
Meeting	Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	27 November 2013
Subject	Your Choice Barnet Task and Finish Group – Final Report
Report of	Scrutiny Office
Summary of Report	This report at Appendix 1 presents the findings of the Your Choice Barnet Task and Finish Group following their review of the business plans and sustainability of the provision of Adult Care Services through the Local Authority Trading Company, Your Choice Barnet. The Committee are requested to consider the findings and recommendations of the Task and finish Group as set out in the report and endorse the report for onward referral to Cabinet.

Officer Contributors	Ash Tadjrishi, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	N/A
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
Function of	Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Enclosures	Appendix 1 – Report of the Your Choice Barnet Task and Finish Group
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1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 The Committee to consider the findings and recommendations of the Your Choice Barnet Task and Finish Group, as set out in the report attached at Appendix 1.

1.2 Committee to endorse the report for onward referral to the next Cabinet meeting.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

2.1 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 3 July 2013, agenda item 5 – Members Item – Your Choice Barnet

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Panels and Task and Finish Groups must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.

3.2 The three key priorities set out in the 2013-16 Corporate Plan are: –

- Supporting families and individuals that need it – promoting independence, learning and wellbeing,
- Improving the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study,
- Promoting responsible growth, development and success across the borough.

3.3 In relation to the Your Choice Barnet Task and Finish Group, the following corporate priorities, outcomes and targets are relevant to the work of the Group:

“Support families and individuals that need it – promoting independence, learning and well-being.”

“To promote a healthy, active, independent and informed over 55 population in the borough so that Barnet is a place that encourages and supports residents to age well.”

“Our aim is to give all users of adult social care services choice and control over the services they receive and the decisions that affect them. We will do this by supporting eligible users of social care services to take personal budgets, and to spend them in a way that benefits them the most, enabling them to decide the support they receive.”

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

4.1 Failure to address issues of public concern through the overview and scrutiny process may result in reputational damage to the Council.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

5.1 Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010 (“the Act”), the council has a legislative duty to have ‘due regard’ to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under

the Act; advancing equality of opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those without; and promoting good relations between those with protected characteristics and those without. The 'protected characteristics' are age, race, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, and maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The 'protected characteristics' also include marriage and civil partnership, with regard to eliminating discrimination.

5.2 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the responsibility of the Committee is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to:

- The Council's leadership role with respect to diversity and inclusiveness; and,
- The fulfilment of the Council's duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.

5.3 Task and Finish Groups will need to take into account equalities considerations throughout the lifecycle of the review and through the on-going monitoring, via the Scrutiny Office, by implementation of accepted recommendations.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

6.1 Task and Finish Group reviews have the scope to consider value for money issues which identify how well the Council is managing and using its resources to deliver value for money and better and more sustainable outcomes for local people.

6.2 Task and Finish Group reviews must take into consideration value for money considerations when conducting their work, including the costs and benefits (both financial and non-financial) associated with any recommendations made by the Group. The costs associated with administering the Task and Finish Group review has been met from existing resources within the Governance Service budget.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

7.1 Under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's executive arrangements are required to include provision for appointment of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee with specified powers, including the power to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)

8.1 The scope of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.

8.2 The Terms of Reference of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees are set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution).

8.3 The Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference states that one of their responsibilities is to:

“To scrutinise the provision of adult social care services (including those who have physical disabilities, sensory impairment, learning disabilities, mental health needs or other special needs) to ensure that residents are safeguarded and supported to lead as independent lives as possible in their own homes””

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 At its meeting of 3 July 2013 the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to review the business plans for Your Choice Barnet with findings being reported to the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee (the responsible thematic overview and scrutiny committee)
- 9.2 The Members appointed to this Group were: Councillors Braun (Chairman), B Salinger, Khatri, Rawlings and Mittra. The Group held its initial meeting on 23 July 2013 to consider the scope and approach to the review. At the meeting, it was agreed that review would undertake an independent analysis of the Business Plans and performance of Your Choice Barnet (a wholly owned Local Authority Trading Company) to enable an impartial analysis with balanced and evidence based recommendations made to the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.
- 9.3 At its meeting of 12 August 2013, the Group considered reports from staff and senior officers on Your Choice Barnet which provided background and context to the original business case and the rationale for the decision to set up the local authority trading company, together with an update on performance and forward plans. This was followed by a presentation from the Head of Finance for Adults & Communities giving an assessment of the business plans and financial performance.
- 9.4 At its meeting of 3 September 2013, the Group:
- Reviewed Care Quality Commission reports for Valley Way Respite Service and Barnet Supported Living Services;
 - Considered Case study reports of three other Local Authorities that had differing local authority trading company experiences; and
 - Considered a range of documents and feedback in relation to consultation and engagement.
- 9.5 The Group undertook site visits to meet with Your Choice Barnet staff and service users on 17 September 2013. Members visited three services sites; Flower Lane Autism Service, Community Space and Rosa Morrison Day Centre.
- 9.6 A final meeting took place on 23 September 2013, at which the Group concluded their findings and agreed the recommendations as set out in the report at **Appendix 1**.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)	JH
Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)	LC