

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel

Minutes of a meeting held on 14 March 2013
at the Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs M Ellerton
(Chairman)

Councillor T G Knight
(Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Miss S M Bell
P J Davies
G Fazackarley (deputising for Mrs K K Trott)

Also Present: Councillor B Bayford, Executive Member for Housing (Minute 6, 7 & 10)



1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology of absence was received from Councillor Mrs Trott.

2. MINUTES

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel held on 17 January 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record ([hsg-130117-m](#)).

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that this meeting would be the last meeting attended by the Housing Strategy Manager, Malcolm Stevens as he is retiring from the Council after 34 years of service. On behalf of the Panel she expressed her thanks for all of his help over the years.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS

There were no declarations of interest made.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. ADDITIONAL ITEM – HEALTH UPDATE

At the agreement of the Chairman, Councillor Bayford addressed the Panel to provide an update on the local Health meetings he had attended recently.

The first meeting was Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group (F&GCCG) Strategy Group, where they reported on a new scheme for cognitive behaviour therapy, (CBT), which has been started up locally. There was also a presentation on Continuing Care, which is a service that is being provided for those with learning disabilities or mental health issues.

The second meeting was the F&GCCG Board Meeting (which was open to the public), where a presentation was given on the Francis report, following the public inquiry into the severe failings in emergency care provided by Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust issues. The presentation looked at the implications for the F&GCCG and centred on three key issues:

Basic Nursing Care

Basic Cleaning Care

Basic consideration of the patient.

Members of the public were invited to complete questionnaires after the meeting asking for feedback on local health care services.

7. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2012/13 AND DRAFT 2013/14

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community which invited the Panel to assess the overall progress of the Work Programme for the current year and finalise a draft work programme for 2013/14 (copy of report [hsg-130314-r03-mge](#)).

At the agreement of the Chairman, Councillor Bayford addressed the Panel on this item, to explain that work programme had been created by himself and the Director of Community, to ensure that the work programme would result in a review of all the key housing policies in the coming year, providing an opportunity for the Panel to review and inform policy development.

It was AGREED that:-

- (a) the outcomes of the Panel's work programme for 2012/13, be noted;
- (b) the proposed work programme for 2013/14 as shown in Appendix A attached to these minutes be approved; and
- (c) the proposed work programme for 2013/14, as updated, be submitted to the Council for endorsement.

8. REVIEW OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community which highlighted the changes to benefit system introduced by the Welfare Reform Act which are expected to result in an increase in the number of households seeking housing assistance from the Council's Housing Options Team and an increased demand for temporary accommodation (copy of report [hsg-130314-r01-she](#)).

The Director of Community explained to the Panel how the Strategic Housing Division has recently been through a restructure and that a new team has been developed, along with the addition of two new posts, in order to be able to manage the predicted increase in demand on the Strategic Housing Department with the forthcoming changes to benefits.

RESOLVED that the Panel notes the proposal to conduct a review of all temporary accommodation and will expect a full report setting out the findings and proposals from the review in Sept 2013.

9. ROUGH SLEEPING

The Panel received a presentation from the Head of Strategic Housing outlining the policy, procedure and services available to single homeless people.

The presentation looked at a variety of things including:

- Rough Sleep counts – How these figures have changed over the years, and the results of the Council's recent rough sleeper count.
- No Second Night Out Scheme – A Government Initiative originally targeted in London which has now been rolled out to the rest of the country
- DCLG Homelessness Grant (£377,000) - awarded to a consortium of South Hampshire Authorities, and proposals for using this money across the area to tackle homelessness is being explored
- Severe Weather Emergency Protocol – The Council's emergency plan for helping homeless people in cold weather.
- 101 Gosport Road – the Local direct access hostel offering accommodation and support for homeless people (operated by Two Saints Housing Association). The hostel has recently been extended to provide two additional bedrooms and 5 emergency beds.

It was AGREED that the Head of Strategic Housing be thanked for his presentation.

10. REVIEW OF INCENTIVE PAYMENTS TO RESIDENTS OF UNDER-OCCUPIED PROPERTIES

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community about proposed changes to the qualifying criteria in regard to incentive payments offered to tenants who are under-occupying their home. (copy of report [hsg-130314-r04-jsh](#)).

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Bayford addressed the Panel on this item.

RESOLVED that the Panel recommends that the Executive approve the proposed changes to the Transfer Grant Scheme, and agrees to make a contribution of up to £500 toward removal expenses for working age tenants.

11. TENANCY AGREEMENT

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community proposing the setting up of a Member & Officer Working Group to review and update the Tenancy Agreement for Council Housing. (copy of report [hsg-130314-r06-jsh](#)).

It was explained to the Panel that the proposed revisions to the tenancy agreement will be reported to a future meeting of the Panel and the Housing Tenancy Board before they are sent out to tenants for consultation. The Chairman invited members of the Panel to nominate themselves if they wished to participate in the Member and Officer Working Group. Councillor Davies expressed an interest in having a member of the Housing Tenancy Board to take one of the two Member places as the Housing Tenancy Board was very much involved with tenant's interests. Councillor Mrs Trott was nominated as she sits on both the Health and Housing Panel and the Housing Tenancy Board.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the content of the report is noted; and

(b) the Panel has nominated Councillors Mrs M Ellerton and Mrs K K Trott to join the Member & Officer Working Group

12. ANNUAL HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT REPORT

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community which sets out the Council's plan and progress in promoting investment in home energy conservation measures (copy of report [hsg-130314-r05-mst](#)).

RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted and approved for publication.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm
and ended at 7:43pm)

**HEALTH AND HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW PANEL
PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013/14**

| <u>MEETING DATES FOR 2012/13</u> | <u>ITEMS</u> |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 23 May 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the role of the Panel • Review of the work programme 2013/14 • Review of Temporary Accommodation • Review of Sheltered Housing Stock |
| 18 July 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the work programme 2013/14 • Affordable Housing Programme • The Government's Green Deal • Floating Support Service for Older Persons • Collingwood House Update |
| 12 September 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the work programme 2013/14 • Presentation on Local Health Priorities (invitation to Director of Public Health & Fareham & Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group) |
| 14 November 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the work programme 2013/14 • Nominations Policy - Six monthly review • Review of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping in the Borough |
| 16 January 2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary overall review of work programme 2013/14 and draft 2014/15 • Welfare Reform - update • Review of Housing Arrears • Housing Initiatives (Accessing the private rented sector) |
| 13 March 2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final review of work programme for 2013/14 and draft for 2014/15 • Empty Homes - Update • Collingwood House Update • Health Update • Homelessness Strategy 2014-17 |