

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH
SUB-COMMITTEE**

5.00pm 20 SEPTEMBER 2004

BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Meadows (Deputy Chair), Allen, Burgess, Meegan, Morgan, Mrs Norman (OS), Older, Wells, Williams and Willows.

Councillor Meadows referred to the recent death of Councillor Gerry Kielty, and paid tribute to his dedication to the social care and health agenda and the services the council delivered. Councillor Kielty had devoted many hours to individuals concerns and would be sorely missed as a councillor and chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Sub-Committee.

Councillor Mrs Norman and Councillor Williams also paid tribute to Councillor Kielty.

The Sub-Committee observed a minutes silence in Councillor Kielty's memory.

PART ONE

ACTION

14. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

14A Declarations of Substitutes

14A.1 Councillor Allen substituted for Councillor Tonks.

14B Declarations of Interest

14B.1 There were no declarations of interest.

14C Exclusion of Press and Public

14C.1 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

14C.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of items 25 to 27.

15. MINUTES

15.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2004 be approved and signed by the Chair.

15.2 Members were reminded that information reports on Transitional and Interim Beds and the opening arrangements for Knoll House, now registered for intermediate care and short term care, were considered at the meeting on 21 June 2004. A report on the closure of Edburton Ward, Brighton General Hospital, a ward opened in 2001 to accommodate delayed discharges was discussed in Part Two on 24 May 2004.

15.3 The Director of Service Improvement, Brighton & Hove City PCT informed Members that plans were being put in place to move acute hospital beds from the Brighton General Hospital to the Royal Sussex County Hospital. Plans were also being prepared to help elderly people who did not need acute beds. The Brighton General Hospital was no longer considered suitable for modern health care.

15.4 A report on the formal plans for the above changes, including plans to limit the effect on the community services would be submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

16. MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMISSIONING BOARD MEETING HELD ON 28 JUNE 2004

16.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.

17. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

17.1 There were none.

18. PETITION - LARCHWOOD RESOURCE CENTRE

18.1 The Sub-Committee considered the following petition presented to Council on 15 July 2004 by Councillor K Norman (see minute book).

"We, the undersigned, being residents, relatives, carers and supporters of Larchwood Resource Centre strongly oppose the loss of residential, respite, and care services that currently benefit the community. The loss of such a facility would have a detrimental effect on the well being of the people who rely on Larchwood for care and company. It is a valuable asset that should be preserved for the benefit of future clients.

We believe that the exclusive provision of extra care housing will not meet the needs of this most vulnerable group of elderly and infirm people.

We call upon Brighton and Hove City Council to give urgent consideration to the location of these facilities at an alternative site."

18.2 Councillor Mrs Norman reported that Councillor K Norman was unable to attend the Sub-Committee. She reported that 240 people had now signed the petition.

18.3 **RESOLVED** – That the petition be noted.

19. DEPUTATION - LARCHWOOD RESOURCE CENTRE

19.1 The Sub-Committee considered the written submission of a deputation to council on 15 July 2004 concerning the redevelopment of Larchwood Resource Centre, Coldean, Brighton (see minute book).

19.2 Mrs Carol Fowler, a member of the deputation was permitted to address the Sub-Committee. Mrs Fowler asked why two dates were quoted for the closing date of the consultation. She stressed that Larchwood was under-occupied due to a policy whereby no more residents would be offered occupation. She believed that if a residential status was reinstated most if not all rooms would be taken. Meanwhile, very dependent residents should not be denied the excellent level of care in their twilight years.

19.3 Mrs Fowler praised the staff at Larchwood and expressed sadness that a most dedicated and caring team would be dispersed.

19.4 Mrs Fowler believed that details should have been provided of all the sites that had been considered. She stressed that if an extra care complex were to be included at either Preston Barracks or Brighton Station developments it would save on demolition costs and still have a residential, respite and day care facility.

19.5 Mrs Fowler asked for the criteria to be flexible to meet the changing needs of clients. She acknowledged the need for both extra care housing and homes such as Larchwood. She quoted a report of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation which indicated that residential and nursing home places in the UK would need to increase by around 150% over the next 50 years to accommodate the growing elderly population.

19.6 **RESOLVED** – That the deputation and Mrs Fowler's further response be noted.

20. LARCHWOOD RESOURCE CENTRE

20.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Housing and City Support that recommended the change of use of the Larchwood Resource Centre and set out recommendations regarding re-provision of services. The report further detailed the outcome of the formal consultation process (see minute book).

20.2 The Director of Community Care answered queries raised by Mrs Fowler. Some letters mistakenly quoted 31 August as the end of consultation date. This was an error for which the Director apologised.

20.3 With regard to concern about deaths related to home closures, the Director informed the Sub-Committee that the department had looked at four home closures and had ascertained that there had only been one death within two months of the home closing. If Larchwood were to be closed, officers would consider the needs of residents sensitively.

20.4 The Head of Law reminded Members that there were legal points to consider before making their decision. Members needed to be satisfied that the outcome would meet the needs of the residents. The status quo might not meet the needs of the residents.

20.5 The last paragraph of 7.1 in the report (Longer Term Residents) was qualified by the needs of the service user changing. This must be weighed against the public interest.

20.6 The Sub-Committee must be satisfied that proper legal consultation had taken place and that people had been given all the necessary information with the opportunity to make representations.

20.7 The Council was under a duty to ensure its actions were compatible with its duties under the European Convention on Human Rights.

20.8 The Sub-Committee must take into account all relevant circumstances, set out in the Part Two report (item 25). Other considerations were the interests of other service users. The resource implications were relevant, as were the views and representations of other authorities such as the Primary Care Trust and South Downs Health NHS Trust.

20.9 Finally, the Sub-Committee's decision needed to be a rational decision.

20.10 Members confirmed that that they had all read the Part Two report and that they wished to consider the matter in open session.

20.11 In response to Members questions the Director of Housing and City Support reported that officers had considered all existing facilities and had not found them suitable as an alternative site. He reported that the Preston Barracks and Brighton Station sites would both have 40% affordable housing. Therefore there would be additional facilities for elderly people.

20.12 The Director of Housing and City Support informed the Sub-Committee that they had his assurance that alternative services would be appropriate for individuals needs. Where people were considered for alternative accommodation there would be a constant monitoring process once they moved.

20.13 The Director stressed that the concept of extra care was something service users and potential service users said they wanted. This would enable people to have a facility with their own front door and a mix of support. In the context of these proposals further discussions would take place regarding community facilities, including day care services for people in the Coldean area.

20.14 **RESOLVED** - That the change of use of the Larchwood Resource Centre be approved and that the recommendations regarding re-provision of services, as set out in Section 10 of the report, be agreed.

Jane
MacDonald

[The above resolution was approved with a vote of 6 to 2 with 2 abstentions. Councillor Wells and Willows requested that their names be recorded as having voted against the recommendation.]

21. COMPLAINTS AND PLAUDITS 1 APRIL 2003 TO 31 MARCH 2004

21.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Housing and City Support that provided an overview of the complaints and compliments received during the year 2003/04 in relation to Adult Social Care (see minute book).

21.2 The Director of Housing and City Support reported that 96% of complaints were resolved at stage 1 and that 49 plaudits had been received. The Commission for Social Care Inspectorate (CSCI) would assume responsibility for the review of complaints about local authority social services departments from April 2005.

21.3 **RESOLVED** - That the report be noted.

22. HOME CARE SERVICES: REPORT ON MONITORING PERFORMANCE & QUALITY SEPTEMBER 2004

22.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director Housing & City Support concerning the monitoring of performance and quality in home care services. A report submitted to the Adult Social Care and Health Sub-Committee on 2 February 2004, recommended regular six-monthly reports to the Sub-Committee (see minute book).

22.2 **RESOLVED** - (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That a further report updating on quality and performance in home care services be presented to the Sub-Committee in six months time (March 2005).

Malcolm Price

23. PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2003/04

23.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance & Property setting out the provisional outturn position for 2003/04 for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account, which is subject to external audit (see minute book).

23.2 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

24. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

24.1 No items were referred to Council.

25. LARCHWOOD RESOURCE CENTRE - ASSESSMENT OF LONG TERM RESIDENTS' NEEDS

24.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Housing and City Support that provided details of the five long-term and eight short-stay residents at Larchwood Resource Centre (see minute book).

24.2 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

26. PART TWO MINUTE FROM MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2004

26.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minute be approved.

27. PART TWO MINUTE FROM MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSIONING BOARD HELD ON 28 JUNE 2004

27.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minute be noted.

The meeting concluded at 6.42 p.m.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2004