

Report



meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 5th February, 2004

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES IN SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 I am pleased to present the key issues and activities as Portfolio Holder for Social Services, since my last report to Council.

2. Key Issues and Activities

2.1 Residential Homes Project in Rushcliffe

- 2.1.1 On 28th January 2004 I took a report to Cabinet which proposed a major development of services provided by the department for older people in Rushcliffe. This would involve a major joint re-development with Rushcliffe Homes, on the Leawood and Hilton Crescent site in Edwalton.
- 2.1.2 Leawood is currently a Social Services Home for Older People. Hilton Crescent is a warden aided site belonging to Rushcliffe Homes, who now run the transferred Rushcliffe Borough Council housing stock.
- 2.1.3 The proposed joint development will deliver a residential unit for 30 people, both intermediate care and long term care, a 40 place day service and up to 75 flats. The flats would be mixed tenure, with extra care levels of service available. A comprehensive set of facilities would be developed as part of the Scheme.
- 2.1.4 The proposal would involve the closure of South Manor and Leawood and reprovision of all departmental residential care on the Leawood/Hilton Crescent site. The development of extra care housing would replace some of the residential beds on a long term basis.
- 2.1.5 The proposal would provide a range of high quality options for care and support for older people in Rushcliffe. Together the services would allow maximum individual independence, with increasing levels of care and support as they may be needed.

- 2.1.6 The proposal follows the Department's very successful development of 5 'state of the art' new units with 60 residential beds and a day care unit each across the county.
- 2.1.7 At the time the original strategy was being drawn together, Rushcliffe was seen as the next District where new developments would be made. Every other District now has a new home development, or in the case of Newark and Sherwood, we have been developing extra care in Southwell.
- 2.1.8 The proposal involves a bid for £2.5 million pounds to a new Government fund, designed to assist with the development of extra care. Extra care provides high levels of care and support in what is a person's own home, in a dedicated setting. It has been shown to be an effective and preferred alternative to residential care for many people.
- 2.1.9 The outcomes of the bidding process are expected to be announced on 6th February 2004. The Department of Health has said that 205 bids have been received, totalling £310 million, against a budget of £27 million. Therefore, there are strong odds against success, although we and our partners believe that this is a strong and appropriate bid.
- 2.1.10 The proposal builds on the experience of other successful schemes nationally, such as the Berry Hill Extra Care provision in Stoke and the Joseph Rowntree Care Village near York.
- 2.1.11 The proposal was put together with support from Rushcliffe Borough Council and Rushcliffe Primary Care Trust, who would be key stakeholders in any future development.
- 2.1.12 If we are not successful in our bid, I would still want to look again at service development in Rushcliffe. Our two homes in the Borough, Leawood and South Manor, both have problems against care standards and services need developing. If we are not successful in the bid, I will look again at how such services may be developed.
- 2.1.13 Given the deadlines which had to be met for this bid, it was not possible to engage in consultation with the residents and others who would be affected by the proposed changes to services. This is now being undertaken by the Department and by Rushcliffe Homes and we will take account of the comments made in the detailed plans for the future.

2.2 Health and Social Care Partnerships - Mental Health and Learning Disability

- 2.2.1 In Mental Health we have assimilated managers into the new structure, seconded them to Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust, and are in the process of agreeing the joint arrangements for single line management from April 2004. A joint project manager has been appointed to lead this work and agree the detailed project plan.

2.2.2 Cabinet approved the Joint Health and Social Care Learning Disability mission statement. A plan has been developed for the integration and single line management of the Community Learning Disability Teams that will be presented to Cabinet for approval once it has been discussed at the Learning Disability Partnership Board in Mid-February 2004. The first Health and Social Care integrated short breaks service has been officially opened and is awaiting final approval from Care Standards which we expect to receive shortly.

2.3 Visit to London by Invitation of the Prime Minister

2.3.1 Jill Pedley, Assistant Director, Children's Commissioning was invited to a Reception held by the Prime Minister and Mrs Blair, at 10 Downing Street on 8th January 2004. The invitation was "in recognition of work giving children the best possible start in life". Tony Blair said in his speech that this was the first Reception for people working in children's services, and was being held at No. 10 to demonstrate that children's services were at the heart of Government. Jill Pedley asked Tony Blair afterwards if he would mention social workers as well as teachers, police and health workers when he mentions public services. The invitation indicates that Nottinghamshire Children's Social Services has gained a very good reputation and it is an accolade to all our staff.

2.4 Children's Trusts

2.4.1 We have been informed by the Department for Employment and Skills that we are to receive an extra £40K for our Children's Trust. Ten out of the 35 Children's Trusts have been awarded this in view of their size and complexity. A project officer will now be appointed to work alongside the Development Manager who is due to commence in post on 9th February 2004.

2.5 Social Services Inspectorate Performance Targets for Social Services Departments.

2.5.1 Social Services has now received feedback from the Social Services Inspectorate on its performance against national performance indicators. This is based on information supplied by the department to the Department of Health via the Delivery and Improvement Statement in October 2003.

2.5.2 In terms of service for adults, performance was classified as 'Mainly as Planned'. The department was praised for its sustained commitment to partnership working and its major investment in intermediate care and other schemes. It was acknowledged that difficulties within Health are impacting on the speed at which some strategic changes can be implemented. There remain some key challenges, particularly around Home Care, which are being addressed.

2.5.3 Children's services are also classed as performing 'Mainly as Planned'. Steady progress against our strategic objectives is acknowledged. Particular mention is made of progress with the Children's Trust, and strengthened

management of services for care leavers. Child protection is seen as secure in terms of addressing issues raised in the Climbié report.

2.6 Contribution to the Department – Martin Eaden

- 2.6.1 Martin Eaden, Assistant Director left the Department on 31st December 2003 after 20 years service to work as the Director of Children's Services in Grimsby. Martin commenced his employment as an Area Director with Social Services in Nottinghamshire in June 1983 and was appointed to the Directorate in 1991.

COUNCILLOR DICK ANTHONY **Cabinet Member for Social Services**

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