

# Item 7

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

Conference Room 1,  
Council Offices,  
Spennymoor

Tuesday,  
25 October 2005

Time: 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillor J.E. Higgin (Chairman) and

Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. J. Croft, M.A. Dalton,  
Mrs. L. Hovvels, R.A. Patchett, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, T. Ward and  
J. Wayman J.P.

### **Tenant Representatives**

A. McGreggor and Mrs. M. Thomson

### **In**

**Attendance:** Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, Mrs. K. Conroy, V. Crosby, A. Gray,  
Mrs. J. Gray, B. Hall, J.G. Huntington, B. Meek, G. Morgan and  
Mrs. I. Jackson Smith

**Apologies:** Councillors J. Burton, T.F. Forrest, G.M.R. Howe, Ms. M. Predki and  
G.W. Scott

### **OSC(2).14/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members had no interests to declare.

### **OSC(2).15/05 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2005 were confirmed  
as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **OSC(2).16/05 INVESTING IN MODERN SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

D. Scarr, Head of Community Services, attended the meeting to give a  
presentation on Durham County Council's proposals for Phase 2 of  
Investing in Modern Services for Older People. (For copy see file of  
Minutes).

The Head of Community Services reminded Members of the process of  
Phase 1, detailing its outcomes, the proposed plans for Phase 2 and the  
general comments that had been received upon the completion of Phase 1.

The Committee was informed that Consultants, Peter Fletcher Association  
and CURS, University of Birmingham, had been employed by Durham  
County Council to review Phase 1 implementation and to suggest options  
for Phase 2 within the wider context of modernising services for older  
people. Details were shown regarding the policy context, the requirements  
of users, the demographics, current supply and their recommendations.

The options to be considered by Durham County Council and issues that faced Sedgefield Borough Council were also detailed in the presentation.

Members expressed support for the need for all Local Authorities to work together in identifying the needs and choices for older people in planning and delivering accommodation and support services.

It was noted that the majority of older people and those who would require services in the future had expressed a clear preference for support in their own homes. Residential care was identified as the least attractive option. It was believed that Extra Care Housing was making a positive contribution to the delivery of services, however, it was felt that more work was needed on establishing the most appropriate model and in developing options, which included Local Authority Sheltered Housing.

Members commented on the cost of equipping homes with adaptations and the length of time it took for the work to be undertaken. The Head of Community Services explained that the commitment of the Council to supporting people in their own homes would be conveyed in the recommendations submitted at the end of the consultation period, together with the recommendation that resources needed to be focused on front line services.

It was agreed that all Member's comments would be taken back and incorporated into the overall response at Sedgefield Borough Council.

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. *That the recommendations outlined in the Peter Fletcher Report 2005, as follows, be supported: -*
    - a) *Develop a Joint Strategy and Commissioning Plan for Older People with a shared vision and direction.*
    - b) *Extend partnership and engagement structures with older people.*
    - c) *Older persons Modernisation Group to lead on the development of the Joint Strategy.*
    - d) *Partnership Boards to take forward the implementation at local level.*
    - e) *Districts to develop Accommodation Strategies for Older People to underpin the Joint Strategy.*
    - f) *Set up a Project Team to implement Phase 2 including District and PCT representation.*
    - g) *Reinvest savings.*
    - h) *Develop front line service roles.*
  2. *That the need to develop Mixed Communities and Sheltered Housing Options within future Extra Care Models be highlighted.*

**OSC(2).17/05 SEDGEBFIELD PRIMARY CARE TRUST - DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2004/05**

Dr. A. Learmouth, Director of Public Health and Health Improvement, attended the meeting to inform Members of the content of the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2004/05, "Health and Wellbeing of People in Sedgfield". (For copy see file of Minutes).

The presentation detailed the structure of the report, the 27 priorities for action, with specific reference made to the four main aims, which had been identified nationally: -

- Tobacco control
- Education
- Coronary heart disease and cancer
- Local area based needs assessment and engagement

It also detailed the inequalities in health throughout the Borough, which considered all aspects of peoples lives, making specific reference to the 'rainbow of health,' the agencies who had contributed to the completion of the report, ward based statistics, the super output areas and the priorities for action.

Members raised concerns regarding the lack of information available for preventative health measures, specifically for long-term health problems. The Director of Public Health and Health Improvement explained that procedures within all practices were reviewed regularly, however, it was pointed out that she would discuss specific concerns with those responsible.

Detailed consideration was given to the support needed for Community Development, specifically with regard to children's attainment, education and health development.

Members finally expressed their concern regarding the current transportation service available to patients.

*AGREED: That the Committee reviews the progress of the four main aims identified within the report and receive a further report at a future meeting.*

**OSC(2).18/05 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2005 were noted. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**OSC(2).19/05 WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman of the Committee setting out the Committee's work programme for consideration and review. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members were informed that the Reviews of The Review of Cultural Facilities Within the Borough and The Value of Tourism had been completed and would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

Members requested that the topic of Aids and Adaptations be placed on the Work Programme for consideration.

- AGREED:**
- 1. That an item relating to Aids and Adaptations be included on the Committee's Work Programme.*
  - 2. That the Committee's Work Programme as outlined in the report be approved.*

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**ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Mrs. S. Billingham, Spennymoor 816166, Ext 4240, [sbillingham@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:sbillingham@sedgefield.gov.uk)