

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE – 12 JULY 2006

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

1. ROTA VISITS TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE ESTABLISHMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS

1.1 During the last year the OSC on Adult Social Care, Health and Environmental Health established a system of rota visits to adult social care establishments and voluntary organisations. This function has now been handed to this new OSC. Two Social Services 'Advisers', Mrs Frankie Merz and Ms Caroline Ellis have also kindly participated in the carrying out of these visits.

1.2 A number of Members of the former OSC have, during recent weeks, undertaken the rota visits allocated to them and copies of the completed visit forms, with comments added from the service/centre manager and senior Council officers in each case, are attached as follows: -

Appendix 1 Cllr. Condon-Simmonds' 9 November visit to Piper House

Appendix 2 Cllr. Buckmaster and Holt's 9 March visit to Thamesbrook Nursing Home

Appendix 3 Caroline Ellis' 27 March visit to ADKC

Appendix 4 Cllr. Lindsay's 7 April visit to The Grove

Appendix 5 Cllr. Lindsay's 21 April visit to the Small Repairs Service

Appendix 6 Cllr. Lindsay's 27 April visit to Kensington Day Centre

1.3 An e-mail has recently been sent to all Members of the former OSC and it has been confirmed that the visits listed below have not been completed:

- Oremi Centre - Cllr. Dr. Hanham (with Cllr. B. Hoier as second named)
- Edenham - Cllr. Holt (with Mrs Merz as second named)
- Pepperpot Club - Cllr. B. Hoier (with Cllr. Condon-Simmonds as second named)
- MIND - Cllr. Buckmaster (with Mrs Merz as second named)

- Equal People - Cllr. Clamp (with Cllr. Blakeman as second named)
- Age Concern - Cllr. Holt (with Cllr. Dr. Hanham as second named)
- Cruse - Cllr. B. Hoier (with Mrs Merz as second named)
- Open Age - Cllr. Holt (with Mrs Merz as second named)

- 1.4 The Committee is invited **TO CONSIDER** whether it wishes to continue with this rota visits system and, if so, ask officers to arrange a further round of rota visits in the Autumn.

FOR CONSIDERATION

2. OSC ADVISORS

- 2.1 The Chairman has indicated that he is happy for this OSC to retain the expertise and experience of Social Services Advisers, Mrs Frankie Merz and Ms Caroline Ellis. Both ladies have had a long involvement with the delivery of social services in the Royal Borough.
- 2.2 In their capacity as Social Services Advisers, Mrs Merz and Ms Ellis will receive all agenda papers for this OSC and are welcome to attend Committee meetings when there are item(s) of particular interest and concern to them on the agenda. Mrs Merz and Ms Ellis have also participated in the past with the carrying out of rota visits.
- 2.3 A future meeting of the Tenants' Consultative Committee may consider the option of selecting Housing Advisers to the OSC.

FOR INFORMATION

3. VACANCIES ON THE SCRUTINY STEERING GROUP

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Reference Group, made up of Councillors from all OSCs, was set up by OSC Chairmen at the end of 2005 to support them in the development of overview and scrutiny in the Royal Borough.
- 3.2 Following the Borough Election its membership is now down to four Members from the original eight. OSC Chairmen have agreed that a further 2 Members from each Committee should be asked to volunteer to bring the Group back up to full strength, and maintain the momentum of its work.
- 3.3 The Reference Group works in an informal and collaborative way and has an external facilitator with considerable practical experience of Overview & Scrutiny. It is supported by the two Scrutiny

Development Managers and the Director of Strategy & Service Improvement.

3.4 The Group has met three times and

1. Examined a number of existing Scrutiny processes
2. Explored alternatives to these
3. Made recommendations to the Scrutiny Steering Group for changes.

3.5 So far, it has had two notable achievements to its credit:

- The establishment of a new procedure for undertaking pre-decision scrutiny which has now been implemented;
- Ideas for streamlining of the remits of OSC Committees.

3.6 Dates for the next two meetings of the Group are: 14 September 2006 and 29 November 2006, 5-7pm.

3.7 Committee Members are asked to indicate their interest in membership of this Group.

FOR CONSIDERATION

4. 'IN-DEPTH' REVIEWS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S REMIT

Review of Services for Adults with Disabilities

4.1 This Sub-Group met on 31 May and again on 27 June. A further meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 26 July. This review is expected to be completed before the Summer Recess.

Review of Services for Adults at the Interface of Mental Health and Drugs

4.2 A fourth meeting of this Sub-Group took place on 25 May. There will be two further meetings, before the Summer recess, before this review concludes.

4.3 As this review covers service areas within the remit of both the Health OSC and the Housing, Environmental Health and Adult Care OSC so the Sub-Group's final report will come to both Committees in September.

Housing Allocations

- 4.4 A report on the latest position in respect of the Housing Allocations review was received by the Council at its meeting on 28 June.

FOR INFORMATION

5. THE FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

- 5.1 Attached at **Appendix 7** to this report is an extract from the Forward Plan showing all those decisions to be taken by individual Cabinet Members or the full Cabinet which will be open to scrutiny by this OSC.

FOR INFORMATION

GIFTY EDILA

Director of Law and Administration

Public background papers used in preparation of this report:

None.

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