

Report



meeting	SOCIAL SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE	
date	16 th May 2006	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO MAY 2006

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report highlights activities undertaken as part of my work as Cabinet Member for Social Services for the period January 2006 to May 2006.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 I am conscious that we are entering a year of considerable change and development. It will be the last year of the Social Services Department. I am proud of what we have achieved over recent years with the improvements and changes we have made. As Members know work has been taking place in the Department to contribute to new Children's Department structures, integration of resources and to develop the structure of a new Adult Social Care and Health Department. The next year will include the implementation of structures. The Director of Adult Social Care and Health post is currently the subject of a national recruitment process. Meanwhile, we are determined to maintain improvement and continue to develop services in partnership with others. We will work hard to implement the budget plan for 2006/07 and make sure that we meet our objectives which I set out in a recent Council report. The Director will expand on this at the meeting. For your information, a final version of the Executive Summary of the Business Plan is attached.

3. Activities

3.1 Healdswood Children's Centre

- 3.1.1 I visited the new Children's Centre at Healdswood and discussed proposals to demolish a derelict public toilet to make way for parking for the centre. I am currently liaising with Ashfield District Council regarding this scheme.

3.2 Welfare Reform Green Paper

- 3.2.1 I convened a briefing meeting with Councillor Carroll and representatives from the Conservative and LibDem Groups to acquaint members with details of the Welfare Reform Green Paper.

3.3 Rokerfield Resource Centre for People with Mental Health Problems

- 3.3.1 I visited Rokerfield Resource Centre, at Sutton in Ashfield and the adjacent John Eastwood Hospice to discuss their concerns about the effects of the building works taking place at Kingsmill Hospital and along the Mansfield and Ashfield Regeneration Route (MARR). Noise is a problem, particularly at the hospice where there is a need for peace and tranquillity and I am in discussions with our Highways section to find a solution.

3.4 New Extra Care Development

- 3.4.1 There has been a great deal of difficulty in securing an appropriate site in Ashfield on which to take forward a mixed care development. This is even though Ashfield and Mansfield have been agreed by Cabinet as the areas for implementing the next stages of the residential homes strategy. I recently visited a site in Ashfield with staff from the department and corporate property. The site we visited definitely has potential and from discussions that there have been since then, I am more and more confident that we will be able to take forward a significant development in Ashfield. There will need to be further discussion with planners in the District Council and County Council.

3.5 NVQ and PQ Award Ceremony

- 3.5.1 On Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th April 2006, I presented awards to achievers of NVQs and Post Qualifying awards in the Social Services Department. The first ceremony took place at Notts County Football Club and the second one at Newstead Miners Welfare. There were 548 achievers invited to the two events. Out of those, 220 achievers attended the ceremonies and received certificates on the day. Certificates will be sent to those achievers who were unable to attend.

3.6 New Tree Nursery

- 3.6.1 Also in April, I planted the first tree for a new tree nursery at Edwinstowe. This will provide work for people with learning and physical disabilities under the County Council's Supported Employment scheme and will also enhance local wildlife by boosting the population of trees and wild flowers native to the area.

3.7 Bay6 Centre

- 3.7.1 I visited the Bay6 Centre in Mansfield with the vice chair and lead officer of the Learning Disability Partnership Board. With the support of West Nottinghamshire College, the Bay6 Centre has been developed to support learners with disabilities and/or learning difficulties to progress into employment by enabling practical experience of working in a support structured environment. The concept behind the Bay6 Centre is a shopping centre that is open to the public. We are proposing to use our allocation of Learning Disability Development Fund money to fund the post of a development officer for one year to help Bay6 become a social firm (a

business where more than a quarter of the employees have a learning or physical disability).

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