

minutes



Meeting PROMOTION OF INDEPENDENCE AD HOC
 SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Thursday, 22nd January 2004 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Chris Baron (Chair)
A Sue Bennett (Vice-Chair)

A	Kate Allsop	Joe Lonergan MBE
	Alan Davison	Brian Smith
	Ellie Lodziak	Yvonne Woodhead

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 30th September 2003 having been circulated were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sue Bennett.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by Members or Officers.

BEST VALUE REVIEW OF THE PROMOTION OF INDEPENDENCE FOR YOUNG DISABLED ADULTS – PROJECT INITIATION DOCUMENT

A copy of the project initiation document for the review had been circulated. Councillor Baron commented that some of the timescales in the document gave him concern, as did the extension of the age group covered by the review to 16-25. He expected to see examples of other authorities from which the review could learn, and the possibility of visits by Members. He emphasised that the Committee was not there to rubber stamp decisions from the project board.

Joe Pidgeon, Project Manager for the Review, explained that the project initiation document was an up to date management document for the review. He drew particular attention to the reasons for extending the age group to 16-25. Malcolm Dillon, Assistant Director, Commissioning (Adults) added that while 18 was generally regarded as the age of change, people had argued to the Project Board that planning for those changes started earlier in life. Councillor Baron wondered about the risk of confusion between children's and adults services, and the effect on budgets. Mr Pidgeon explained that for this reason, a children's project officer had been included in the project team, and it was recognised that some of the review's recommendations would affect children's services. Councillor Baron asked whether children's services budgets could be used to provide adult services to a 16-18 year old. Mr Pidgeon and Mr Dillon replied that this was already the case. Mr Pidgeon added that a number of Health structures changed at the age of 16, from paediatric to adult services. Councillor Baron felt one recommendation of the review might be a smooth transition at the age of 18.

In reply to a question from Councillor Baron, Mr Pidgeon said that some gaps in service provision had already been identified. In-depth research with young people would produce more detail. Councillor Baron referred to the good work carried out by Bright Sparks in the earlier part of the review. Mr Pidgeon indicated that he was gathering information on transitional services, and would be consulting carers, parents and young people in supported accommodation. Councillor Baron emphasised the need for a good cross section of people from the whole county to be covered by the surveys.

Councillor Smith wondered how the team would identify young adults who had achieved independence. Mr Pidgeon replied that he would ask Social Services managers to identify them. He was also planning to advertise to invite young people to a focus group. Councillor Lonergan raised the issue of sheltered employment where the emphasis was now for people to make progress on to another activity. He suggested Portland College as another source of contacts. Mr Pidgeon stated that a countywide group of young people called the Young Pioneers Forum, supported by the Youth, Community and Play Team, was keen to contribute to the review.

In relation to the four C's of challenge, compare, consult and compete Mr Pidgeon explained that work on comparison and consultation had begun. Although there were no beacon councils in this field, there were many examples of good practice. Referring to the project scope, he indicated that the authority provided community care services to around 350 young people aged 18-25. He drew attention to other initiatives which impacted on the review, to which Mr Dillon added the Government's new National Service Framework on limiting long term illnesses.

Councillor Baron commented that the event at Holme Pierrepont towards the end of the earlier part of the review had been successful, and suggested a similar event, including stakeholders, to finalise the recommendations of this review. Mr Dillon pointed out that some individual older people had been invited to the Holme Pierrepont event. Mr Pidgeon commented that the

project team was large, to reflect the cross-cutting nature of the review, and that it included a GP, currently seconded to the County Council, Dr Andrew Rixom. Councillor Baron extended an open invitation for stakeholders and project team members to come to the Select Committee's meetings. He asked in return to know the dates of their meetings, so that Members could attend those if they wished. When visits were arranged, Councillor Baron felt it important that the authorities be similar in nature to Nottinghamshire, so that parallels could be drawn. It was agreed:-

- (1) To note the contents of the project initiation document.
- (2) To agree the extension of the age group covered by the review to 16-25.
- (3) To change the date of the next meeting from 30th March to 2.00 pm on 6th April 2004 (subject to consultation)

The meeting closed at 2.50 pm.

CHAIR

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