

AGENDA ITEM: 7

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Meeting	Audit Committee
Date	5 December 2007
Subject	Referral from the Supporting the Vulnerable In Our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Report of	Democratic Services Manager
Summary	The Committee is requested to consider a referral from the scrutiny committee on an item of work listed on scrutiny forward work programme for the Supporting the Vulnerable In Our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
Officer Contributors	Bathsheba Mall , Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	N/A
Enclosures	Appendix A – Extract from the Decisions of the Supporting the Vulnerable In Our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 18 July 2007
For decision by	Audit Committee
Function of	Council
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A
Contact for further information	Bathsheba Mall, Overview and Scrutiny Officer Telephone 020 83597034

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Committee consider the report and determine whether to include the referral made by the Supporting the Vulnerable In Our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in section 9, Background Information within its forward work programme.
- 1.2 If the Committee decide to take this forward the Head of Internal Audit and Ethical Governance report on the issue to a future meeting

2 RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 The Supporting the Vulnerable In Our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 18 July 2007 agreed to make a referral to the Audit Committee, details of which are set out in section 9 of this report.

3 CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Continuous improvement is necessary for us to deliver our priorities. We must improve how we work and the infrastructure we work with. Our corporate services, including finance, human resources and corporate governance, play a significant part in helping us achieve our vision for:

“A smaller entity with a smaller but more efficient corporate support function and a greater concentration of resources on outcomes.”

- 3.2 We are committed to continually improving how we work to provide community leadership, community choice and higher quality services at the lowest possible price. (Corporate Plan 2007/08 - 2010/11)

4 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 It is an overriding principle that services provided to the whole community represent value for money in terms of quality, efficiency and effectiveness. This supports the Council's obligations in meeting its public duties under Equalities legislation.

6 FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7 LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 None

8 CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 8.1 Constitution Part 3 Paragraph 2 details the functions of the Audit Committee including “To consider summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested” and “To consider a report from internal audit on agreed recommendations not implemented within a reasonable timescale”.

9 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 The Supporting the Vulnerable In Our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 18 July 2007 to consider its forward work programme for period 2007/08. The Committee noted that one of the items from the Committee’s work programme for 2006/07 included an item on Social Services Invoice Processing arrangements. Members considered that this item could be more effectively addressed by the Audit Committee and agreed that a referral should be made accordingly. An extract of the decisions is attached at Appendix 1, with the relevant decision set out below:

“(ix) That the item on Social Services Invoicing Process Arrangements be referred to the Audit Committee for further consideration.”

10 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

Legal: MB
CFO: HG

Extract from Supporting the Vulnerable In Our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 18 July 2007

6. SUPPORTING THE VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S DRAFT FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08

The Committee received a report from the Democratic Services Manager which presented suggested items for inclusion in the forthcoming Work Programme for the forthcoming year, 2007/08. Members discussed the attached appendices at length. It was recognised that the CSCI (Commission for Social Care Inspection) report attached at appendix 2 was dated 2005/06 and members expressed concern that this had not been considered by the committee previously. Members requested that this be included in the Work Programme and that the anticipated CSCI report for 2007 (expected in October 2007) be reviewed.

With the assistance of the Assistant Director of Performance and Strategy, Adult Social Services, Members discussed the commissioning strategies, the Vision plan and the implementation strategy, and the way in which members would like to scrutinise them. It was recognised that it was helpful to consider the Vision plan and three of the commissioning strategies relevant to the Committee were on the areas of mental health, learning disabilities and older peoples services. Members agreed that they would like to view executive summaries detailing progress on the implementation of the strategies and retain this in the Work Programme.

Members briefly discussed improving the health of the local population, within the context of managing the health impacts of regeneration and major developments. It was acknowledged that this area had already been identified by the item taken on GP Lists at the June meeting of the committee.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Democratic Services Manager be instructed that the draft Work Programme be agreed, subject to the following amendments:

- (i) That the item on maternity services for September 2007 be refined to place less emphasis on the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts and to provide further information about women in labour who may have been referred to another trust and the reasons for this;
- (ii) That the schedule of visits to care homes and a subsequent follow up report on the Fremantle Trust to the September 2007 meeting be postponed and placed in the Long List;
- (iii) That following the recent Improvement Notice to Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust, a report is prepared detailing the reasons

for the notice and what is being done to address this; and that Barnet PCT be invited to attend and comment on any remedial action required;

- (iv) That following the Cabinet Referral considered by the Committee on 20 June 2007, a report on breast screening be included in the Work Programme;
- (v) That the remainder of the suggested topics within the Cabinet Referral be referred back to the Cabinet Member for Public Health;
- (vi) That the suggested item on Disabled Women's Experiences be removed from the Work Programme;
- (vii) Under Part B, Adult Social Care, that items on the Provision of Intensive Home Care Services and Social Services Client Assessment Times, be included in the Adult Social Care performance indicator commentary, to be received and considered in conjunction with Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 corporate monitor reports for 2007/08;
- (viii) That the item on Home care Arrangements for Supporting People with Physical Disabilities be removed from the work programme;
- (ix) That the item on Social Services Invoicing Process Arrangements be referred to the Audit Committee for further consideration;
- (x) That the Committee receive a report on Choice and Independence – A Vision for Adult Social Services and further, executive summary style reports on three of the five commissioning strategies:
 - Physical and Sensory Impairment Services
 - Adult Mental Health
 - Learning Disability Services;
- (xi) That, in respect of amendment (x), the Commissioning Strategy for Physical and Sensory Impairment Services and with reference to Appendix 3, a delegated powers report, be scrutinised jointly with the First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee with due regard to supporting young carers across all age groups;
- (xii) That the Committee considers the implementation of Choice and Independence – A Vision for Adult Social Services and the commissioning strategies in the forthcoming year, in order to evaluate the outcomes and subsequent impact;
- (xiii) That the Committee, in considering Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 performance data, also develops a focus on selected indicators in order to conduct more in-depth evaluation;
- (xiv) That consideration of post offices closures are removed from the Work Programme, following the referral to Cabinet;
- (xv) That the Work Programme is review and updated at each meeting of the committee.

2. That the Work Programme 2007/08 be reviewed and updated at every meeting of the Committee.