



ARTICLE NO: 1A

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

MEMBERS UPDATE 2009/10

Article of: Council Secretary and Solicitor

Issue :4 January

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor A. Fowler

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**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF LANCASHIRE'S ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND
HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE

1.1 To advise Members of the Agenda and Minutes in connection with Lancashire County Council's Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24 November 2009 and 19 January 2010 at County Hall, Preston for information purposes.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION

2.1 To keep Members apprised of developments in relation to Adult Social Care and Health Equalities Overview and Scrutiny in Lancashire.

3.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this update.

4.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial and resource implications associated with this item except the Officer time in compiling this update.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

Agenda and Minutes of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 24 November 2009 and 19th January 2010.

To:
All Members of the Adult Social Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Dear Member

**Adult Social Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
24 November 2009**

A meeting of the Adult Social Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held at 10.30am on Tuesday 24 November 2009, in Cabinet Room 'C', County Hall, Preston. An Agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

Members are asked to consider whether they need to disclose any personal/prejudicial interests in matters appearing on the Agenda. Members should be particularly alert to the necessity of declaring an interest in the consideration of any decision or action previously taken by a Lancashire Local.

If a Member requires advice on declarations of interest, he/she is advised to contact Jill Anderson, Democratic Services (Tel 01772 532284) or Roy Jones, Democratic Services (Tel 01772 533394) in advance of the meeting.

It is important to mention to co-opted members of the Committee that all County Hall car parks are barrier controlled and only accessible with a valid pass. Bow Lane car park is available to visitors by prior arrangement, but spaces are limited and may only be reserved on a first come, first served basis. If you require a car parking space for the meeting, please telephone 01772 533361 as soon as possible, at least 48 hours before the meeting, and I will try to reserve a space for you. Alternatively, parking is available at the Fishergate Shopping Centre car park, or the train station car park, both of which are just a short walking distance from County Hall.

Yours faithfully

Ian Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

Lancashire County Council

Adult Social Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 24 November 2009 at 10.30am in Cabinet Room 'C', County Hall,
Preston

Agenda

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

- | No. | Item | |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests | |
| | Members are asked to consider any Personal/Prejudicial Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda. | |
| 2. | Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 October 2009 | (Copy enclosed) |
| 3. | Age Concern Lancashire | (Report attached) |
| 4. | Transforming Community Services – Provider perspective | (Report attached) |
| 5. | Adult Social Care & Health Steering Group minutes | (Report attached) |
| 6. | Recent and Forthcoming Decisions | (Report attached) |
| 7. | Work plan 2009/10 | (Report attached) |
| 8. | Items for Information | (Report attached) |
| 9. | Urgent Business | |
| | An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading. | |
| 10. | Date of Next Meeting | |
| | The next meeting of the Adult Social Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held on Tuesday | |

No. Item

19 January 2010 at 2.00pm at County Hall, Preston.

I M Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston

Lancashire County Council Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24 November 2009 at 10:30am at County Hall, Preston

Minutes

Present

County Councillors

M Skilling (Chair)

G Adam	C Evans
G Askew	A Kay
K Bailey	K Iddon*
R Blow	M Otter
M Brindle	N Penney
S Chapman	M Pritchard
J Eaton	B Winlow

Co-opted District Councillors (Non voting)

Mrs B Hilton	-	Ribble Valley Borough Council
Mrs M McManus	-	Preston City Council
J Robinson	-	Wyre Borough Council
Mrs M Robinson	-	Ribble Valley Borough Council
R Russell	-	Chorley Borough Council
Mrs G Sandiford	-	Rossendale Borough Council
Mrs D Stephenson	-	West Lancs Borough Council

*County Councillor K Iddon substituted for County Councillor P Mullineaux

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Fulford Brown (Fylde Borough Council) and Councillor S Derwent (Pendle Borough Council)

Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None were declared

Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2009 were presented.

25. Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

Age Concern Lancashire

Representatives from Age Concern Lancashire gave a presentation to the Committee on the work of the organisation. A particular focus of this report was centred on the 'Fit as a Fiddle' project. It was explained how the 'Fit as a Fiddle' portfolio is funded by the Big Lottery Fund, as part of the Well-being programme, which delivers £15.1 million worth of projects across all nine English regions until 2012. The North West Region has received £1.25 million to deliver a North West portfolio, made up of six projects running from October 2007 to September 2012.

It was described to the Committee why the projects included in the 'Fit as a Fiddle' portfolio are important to the County and in particular its older population. For instance, it was reported how the vast majority of older people are taking insufficient exercise. This may lead them to struggle performing basic tasks such as washing their hair or getting on a bus. Attention was also drawn to the importance of a 'holistic' approach in improving the lives of older people and how working in partnership can compliment this. It was reported how Age Concern and its partners work towards improving all aspects of care including physical activity, healthy eating and positive mental well being in order to fully meet the complex demands of older people.

Members Commented on the report and presentation as follows:-

- A concern was expressed regarding the lack of assistance that is given to elderly in filling out benefit forms and therefore it was questioned what Age Concern were doing to help overcome this issue. It was reported to the committee that this was a big area of work for Age Concern and through their information advice service they have secured £0.5 million of rightful benefits for older people in Preston and Chorley alone. It was explained that they take their role very seriously as they realise that many people do not like going to the Council for advice and therefore they offer a very valid alternative. They assured the committee that they will continue to work towards the LAA targets to improve benefits for older people.
- Assurance was sought over Age Concerns exit strategy after the lottery funding for the 'Fit as a Fiddle' program finishes in 2012. It was reported to the Committee that since the program has begun it has achieved and evidenced some considerable cost intervention savings. As a result, it is hoped that mainstream funding after 2012 will not be a problem.
- It was commented that there is often a lot of duplication in advice regarding disability benefits and additionally when the advice is given; it is often of a poor standard. It was questioned therefore what type of training is given to the Age Concern staff who are providing this advice and whether they are liaising with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Local Authorities in order to reduce duplication. It was reported that Age Concern do work in partnership with the DWP and assurance was given that the quality of the advice given by their staff is of a good standard. It was also admitted however, that a financial inclusion group would be a useful entity as this would help to centralise the advice services.

26. Resolved: That the thanks of the Committee be extended to the staff of Age Concern for their presentation and that the report, questions and comments be noted.

Transforming Community Services – Provider Perspective

At the Adult Health and Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 1 September, members were provided with a presentation and supporting documentation on Transforming Community Services (TCS). Representatives from the 3 PCTs attended to explain the programme and outline their plans to deliver their priority pathways. Following a detailed discussion, members decided it would be useful to also understand how the delivery of the pathways would be carried out by the providers.

In light of this, the Committee received two presentations from officers from NHS Central Lancashire on the delivery of services. As was determined by The Steering Group, the reports were particularly focused on issues relating to long term conditions and mental health.

i) Chronic Disease Management for the Population of Central Lancashire

It was reported to the Committee that as is consistent with predicted population trends in the developed world, Lancashire will be facing an increasingly aged population with the amount of chronic illness being positively correlated to this. It was explained that a new method of chronic disease management is required if we are to adequately face up to these challenges. Attention was drawn to the way that Central Lancashire PCT will be starting to implement an American model for a managed care system based on the work of the Kaiser Permanente organisation. It was explained how this system has an emphasis on integration of care and a focus on a chronic care patient pathway rather than a model based on 'primary' and 'secondary' care. It was described how each patient within this model would be tracked by an electronic health record and this will help to ensure that the quality of care meets required specific standards within a specified timeframe for length of stay. It is hoped that this approach will not only work to reduce costs and increase efficiencies but also improve the experience of the patient by evidencing their health outcomes and giving them greater autonomy in their own care.

Members Commented on the report and presentation as follows:-

- It was questioned what aspects have been translated into every day practice from the adopted strategy from Kaiser Permanente. It was reported that the patient is now managed through every aspect of their care, something that has not been done very well in the past.
- It was commented that most of these new processes seem dependent on electronic records and therefore it was questioned how far the PCT has got in implementing these. It was agreed that the ability of all services to have access to the electronic records was key to the success of the initiative. It was reported to the Committee that the PCT has started to gather information for the records and also expects all paper records to be converted electronically within the next three years. The Committee was informed that patients are continually appraised on why this is happening during the process.

- There was a concern expressed as to how an American system such as the Kaiser Permanente model can be adopted by the NHS considering the contrasting nature of public and private health regimes. It was reported that there are more similarities than differences between the two areas and that the model will be adapted to suit the needs of Central Lancashire.
- A concern regarding the use of electronic records, particularly in the context of the recent data losses, was expressed. The Committee was given assurance that the use of electronic records, whilst not perfect, was actually more secure than using paper records.
- A number of supporting comments were made extolling the virtues of joined up working in the NHS. A particular mention was made regarding the importance of Community Matrons in sustaining joined up working.

ii) Primary Care Mental Health

It was reported to the committee how Central Lancashire PCT has provided Primary Care Mental Health Services since April 2005. The presentation outlined a number of changes and improvements that the PCT has made since it took over responsibility for delivering services in 2005. These include implementing a single point of access to Mental Health Services in Chorley/South Ribble and ensuring that all GPs have access to the Primary Care Mental Health Worker Service. All of these measures have resulted in improvements in access to services for patients and reduced waiting times. It was reported that whilst there is no Transforming Community Services guide for Mental Health Services as of yet, there are a number of ambitions that the PCT wants to achieve. These include;

- Ambition 1: Getting the basics right – every time
- Ambition 2: Making everywhere as good as the best
- Ambition 3: Delivering evidence based practice
- Ambition 4: Developing and supporting people to design, deliver and lead high quality community services

As a result of these, it was explained that the PCT is attempting to create a shared model across Central Lancashire and to roll out initiatives such as the single point of access to all areas.

Members commented on the report and presentation as follows:-

- It was commented that the majority of people with mental health issues often do not recognise their illness or choose not to explicitly deal with it in a formal way. Therefore, the emphasis described in the report on access points was questioned due to the idea that many people would not use them. It was asserted that resources would be better directed towards education and specifically educating people about how to deal with mental illness. This comment was accepted and the Committee was assured that Central Lancashire PCT take a 'holistic' approach to their mental health care.
- Attention was drawn to the commissioning process and in particular it was queried how the different therapies available are allocated budgets

especially in the context of financial restraints. It was reported that therapies in the past have commissioned on a block contract, but they are now starting to look at specific budget for diseases and they are undertaking a piece of work to understand how the money is being spent in relation to the outcomes of the patient.

27. Resolved: That the thanks of the Committee be extended to the officers of Central Lancashire PCT for their presentations and that the reports, questions and comments be noted.

Adult Social Care & Health Steering Group Minutes

It was reported to the Committee that the Chair and Deputies have been visiting the various PCTs within the County over the last few weeks. It was described how these visits have been very useful, particularly in building contacts with Senior Officers. It was explained how the Steering Group have yet to visit East Lancashire PCT and therefore a full report outlining all details will be provided to the Committee at a later date.

It was also reported that the Steering Group had met with Lancashire County Commercial Group to discuss a Part II report on care services which was presented to the Cabinet Committee on the Lancashire County Commercial Group on 20 October. It was explained that the County is finding it increasingly difficult to provide nursing care for patients with dementia. As a result of this, nursing care is being withdrawn from both a centre in Morecambe and at the Lady Elsie Finney Nursing Unit, Preston. A concern was expressed on behalf of the Committee regarding moving patients with dementia from their familiar surroundings as it has been shown this can be damaging for their care. It was noted from this meeting that with regard to the proposed changes, it was hoped that promises made to residents and their families regarding their future care at the homes could be honoured.. Whilst this is a positive result, it was reported that this topic is of great interest to the Steering Group who will continue to monitor the situation.

28. Resolved: That the report be noted.

Recent and Forthcoming Decisions

The Committee's attention was drawn to the Forward Plan which briefly set out matters likely to be subject to Key Decisions over the next four month period. The Forward Plan was available on the County Council's Democratic Information System website at:

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/meetings/forwardPlanOfKeyDecisions.asp>

The report also provided information about decisions recently made by the cabinet and individual cabinet members in areas relevant to the remit of the Committee, in order that this could inform possible future areas of work.

29. Resolved: That Members would consider whether there were any Executive Decisions listed in the Forward Plan, or decisions recently made by the cabinet and individual cabinet members in areas relevant to the remit of the committee, that they wished to raise for consideration by the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Work Plan 2009/10

The Committee received a report, which provided an updated summary of the work to be undertaken by it over the coming months, as recommended by the Committee's steering group.

Additionally, it was commented that the report given for item 4 (Transforming Community Services – Provider Perspective) whilst informative, had not fully met what the Committee had asked for. It was mentioned that the report given had concentrated on structure and had not fully engaged with giving a provider perspective.

30. Resolved: That the report be noted.

Items for Information

The report informed the Committee on a series of information items to support the work of the Committee.

31. Resolved: That the report be noted.

Urgent Business

No urgent business was reported.

Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that its next meeting would take place on 19 January 2010 at 2.00pm at County Hall, Preston.

County Hall
Preston

I M Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

Dear Member

**Adult Social Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
19 January 2010**

A meeting of the Adult Social Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held at 2.00pm on Tuesday 19 January 2010, in Cabinet Room 'C', County Hall, Preston. An Agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

Members are asked to consider whether they need to disclose any personal/prejudicial interests in matters appearing on the Agenda. Members should be particularly alert to the necessity of declaring an interest in the consideration of any decision or action previously taken by a Lancashire Local.

If a Member requires advice on declarations of interest, he/she is advised to contact Jill Anderson, Democratic Services (Tel 01772 532284) or Roy Jones, Democratic Services (Tel 01772 533394) in advance of the meeting.

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Yours faithfully

Ian Fisher

County Secretary and Solicitor

Lancashire County Council

Adult Social Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 19 January 2010 at 2.00pm in Cabinet Room 'C', County Hall,
Preston

Agenda

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

- | No. | Item | |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 11. | Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests | |
| | Members are asked to consider any Personal/Prejudicial Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda. | |
| 12. | Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 November 2009 | (Copy enclosed) |
| 13. | Adult Social Care Budget Proposals 2010/11 | (Oral report) |
| 14. | Adult Social Care Annual Performance Assessment Rating 2008/09 | (Report attached) |
| 15. | Report of the Chair & Deputy Chairs visits to the PCTs | (Report attached) |
| 16. | Report of the Adult Social Care & Health Steering Group | (Report attached) |
| 17. | Recent and Forthcoming Decisions | (Report attached) |
| 18. | Work plan 2009/10 | (Report attached) |
| 19. | Items for Information | (Report attached) |
| 20. | Urgent Business | |
| | An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading. | |
| 21. | Date of Next Meeting | |

No. Item

The next meeting of the Adult Social Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held on Tuesday 16 February 2010 at 10.30am at County Hall, Preston.

I M Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston

Lancashire County Council

Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19 January 2010 at 2.00pm at County Hall, Preston

Minutes

Present

Mrs M Skilling (Chair)

County Councillors

G Adam	C Evans
K Bailey	A Kay
R Blow	P Mullineaux
M Brindle	M Otter
S Chapman	N Penney
J Eaton	B Winlow

Co-opted District Councillors (Non voting)

Mrs S Derwent	-	Pendle Borough Council
F Fulford Brown	-	Fylde Borough Council
Mrs B Hilton	-	Ribble Valley Borough Council
Mrs M McManus	-	Preston City Council
D Reynolds	-	Burnley Borough Council
Mrs M Robinson	-	Ribble Valley Borough Council
R Russell	-	Chorley Borough Council
Mrs D Stephenson	-	West Lancs Borough Council

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor M Pritchard, Councillor Gladys Sandiford (Rossendale Borough Council) and Councillor J Robinson (Wyre Borough Council).

The Chair reported that Councillor K Farrow (Lancaster City Council) had recently resigned from the Committee and that the City Council had yet to confirm its replacement member.

Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None were declared

Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2009 were presented.

32 Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

Adult and Social Care Budget Proposals 2010/11

The Chair presented a report from a meeting of the Committee's Budget Working Group held on 12 January 2010. At that meeting the Working Group had been presented with an Efficiency Plan relating to the adult social care services of the Adult and Community Services Directorate, as proposed by the Cabinet on 7 January, and background and context to the process.

The Working Group, with the assistance of the Cabinet Member and the Directorate's officers, had worked through each of the nine proposals for reductions in the Revenue Budget for adult social care totalling £7.194m in 2010/11 (equating to £14.611m in 2011/12) and had commented and sought assurances as appropriate. Copies of the Working Group's report had been circulated to members of the Committee and a copy is appended to these Minutes for ease of reference.

The proposed Budget also contained two capital projects as follows:-

General Improvement Programme - £1.268m

Development of a combined Learning Disability and Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Centre at Accrington - £2.489m

In relation to Item 1 (Reduction in Directorate Headcount) Councillor Reynolds (Burnley) queried how a proposed reduction of approximately 80 fte posts be achieved without impact on service delivery. He also asked in relation to Item 5 (Reduced Sickness Absence resulting in less Agency staffing expenditure) if sickness absence procedures were reviewed and how absences were monitored.

Jeff Pogson, Head of Combined Finance Team in the Adult and Community Services Directorate explained in relation to Item 1 that the reductions would be achieved by reviewing management structures throughout the Directorate to produce a "flatter" structure overall by reducing the number of manager posts. The proposals would require the Directorate to work smarter and for priorities to be reassessed and re-defined. In relation to Item 5 the Directorate had monitoring of sickness absence in place and statistics were available (Mr Pogson undertook to provide these to Councillor Reynolds). Processes were also under review with the intention of ensuring that absences were addressed quickly and appropriate action taken.

In relation to a question from Councillor McManus (Preston) Mr Pogson indicated that the reduction in the number of posts which would be lost in the Directorate, as far as practically possible this would be achieved through natural wastage, redeployment and voluntary redundancy, but it was too early at this stage to be specific and to consider whether compulsory redundancies would be necessary.

Councillor Hilton (Ribble Valley) asked, in relation to Item 4 (Implementation of Retail Model for Community Equipment) what was meant by the term "via a prescription"? Mr Pogson explained that the current arrangements required an assessment to be conducted initially, following which equipment would be provided by the local Community Store. What was being proposed was that following assessment a prescription would be issued to the client who would take

this to a local retailer who would supply the item. It was emphasised that prescriptions would be issued only for smaller items, with larger items continuing to be issued from the Community Store. The proposal would allow more flexibility and wider choice for the client and reduce operating costs of the Community Store.

Councillor Hilton also asked if it was proposed to retrieve equipment loaned out by Community Stores and no longer required by clients. Mr Pogson confirmed that these larger items would be recovered and recycled for future use.

Councillor Hilton enquired, in relation to Item 5 (Reduced Sickness Absence) if steps had been taken to benchmark sickness absence figures and compare with the results of other Authorities. Dave Burnham, Head of Intelligence, Adult and Community Services Directorate, confirmed that this had been done, but that the results needed to be treated with some circumspection since no two authorities were identical in terms of the basis for the collection of data. It was, therefore, not possible to draw precise comparisons.

Councillor Chapman referred to Item 1 (Reduction in Directorate Headcount) and enquired if a timescale had been prepared which would produce the savings identified in 2010/11 and 2011/12. He also enquired if provision had been made in the estimates for costs associated with the staffing reductions. It was reported that the costings had been based on the premise that the complete exercise would be completed by 2011 and whilst no provision had been made for severance costs there was a corporate provision for such costs.

The officers were thanked for their input and responses to the questions and comments from members of the Committee.

33. Resolved:- That the Efficiency Plan produced by the Adult and Community Services Directorate be supported in principle and the thanks of the Committee be extended to the officers in the Finance Team for the production of the information considered by the Working Group.

Adult Social Care Annual Performance Assessment and Performance Rating 2008/09

It was reported that the Care Quality Commission had reported on the Annual Performance Assessment Process and that Lancashire Adult Care Services had been recognised as performing "excellently" overall. The report provided background on the assessment process and attached as Appendices were the Care Quality Commission's findings and the Annual Assessment Report.

Dot Metcalf, Area Manager for the Care Quality Commission, and Ian Jevons from the Care Quality Commission attended the meeting to present the Report and respond to questions and comments from the Committee.

Prior to presenting the Commission's findings, Dot Metcalf provided Members with background on the origin of the Commission, its structure and methodology in assessing authorities' performance. She explained that her presence was an opportunity for her to forge links with the County Council and its Members, particularly those Members engaged on Overview and Scrutiny.

It was reported that the Assessment had required the Authority to submit a Self Assessment to the Care Quality Commission including a range of quantitative data, Performance Indicators, challenges confronted and responses to those challenges. This had been supported by evidence submitted throughout 2008/09 about outcomes achieved for the people of Lancashire, advice from the Area Manager on areas requiring attention by the Directorate and an Annual Meeting between the Directorate's Senior Management Team and the Area Manager to discuss issues which had emerged.

Dot Metcalf reported that the Commission would shortly be undertaking a Service Inspection of Lancashire Social Care, which would be a more in depth inspection of the service and serve as a reality check on performance.

Councillor McManus (Preston) referred to standards of care in residential care homes, both private sector and public, and commented on the importance of carers respecting the dignity of those in their care. Dot Metcalf confirmed that this was a high priority for the Commission, which had a responsibility for the inspection of care homes as well as Adult Social Care services. Care establishments were assessed on the same basis as local authority services and any found to be failing or inadequate would receive regular inspection to ensure improvement. Residential services received spot checks in addition to inspections by prior arrangement. It was emphasised that the Commission would follow up any expressions of concern about the operation of a care home and Dave Burnham asked that should any Member have such concerns, they raise these with him.

Councillor Hilton (Ribble Valley) asked how the Commission validated authorities' self assessments. Dot Metcalf responded that the Commission did not take self assessment at face value. Tools were available to test out performance and the objective responses of service users sought. It was accepted that as a new organisation, the Care Quality Commission had to gain public trust and confidence and the Commission was working hard to establish this.

Councillor Mullineaux asked how many "Dignity Champions" existed in Lancashire and whether each care home had such a champion. Dave Burnham responded that the information could be provided and that the Authority had a Dignity in Care programme in place.

In response to a question from Councillor Blow, Dot Metcalf confirmed that the Commission did not undertake inspections of day care centres as they were not required to register with the Commission and, therefore, the Commission had no powers of inspection.

Dave Burnham reported that the County Council monitored all service contractors and contract monitoring officers were in place. The Chair suggested that the Working Group meet with contract monitoring officers to discuss issues. This was agreed.

Councillor Evans enquired about arrangements in place for monitoring the working conditions of carers and training. It was confirmed that such monitoring was ongoing and particular emphasis was placed on support for carers of alzheimers sufferers.

34. Resolved:- That the thanks of the Committee be extended to Dot Metcalf, Ian Jevons and Dave Burnham for their attendance

Report of the Chair and Deputy Chair's Visits to the PCTs

It was reported to the Committee that the Chair and Deputies had been visiting PCTs within the County during late November and December. It was described how these visits have been very useful, particularly in building contacts with Senior Officers. Visits had taken place to NHS North Lancashire, NHS Central Lancashire and NHS East Lancashire. The programmes for each of the visits was presented as Appendices A, B and C to the report.

At each of the visits, there had been an opportunity to explain the role of Overview and Scrutiny and discussions provided valuable information about respective roles, challenges and objectives and improved understanding of the work of Overview and Scrutiny and the value added. Members had been impressed by the diversity of services commissioned by the PCTs and had welcomed the opportunity to meet with the respective Chief Executives and Chairs.

35. Resolved:- that the report be received.

Report of the Adult Social Care and Health Steering Group

It was reported that on 30 November 2009 the Steering Group has met with Steve Gross, Director of Commissioning in the Adult and Community Services Directorate to discuss transitional care pathways. Transitional care pathways was a term adopted to describe a range of measures in place to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions and for those admitted, to ensure that effective rehabilitation was available. These included residential and domiciliary rehabilitation services, intermediate care, reablement, rapid response and crisis intervention services.

A copy of the note of the meeting was provided at Appendix A to the report.

It was noted that a report would be provided to the Committee in March on the issue of transitional pathways and the strategic priorities for joint working with each PCT to enable the Committee to consider and comment on progress being made.

36. Resolved:- That the report be received.

Recent and Forthcoming Decisions

The Committee's attention was drawn to the Forward Plan which briefly set out matters likely to be subject to Key Decisions over the next four month period. The Forward Plan was available on the County Council's Democratic Information System website at:

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/meetings/forwardPlanOfKeyDecisions.asp>

The report also provided information about decisions recently made by the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services in areas relevant to the remit of the Committee, in order that this could inform possible future areas of work.

37. Resolved: That Members be requested to consider whether there were any Executive Decisions listed in the Forward Plan, or decisions recently made by the Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members in areas relevant to the remit of the committee, that they wished to raise for consideration by the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Work Plan 2009/10

The Committee received a report, which provided an updated summary of the work to be undertaken by it over the coming months, as recommended by the Committee's steering group.

38. Resolved:- That the report be received.

Items for Information

The report informed the Committee on a series of information items to support the work of the Committee.

39. Resolved: That the report be noted.

Urgent Business

No urgent business was reported.

Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that its next meeting would take place on 16 February 2010 at 10.30am at County Hall, Preston.

I M Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston