

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE – 30 APRIL 2009

REPORT BY HEAD OF GOVERNANCE SERVICES

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

1. ROTA VISITS

- 1.1 A summary of rota visits carried out thus far is enclosed as **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2 The current rota visits programme will cease at the Committee's next meeting on 25 June. A new rota visits scheme will come into place from the September meeting.
- 1.3 The Chairman continues to encourage Members of the Committee to carry out and/or submit visit report forms for the final few remaining visits of the existing scheme.

FOR INFORMATION

2. ACTIONS FROM LAST OSC MEETING

- 2.1 On report A5 (Changes to Directly Provided Mental Health Day Services) the Key Decision taken by Councillor Fiona Buxton has now gone through all its stages. This Committee will receive update reports on how services at SMART, the Pembroke Centre and the Grove evolve in the future. The Tracker Sheet (Report A10 elsewhere on the agenda) has been amended to incorporate this.
- 2.2 On report A6 (Consultation on the Closure of Mary Smith Court Registered Care Home) a verbal update will be given at the meeting.
- 2.3 On A9 (Review of Adaptations Services in Kensington and Chelsea) arrangements have been made for Councillor Buckmaster to meet with the officer leading on the work on the Accessible Housing Register (covering the TMO and the RSLs) (Ms Jo Whitehouse - Housing Health Assessment Team Leader and Specialist Housing Occupational Therapist).

FOR INFORMATION

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

- 3.1 The **OSC Sub-Group on Access to Services for Adults with Disabilities** (chaired by Councillor Buckmaster) met on 2 October 2008 and will probably meet next at the same time of the year in 2009.
- 3.2 The final report of the **OSC Sub-Group on Charging** chaired by Councillor Williams is now expected at the Committee's meeting in June.
- 3.3 The **OSC Sub-Group on Illegal Subletting** is chaired by Councillor Palmer and met on 21 April. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.
- 3.4 With the Charging Sub-Group drawing to a close in the not too distant future, it is time to consider commencing another in-depth study.
- 3.5 The Committee will recall that at its September meeting last year it agreed that its next two choices for an in-depth study would be:-
- (i) Provision on Information and Advice on Social Care for People who are not already clients of the care services;
[Councillors Dent Coad and Edge have indicated that they wished to be on the membership of this in-depth study.]
 - (ii) A review of the Operation of the Taxicard Scheme
[Councillors Edge, Hoier and Williams have indicated that they wished to be on the membership of this in-depth study. Cllr Holt has said he would be happy to sit on either study.]
- 3.6 The views of the Chairman have been sought and it has been decided to commence first the review of the Operation of the Taxicard Scheme. Further arrangements for this Sub-Group will be discussed at the meeting.

FOR DISCUSSION

4. QUESTIONS ARISING FROM PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORTS CIRCULATED

- 4.1 The OSC has agreed that certain performance monitoring reports should be circulated electronically outside of the meeting cycle and that there should be a point on the meeting agenda where Members could raise queries from performance monitoring reports. This is the point of the agenda for such questions to be raised.

- 4.2 Since the last meeting of the Committee no performance monitoring reports have been circulated.

FOR INFORMATION

5. THE FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

- 5.1 Attached at **Appendix 2** 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

6. SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT - DEVELOPMENT OF KENSINGTON RECRUITMENT

- 6.1 The Council is currently engaged in a procurement process to increase the provision of Supported Employment in the borough. Supported Employment is the term used to describe a range of additional supports provided so that disabled people, people with learning disabilities and people with mental health needs can find and retain paid employment. The service is currently provided by Kensington Recruitment which comprises four staff and is part of the in house Learning Disability day service.
- 6.2 Kensington Recruitment works closely with Jobcentre Plus and other agencies and has helped the Council increase the number of people with a disability it employs. It has also had some success in working with larger employers such as Starbucks to find employment for people. However recent reviews of the service have confirmed that it needs additional input if it is to continue to grow and provide a service to more people. The Council has recognised that employers need an organisation that has a larger pool of candidates with a range of abilities. The Employment Advisors working in the service need specialist knowledge and skills and access to regular training and support to ensure they can provide an excellent service to employers and candidates. These can all be enhanced by developing a long term partnership with an organisation that specialises in providing Supported Employment services.
- 6.3 An invitation to participate in a competitive dialogue process has been issued and three organisations have been invited to take part in discussions to take on the management and running of Kensington Recruitment. Additional funding has been made available so that the service can be offered to people with mental health needs and the Council will be seeking an organisation that has a

track record in securing additional grant funding so that it can work with people with a range of different abilities and support needs.

- 6.4 The procurement process is timetabled to be complete in July 2009 and will be followed by a Key Decision Report with recommendations on award of a contract. Initial meetings have been held with the current staff team and further consultations will be held as part of the process. Disabled People, people with learning disabilities and people with mental health needs will be involved in the procurement process.

FOR INFORMATION

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Public background papers used in preparation of this report:

None.

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