

# **MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**18 MARCH 2008**

Councillors \*Davies (Chair), \* Bevan, and \* Weber

\* Members present

## **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none received.

## **2 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was none

## **3 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2008 were agreed. As requested the Head of Neighbourhood Management provided an update on the breakdown of external funding received by Neighbourhood Management in 2007/8.

## **4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor Davies declared that he was employed by the Health Commission.

## **5 PRIMARY CARE TRUST WORKING WITH NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT**

The Panel received a presentation from the Director of Performance & Primary Care for the Primary Care Trust (PCT) on Neighbourhood Management, Health & Healthcare Services. The meeting was advised that the PCT were keen to work and improve their current working with Neighbourhood Management. Whilst there were examples of good joint working in the past such as in Northumberland Park and the Health in Mind project, the PCT felt that because of their financial crisis joint working was less evident at present. However the Area Assemblies were a good mechanism used by the PCT for consultation and public engagement and they were keen to maintain a regular presence at these meetings. The PCT agreed that they needed to provide further feedback after meetings.

The PCT were changing their way of working as a result of more community based care and this could lead to making greater use of Neighbourhood Management. This relationship could also be strengthened as a result of the planned restructuring of the PCT with four GP collaboratives, and the setting up of PCT super centres . The PCT were hoping to have discussions with the

Council on the delivery of services on a shared basis and the establishment of a Joint Director of Public Health between the PCT and the Council was a very positive step towards this. Also there was a joint Strategic Needs Assessment in place and the PCT were keen to engage in joint Action Plans and initiatives. A key aim of the PCT was to improve patient and public engagement.

A particular challenge was to engage with the different communities and to be responsive to the changes in population. The Head of Neighbourhood Management advised of a local initiative "Access to services" which involved working with communities new to the Borough. It was noted that the previously held Access Days were regarded as good in terms of engaging with local residents.

Also the Assistant Director, Policy Performance Partnerships, and Communications informed the Panel that the LGA had set up a cross member working party specifically examining immigration linking it to the points system. It was a national issue to provide a better information on the affect for Authorities.

A suggested area for future joint working was the development of links between Neighbourhood Management and the GP collaboratives. The PCT would ask GP's for evidence that a particular service was required, and it was envisaged that Neighbourhood Management would be able to provide GP's with information about the Neighbourhood and residents who appeared to them to be in need of services. Consequently Neighbourhood Management would become involved in the development of service provision for a particular area. Another key issue was the delivery of LAA health targets and ensuring that Council services and communities worked together on these.

## RESOLVED

That the Panel be provided with a briefing on the Northumberland Park and Health in Mind projects.

## 6. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

35 priority indicators had now been agreed by the Local Strategic Partnership as part of the Local Area Agreement. For the majority of the indicators Neighbourhood Management played a supporting role. It was only the targets relating to community engagement where they directly contributed to achieving the LAA targets. These targets were:

- % of people who felt that they can influence decisions in their locality
- Fair treatment by local services
- Environment of a thriving third sector
- %of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
- Participation in regular volunteering

A challenge for Neighbourhood Management was to ensure that they were supporting Council services and others such as police, PCT etc to work together on a local level in the delivery of services. It was suggested that there should be a list of all external agencies working with Neighbourhood Management. Neighbourhood Management also saw that they had a role to play with local Councillors enabling them to undertake outreach work into the community.

MATT DAVIES  
Chair