

**At a meeting of the ADULT SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY, 10 JUNE, 2008 at 2.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor P Watson in the Chair

Councillors Anderson, G. Hall and Timmins.

**Also Present:-**

Neil Revely	-	Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services
Graham King	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Sharon Lowes	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Martin Barry	-	City Solicitors'
Gill Charman	-	PDA
Ailsa Martin	-	Sunderland Carers' Centre
Tricia Doyle	-	Headlight Mental Health
Victoria Brown	-	Age Concern
Gillian Gibson	-	Sunderland TPCT
Ernie Thompson	-	Alzheimer's Society
Jane Hibberd	-	Community and Cultural Services

**Appointment of Chairman**

1. RESOLVED that Councillor P Watson be appointed as Chairman for this meeting with Councillor Anderson being appointed Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year.

**Receipt of Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Leadbitter along with Ms N Hardy, Mr J Fisher, Ms J Gray, Mr R Patton, Mr A Patchett and Ms L Lane.

## **Minutes**

2. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 4 March, 2008 (circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **Update on the Development of Sunderland Carers Strategy**

The Head of Performance, Commissioning and Change submitted a report (circulated) updating the Board on progress in relation to the development of Sunderland Multi-Agency Carers Strategy.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr King outlined the report to the Board stating that this was a brief update on the Partnership Board's commitment to supporting the development of a Sunderland multi-agency strategy. He stated that the first meeting of the Strategy Group had been held in May and had been well attended. The Board were informed that themes had been drawn up at this meeting on areas affecting the lives of carers, and partners from the group had been chosen to take the lead on one of the specific areas. Mr King advised that he expected much of the work around developing the strategy action plan would be well underway by the next Strategy group meeting in June.

Ms A Martin, with reference to the executive summary of the Carers at the heart of 21<sup>st</sup> century families and communities, which was tabled, stated that Sunderland had one case study contained in the paper. She advised that this centred on working with employers in an attempt to allow carers to return to the workforce. The employer used in the study was Ben Hoare Bell Solicitors who were examples of good practice.

With reference to the Carers Strategy, Ms Martin stated that carers in Sunderland had been informed that a system was being designed that would be on their side. She stated that the strategy was off to a good start and Carers were well placed to be influential in it. Ms Martin raised concerns that it was not always clear to identify where funds for carers were being spent and it was important to try and make this as transparent as possible. In response, Mr Revely stated that due to the nature of the grants it would always be at times difficult to track where spending was taking place. He gave assurances to the Partnership Board that the Authority was committed to maximising support to carers and that the current government grant for carers services continue to be fully used specifically for carers.

The Chairman having advised that he was glad to hear that good provisions were in place, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

(i) the report be noted; and

- (ii) the working group continue to develop the draft strategy.

### **Green Paper – The Case for Change**

The Strategic Commissioning Manager submitted a report (copy circulated) that informed the Board about the recent briefing paper published on 12 May, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Lowes outlined the report to the Board stating that the document was of a consultative nature and looked at answering specific questions on why England needed a new care and support system. Members were advised that the questions fitted with the putting people first strategy and Ms Lowes advised that the report was looking at how best to engage debate to consider those questions.

The Chairman suggested that the way forward might be for each representative to go back to his or her representative groups to discuss the questions, bringing back an informed response to a future Partnership Board meeting. Mr Revely supported this approach stating that the consultations might serve to not only help the Sunderland response but also to help those organisations that were national in dealing with further responses in other areas.

Ms A Martin welcomed the comments and requested that some background work be done which would assist carers in partaking in discussions. Mr Revely responded that a timetable would be worked out to ensure that Carers were provided with this.

Discussions then turned to engaging Elected Members in the process. Councillor Anderson suggested that this would be a suitable area for the relevant Scrutiny Committee to consider. Mr King advised that there should be time to fit some pre Cabinet scrutiny in before the November deadline. Councillor G Hall advised that it would also be prudent for the report to go to Area Committees as this was a long term issue that would affect the City. Mr Revely agreed and suggested that seminars be held for the benefit of Elected Members and these be advertised at the Area Committees.

Having considered the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the briefing paper be received for information; and
- (ii) each Member discuss a response with their representative groups and bring an informed opinion back to a future meeting.

## **Update on the Sunderland Local Involvement Network (LINK)**

The Partnership Board received a report submitted from Age Concern on the establishment of the Local Involvement Network in Sunderland.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. V. Brown outlined the report to the Board stating that Local Authorities were required to procure a host organisation who would be responsible for setting up and supporting LINK. She stated that the host organisation was Age Concern, Sunderland who was appointed with effect from 1 April, 2008. Board Members were provided with an outline of the progress to date and were then afforded the opportunity to ask questions.

Following a query from Mr E Thompson, Ms Brown replied that the Transitional Steering Group was made predominantly of the people who had been involved during the tender process. The Group consists of statutory health and social care representatives, carers, members of the BME network and the two chairs of the previous PPI Forums. Ms Lowes interjected that it had been agreed that the steering group would continue with only some of the Members moving to the Core Executive Group when established.

Ms. A. Martin expressed her support for Age Concern as the host organisation, stating that she felt strongly that local knowledge was important in the role. Ms. J. Hibbert advised that the priorities referred to in the report were similar to those of the Community Development Plan stating it would be useful for some of the information to be shared when completed.

The Chair having taken the opportunity to congratulate Ms. Brown and Age Concern on putting things in place so quickly, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

## **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2008 at 2.30 p.m.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance.

(Signed) P. WATSON,  
Chairman.