

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**  
**ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH CABINET MEMBER MEETING**

**4.00pm 3 DECEMBER 2009**

**COMMITTEE ROOM 3, HOVE TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor K Norman (Cabinet Member)

**Also in attendance:** Councillor Lepper (Opposition Spokesperson – Labour Group)

**PART ONE**

**26. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**26(a) Declarations of Interests**

26.1 There were none.

**26(b) Exclusion of Press and Public**

26.2 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (“the Act”), the Cabinet Member considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100I(1) of the Act).

**27. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS**

**Patching Lodge**

27.1 The Cabinet Member reported that Patching Lodge was opened by the Duke of Gloucester on 12 November 2009. The development included 76 flats, community facilities and a garden.

**Carers Question Time**

27.2 The Cabinet Member reported that he had recently attended Carers Question Time. This event had been very successful.

**Safeguarding Adults Conference**

- 27.3 The Cabinet Member reported that he had attended the morning session of the Safeguarding Adults Conference. There had been an interesting and heartrending presentation concerning case studies of people who had been abused.

**International Day of Disabled Persons 2009**

- 27.4 The Cabinet Member reported that the International Day of Disabled Persons 2009 was being celebrated at the Dome today (3 December 2009). The Mayor was attending the event.

**Adult Social Care – Annual Performance Assessment**

- 27.5 The Cabinet Member reported that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) had published their annual performance assessment on 2 December 2009. The results were very positive for Brighton & Hove. The Council had been judged to be performing excellently in relation to 3 outcomes and performing well in relation to 4 outcomes.
- 27.6 Councillor Lepper gave her congratulations to all concerned for the good results. The Cabinet Member stated the results had been achieved due to the hard work of staff.

**28. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION**

- 28.1 **RESOLVED** – All items were reserved for discussion.

**29. PETITIONS**

- 29.1 There were none.

**30. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

- 30.1 There were none.

**31. DEPUTATIONS**

- 31.1 There were none.

**32. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- 32.1 There were none.

**33. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- 33.1 There were none.

**34. NOTICES OF MOTIONS****Support and Guidance for the Deafblind in Brighton and Hove**

- 34.1 The Cabinet Member considered the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Lepper and referred from Council on 8 October 2009:

“Whilst there is no generally accepted definition of deafblindness there is a working description that has been accepted over many years; ‘persons are regarded as deafblind if their combined sight and hearing impairment cause difficulties with communication, access to information and mobility’. Deafblindness is a visual and hearing impairment. These impairments can be of any type or degree and are sometimes called multi-sensory impairments (MSI). There are many different causes of MSI. Most people who are multi-sensory impaired have some useful vision and/or hearing.

This Council welcomes the Department of Health’s Social Care for Deafblind Children and Adults – LAC (DH) 2009 6 circular. The implementation of this guidance will have a positive impact upon the level of support that deafblind people in the City receive.

The improved deafblind guidance expects this Council to carry out the following:

- Identify, make contact with and keep records of deafblind people in the City
- Ensure that assessments are carried out by properly trained personnel
- Ensure that appropriate services are provided for deafblind people- remembering that individual services who are deaf or who are blind, may not be appropriate for someone who is both deaf and blind
- Ensure that all deafblind people in the City have access to fully trained, one-to-one support workers if necessary
- Provide information in a suitable format which is accessible to deafblind people

The Council therefore requests that the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health considers the guidance contained in the circular and how it could best be implemented to suit the particular local circumstances in Brighton & Hove.”

- 34.2 Councillor Lepper reported that there were 390 deafblind people in Brighton & Hove. The guidance stated that there should be assistance with communicators. Brighton & Hove only had 4 communicators. There was a concern that there might be deafblind people in the city who could benefit from communicators but who did not know how to access assistance.
- 34.3 The Assistant Director, Adult Social Care reported that officers were in contact with Deafblind UK. The council had a Support Worker who worked through the Supporting People Team. The council agreed with the recommendations and was signed up to the guidance.
- 34.4 The Cabinet Member asked officers prepare a report for a future meeting to explain the work being carried out to help DeafBlind people in the City.

34.5 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Notice of Motion be noted.

(2) That a report be prepared for a future Cabinet Member Meeting explaining the work being carried out to help Deafblind people in the City.

### **35. ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

35.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing which explained that the council produced an annual report which set out the performance and practice across the city which aimed to ensure the safety of vulnerable people. The annual report outlined the work that had been carried out by all the City Council Partners and the work of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Board which was chaired by the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing (for copy see minute book). The annual report was set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

35.2 The Assistant Director, Adult Social Care reported that the report had been presented at the Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Adults Annual Conference today (3 December 2009). During the year there had been one service case review and a managerial review. An audit was carried out last year on safeguarding investigations and an action plan and training programme had been developed. There had been an increase in alerts but this was levelling off. Older people and people with learning disabilities were most likely to suffer abuse. A prevention strategy, the personalisation agenda and safeguarding were priorities for future development.

35.3 Councillor Lepper raised the issue of abuse within families. The Cabinet Member agreed these were the most difficult cases to pick up. The Assistant Director, Adult Social Care explained that cases of financial abuse would be detected more successfully when a new reporting system was in place.

35.4 **RESOLVED** – Having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendations:

(1) That the work that has been carried out by agencies across the City to safeguard vulnerable adults be noted.

(2) That it be noted that the report was presented at the Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Adults Annual Conference which took place on 3 December 2009.

### **36. PERSONALISATION UPDATE REPORT**

36.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing which detailed the key highlights and actions of the personalisation agenda, the work area, timetables and details of leads (appendix 1). The paper sought to give an overview of the work underway to fulfil the requirements of the Putting People First Concordat. Targets to measure progress were set out in appendix 2 of the report (for copy see minute book).

36.2 Councillor Lepper suggested that a glossary of abbreviations would be useful in future. The Director of Adult Social Care & Housing agreed that reports should be

written in accessible language and that a glossary could be provided. The Cabinet Member confirmed that the comments would be taken on board.

36.3 **RESOLVED** – Having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendations:

- (1) That the work in progress be noted.
- (2) That in light of the targets to meet key milestones (appendix 2) to deliver personalisation, reports will be made available on a quarterly basis.
- (3) That the Personalisation Strategy be presented to the Adult Social Care & Health Cabinet Member meeting 11 January 2009.

The meeting concluded at 4.31pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of