

AT A MEETING of the SAFE AND HEALTHY PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Friday, 25 June 2010.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Pat West

Vice-Chairman
p Councillor Roger Kimber

Councillors:

p Ann Buckley	p Mark Kemp-Gee
a Brian Collin	p Anna McNair Scott
p Alan Dowden	p Pam Mutton
p Liz Fairhurst	p Eric Neal
p Jane Frankum	p Jackie Porter
p Andrew Joy	

Apologies were received from Councillor Felicity Hindson, MBE, Executive Member for Adult Social Care, and Councillor Brian Collin.

32. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally at the time of the debate declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code.

Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in Item 4, as he is a Trustee of Age Concern Hampshire.

Councillor Pat West declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in Item 4, as she is a Trustee of Age Concern Hampshire.

Councillor Ann Buckley declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in Item 5, as she is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing.

33. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee held on 30 April 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

a. Annual Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Meeting

The annual meeting of Crime & Disorder Scrutiny will now take place as a separate event later in the year.

b. New Coalition Government

Since the Committee last met in April, a new coalition government has taken office, bringing with it new policies and approaches to tackling the national debt. Hampshire County Council have already been informed of a £13.9 million reduction to its grants, the majority of which will affect both Children's Services and the Environment Department. The Chairman expressed the wish that the Committee are kept aware of any announcements centrally that may affect departments scrutinised by the Committee, and partner organisations worked with.

35. **FUEL POVERTY IN HAMPSHIRE**

The Committee received separate presentations from Sam Agnew, Age Concern Hampshire, and the Director of Adult Services, on Fuel Poverty in Hampshire.

(Take in Report and Presentation)

Members heard:

- That those deemed to be in fuel poverty spend more than 10% of their total income on fuel use in order to heat their home to an adequate level of warmth.
- That Age Concern Hampshire feel they are well placed to help deliver solutions on issues such as fuel poverty, as a trusted organisation representing and hearing the views of older people.
- That a 2009 Department for Energy and Climate Change report found that fuel poverty levels are highest for people aged 60 and over in single occupancy households, with one in five of such households being in fuel poverty.
- That the main factors contributing to fuel poverty include income, fuel bills and energy consumption. Older people may be more vulnerable to fuel poverty because of lower incomes, and higher spend on fuel.
- That a trend noted by Age Concern Hampshire is a lack

The topic of 'Fuel Poverty in Hampshire' is scoped for possible scrutiny review, with the recommendations of any scrutiny work forwarded to the Hampshire Senate.

Any review undertaken on 'Fuel Poverty in Hampshire' would add to, and not duplicate, the work ongoing in this field being undertaken by the Hampshire Senate.

of awareness of what financial help is available to those on low incomes, whether it be in the form of benefits, grants or equipment installation.

- That delays in the processing and issues of grants have been reported to Age Concern Hampshire, particularly the 'warm front' grant for packages of insulation and heating improvements.
- That a further issue often encountered by those contacting Age Concern Hampshire is the cost of fuel within managed housing schemes.
- That the Hampshire Senate has made Fuel Poverty a priority for action, and the topic is listed within the Hampshire Local Area Agreement. The National Indicator target is District Council led, and is currently championed by Dave Yates, Chief Executive of New Forest District Council. An annual survey is sent out by District Councils to residents in receipt of income-related benefit, which asks questions to calculate the Standard Assessment Procedure rating of the property. This questionnaire must receive at least 400 responses per annum.
- That in 2008/09, 10% of respondents were reported as having the lowest rating (under 35) of household energy performance, with 27% having the highest rating (over 65). The 2009/10 draft results show that the lowest rating figures are roughly the same, but the number of households with the highest rating have increased.
- That the Districts work together in partnership through officer networking in order share information on the Local Area Agreement.
- That the 'Safe Warm Secure' project begins in July 2010, and the Area Based Insulation Scheme in April 2011.
- That some people do not take up the offer to have their homes insulated because of perceived disruption to home life, and the need to move storage from areas such as the loft. However, such removal and replacing is undertaken by those who complete the insulation.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That other reasons for fuel poverty include the type of housing tenure, the type of fuel available for use by a household, and the relationship with the landlord, if applicable.
- That affordable fuel provision can be an issue in rural areas, where the choice of heat and energy supplies and sources can be less varied than in urban areas.
- That schemes are in place in some District Council areas in Hampshire for measuring heat emissions from individual households. This could be helpful in pinpointing fuel poverty, especially those households in areas which may not be classed as socially deprived. The success of these schemes needs to be measured.
- That the transfer of issuing bus concessionary fares

from Districts to the County Council may provide an opportunity for speaking to older people about fuel poverty. Also the trigger tool should be used for highlighting fuel poverty in vulnerable people's homes.

- That controlling heat within a house may also be an issue, with some older people reportedly reluctant to phone helplines for assistance in understanding their boiler or heating system.
- That mobile homes are not included as a type of dwelling in the District Council household energy survey.
- That current winter fuel schemes do not use natural energy sources, but their use is a possibility for the future.
- That a variety of information methods have been used previously to reach vulnerable people, in order to inform them of help available. New methods are now being used, with the trigger tool, neighbourhood watch and others being used to highlight households that show signs of fuel poverty.
- That the Environment Centre can provide information for anyone wishing to make their home more energy efficient.
- That grants do not extend to installing energy efficient windows.
- That some boiler scrappage schemes have now ended.
- That further investigation into how to help those in private landlord properties suffering from fuel poverty needs to take place.
- That it is not yet known whether the Home Improvement Agency will be protected from spending cuts.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (a) The topic of 'Fuel Poverty in Hampshire' is scoped for possible scrutiny review, with the recommendations of any scrutiny work forwarded to the Hampshire Senate.
- (b) Any review undertaken on 'Fuel Poverty in Hampshire' would add to, and not duplicate, the work ongoing in this field being undertaken by the Hampshire Senate.

36. **EXTRA CARE HOUSING**

The Committee received a report and presentation from the Director of Adult Services.

(Take in Report and Presentation)

Members heard:

That the Safe & Healthy People Select Committee visits a new-build extra care facility.

- That the original five year programme for extra care facilities was for 400 extra units, through new build and enhanced schemes.
- That the addition of the Byways scheme in Odiham has increased the total number of units.
- That all new units are either one or two bedroomed, and all enhanced units one bedroomed.
- That extra care facilities care for those from low to high care needs.
- That all new build extra care facilities have shared residential areas, such as dining areas, activity rooms, guest apartments, pamper suites etc.
- That security is a priority, and all residents have passes to reach private areas.
- That local community groups and voluntary organisations, and those providing activity classes for residents, will be given the opportunity to use meeting rooms within extra care facilities.
- That the new extra care facility in Basingstoke will have a day care centre attached, which replaces the Newman Bassett centre elsewhere in the city.
- That currently joint tendering processes are underway for the contract to run the facilities.
- That capital funding provided by Hampshire County Council has levered external funding for the scheme.
- That next steps include working with General Practitioners to provide joined-up care, working with District Councils on future planning, and influencing private companies to invest further in extra care.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the funding provide externally includes that from Housing Associations, the Department of Health, District Councils and Housing Agencies.
- That the project is fully-funded and is scheduled to be delivered on time.
- That all new build schemes have guest apartments, enabling those in single-bed rooms to have family to stay.
- That the provision of extra care is more cost efficient than residential care.
- That couples are able to move into extra care facilities – something which isn't possible in residential care.
- That the integration of extra care housing, and the residents within them, into the community, is important to commissioners. Discussions are ongoing with Community Development Workers to ensure this happens.

RESOLVED:

That the Safe & Healthy People Select Committee visits a new-build extra care facility.

37. **TRANSFORMATION OF ADULT SERVICES**

The Committee received presentations on Carers and the Universal Offer from the Director of Adult Services.

(Take in presentations)

Members heard:

- That without the help of informal carers, Adult Services would not be able to provide care to all of those who need it.
- That it is important that carers receive support in their roles, and are helped to maintain their physical, mental and social health.
- That home-based respite is a positive alternative for carers who do not want to use residential care of their cared for person, and is especially valuable for those with dementia or Alzheimer's.
- That the Care Choices website provides universal offer information to anyone accessing it, including what financial help and adult social care they may be able to access.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the website does provide links to voluntary sector partners.
- That the issue reported by carers in relation to response times is being picked up through HantsDirect.
- That the Care Choices website is located at the address <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/carechoice>

38. **AGE PROOFING / ENGAGING WITH OLDER PEOPLE**

The Chairman of the 'Preparing for an Elderly Population' review group presented the Committee with the final version of their 'Age Proofing Mainstream Public Services' and 'Engaging with Older People' scrutiny reviews.

Members heard:

- That during 2008/09 and 2009/10 two reviews were initiated by the Safe and Healthy People Select Committee, both focusing on issues relating to age.
- That this work was prompted by an increasing awareness of the changing age demographic of the population in Hampshire, and a national report by the Audit Commission.
- That the initial review considered the issue of age-proofing services. This raised a number of specific issues that members felt needed further exploration, and led to a second review that focused on engaging with older people.
- That two small amendments were made to the report since publication –

- (i) Page 7, paragraph 2.6 – added ‘Council’ on to the end of the last sentence, to read ‘County Council.’
- (ii) Page 9, section V under ‘Perceptions of Older People’, removed ‘to’, after ‘people can’.
- That it is felt the review highlights some key issues in relation to how the Council perceives older people, how it engages with the public and, importantly, how the Council can improve the service we provide to people in the County.
 - That Councillors Alan Rice and Frank Pearce are thanked for their hard work as part of the review group.
 - That the four recommendations made by the review group are that:
 - A** Consideration is given to the creation of a central ‘intelligence’ function to complement and help co-ordinate engagement activities across service providers and departments in the County Council. The feasibility of a ‘single access point’ could be explored as part of this work.
 - B** The function suggested above also acts as a resource for sharing feedback received by the County Council and informs other opportunities for service improvement. This will reduce the risk of duplicated work and provide a useful complement to departmental initiatives. It would also provide valuable information for policy and strategy development.
 - C** Consideration be given to publishing at appropriate periods what the Council has learned from its engagement with local people and how it has responded. Different ways of providing this information to different communities will be considered as part of this process.
 - D** The application of the template provided by Eastleigh and Southern Parishes Older People’s Forum be considered as part of any consultation activities undertaken by the County Council.

RESOLVED:

That the ‘Age Proofing Mainstream Public Services’ and ‘Engaging with Older People’ scrutiny review report and its recommendations are agreed.

That the recommendations are forwarded to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources for comment.

That the report is sent to key stakeholders for comment.

39. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the work programme of the Safe & Healthy People Select Committee (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

That the Committee's Work Programme be approved subject to the issues raised at the meeting.