senior level individual with influence across the public, private and voluntary sectors to oversee the development and implementation of a multi agency strategy to tackle obesity in adults and children living on the Island.
- Development and implement an NHS Obesity Commissioning Strategy
- Ensure a 'legacy' from the 2011 Island games and the London 2012 Olympics is increased physical activity across the Island

Panel members were of the opinion that in order to prevent people from smoking in the first place, the correlation between smoking and drinking should be identified at the earliest possibility and young people should be continually made aware of the dangers. The Panel was advised that there were continuing efforts by the IWNHS PCT to go into schools and make pupils aware of the dangers.

The Panel was of the view that the 1% smoking reduction target was too low and that a more ambitious target should be in place.

Members were advised that flu vaccinations were being carried out via GP surgeries as well as community pharmacies.

RESOLVED:

- i. THAT the presentation on the Public Health Annual Report 2010 be noted.
- ii. THAT the Island Strategic Partnership be recommended to review the 1% smoking reduction target and replace it with a more ambitious target.

14. [Budget 2010/11 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/14](#)

The Strategic Director for Community Services provided members with a presentation on the Budget Position for 2010/11 on the areas within the remit of the Panel.

It was noted that, whilst there was a move in the right direction, the end of the year would not see the deficit eliminated, only slightly reduced. Failure to act would see a year on year spend increase of 4% plus based on the Island's demographic alone.

On the non-achievement of savings of c.£2.1m, the Strategic Director advised that the next budget setting would look to address this.

With regard to Westminster House, the Head of Adult Social Care advised that the projected cost as a result of the proposed changes would be approximately £850 per week as opposed to the current cost of approximately £1,100 per week.

The Panel was also provided with an update on the 90 day consultation process with regard to the transfer of the day care services provided at Westminster House to the Gouldings and the Adelaide, the review of the Charging Policy and the proposals to raise the eligibility threshold to "Critical".

It was noted that those affected by the proposed changes would be able to provide views and participate in more in-depth discussions as well as involving relatives and carers. Consultation would include the use of "Plain English" and easy read questionnaires as well as on line facilities. The local press, libraries and "One Island" magazine would also be utilised in the process.

Online questionnaires would be monitored by means of specialised software which would be able to identify trends and people would also be able to contribute anonymously.

The final outcomes would be presented to the Adult Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Panel on 1 February 2011 prior to the presentation of the Budget Proposals to the Cabinet on 8 February 2011.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the presentation on the Budget 2010/11 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/14 be noted.

15. **Homelessness**

The Panel was provided with a presentation from the Deputy Director of Community Services, Housing and Community Support on a review of the Island's Homelessness position.

In April 2010 the Island HomeFinder system went live and 5,353 applicants were invited to apply to the new scheme, with 3,022 applications received by 4 May 2010.

On 28 April 2010 Choice Based Lettings went live with the first properties being advertised. To date there had been 22 bidding cycles and 172 properties had been advertised publicly. Out of the 172 properties, 21 had been direct matched (i.e. for management transfers etc). It was noted that active applications had reached nearly 4,000.

Of the total number of tenancies which had commenced, 48.4% was provided by Medina Housing, 45.3% with South Wight Housing and 6% were with Vectis housing, providing a total of 159 tenancies.

With regard to the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, the Panel was advised that 15 applications had been received and out of those, one did not meet the criteria, two were withdrawn before referral, three cases were ongoing and nine had been referred to Swaythling Housing Society. Of the referrals, three had been completed, two were awaiting a decision and four were not considered to be financially viable.

The Deputy Director also advised members that the Partnership with the Private Sector: Find a Home scheme had 45 signed up and tenanted out of the initial 226 offered. Of those not accepted, four were let via qualifying offers, four were let via a rent deposit scheme and the remainder were let privately.

The levels of Homelessness were analysed and an increase had been recorded in the 2010/11 applications for the first two quarters, although the levels of acceptances had also increased compared to the corresponding two quarters in 2009/10. The main reasons for homelessness, family evictions (when a member of a family is forced out of the home), being served notice and relationship breakdown had been the same as in previous years. With regard to family evictions, the local authority worked with the Citizens Advice Bureau in order to keep as many families together and help reduce the numbers looking for homes.

It was noted that with an average cost to the council of £24,000 per year being allocated to a family of four in a Bed and Breakfast (B & B), the need to closely monitor the homelessness situation and its application system was imperative. Preventive measures would continue, including engaging with existing and new landlords.

With regard to Temporary Accommodation, the target for April 2010 of 175 had been reached in April 2009. The lowest figure of 111 was recorded in November 2009, although figures in October 2010 had risen to 138.

Members were also informed that the over 60s housing needs would be met and the Pan Meadows site would include houses built with specific needs addressed. The issue of houses being under occupied would also be closely monitored and single people or couples living in larger homes would be encouraged to move to smaller accommodation.

The Panel highlighted the Salvation Army hostel in Ryde which helped to address homelessness issues.

Whilst the Panel was provided with a breakdown of applicants by age and gender, it was agreed that a breakdown of gender age could also be provided to members following the meeting. The Deputy Director also agreed to provide data for the average time people being spent in Bed and Breakfast.

RESOLVED:

THAT the presentation on Homelessness be noted.

CHAIRMAN