



meeting	SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING SELECT COMMITTEE	agenda item number
date	27 th January 2004	

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE HOME CARE STUDY GROUP

INTERIM REPORT OF THE HOME CARE STUDY GROUP

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Further to the report submitted to Select Committee on 15th April 2003 on Home Care Services, and its recommendation that a Study Group of 5 Members consider the issues facing this service, this interim report seeks to advise on the progress of the Study Group to date.

2. Information and Advice

- 2.1 Members of the Home Care Study Group have undertaken a comprehensive examination of home care services in order to identify the areas of growth and the strengths as well as the areas which require further development in order to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness of this key service provision.
- 2.2 The Study Group has focussed on the following issues:
- The nature and volume of home care services provided by Social Services Direct Services, including detailed consideration of the Rapid Response Service
 - The nature and volume of home care services provided by the independent sector
 - The effectiveness of relationships between the Department and independent sector providers, including current and future contracting arrangements
 - The activities which are aimed at expanding and developing the role of the home care workforce, particularly in relation to tasks traditionally undertaken by health care staff
 - The implications and benefits of the electronic timesheets

- The implications and impact of the National Minimum Standards for domiciliary care
- 2.3 As well as meeting on a number of occasions to consider the above, the Home Care Study Group has undertaken the following activities:
- Meeting with independent sector providers
 - Visits to the Head Office of two independent sector providers
 - Meeting with the Service Head, Direct Services
 - Visit to Leawood and meeting with staff and the manager of the Rapid Response Service
 - Opportunity for Direct Services home care staff to talk with members of the Study Group
 - Meeting with representatives of the relevant Trade Unions
 - Meeting with the Assistant Director, Adults Commissioning, and the Assistant Director, Direct Services.

3. Future Work

- 3.1 Having completed a detailed cross sector examination of home care provision, the Home Care Study Group now needs to conclude its work by consolidating all the information obtained so as to identify any actions which are required to further develop and improve this service.
- 3.2 Following its deliberations, the Study Group will set out its recommendations in a report to the Social Services Standing Select Committee.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that:
- (a) the Select Committee note the report and comment on the concluding work of the Study Group as identified in 3.1 and 3.2 above
 - (b) the Home Care Study Group presents its report to the meeting of the Social Services Standing Select Committee on Tuesday 20th April 2004.

COUNCILLOR CHRIS BARON
Chair of the Home Care Study Group

(Comm/Select/HCSG/SF)