

Meeting of: - Cabinet

On: - 25th September 06

Agenda Item: -

Topic: - **Witham, Braintree and Halstead Care Trust – Consideration of Arrangements to Extend the Existing Partnership Agreement within the New Mid Essex Primary Care Trust**

Type of Report: - Non Key Decision

Executive Summary: -

In October 2003 the Council transferred its Housing Elderly Services Team into the newly established Witham, Braintree and Halstead Care Trust. Thirty- eight members of staff from the service, including sheltered housing Scheme Managers and cleaners, Carecall officers and service managers were transferred into the new organisation. The partnership was entered into between the Council, Essex County Council and the WBH Care Trust. The new Mid Essex Primary Care Trust commences on the 1st October 2006. The Primary Care Trust (Establishment & Dissolution) England Order 2006 dissolves the current Care Trust, however it also transfer its rights, obligations etc to the new Primary Care Trust which effectively also means the partnership agreement, so long as all parties are supportive of this. On this basis, representatives from the three organisations have met to consider how the spirit and intent of the meeting can be delivered to continue the partnership agreement.

1. Proposal

The existing Care Trust Partnership agreement was extended by a year until 31st March 2007 under delegated authority reported to the Cabinet on the 6th February 2006.

Members of the three organisations have met recently and registered each organisation's satisfaction with the achievements delivered through the Care Trust, and agreed the importance of sustaining the integrated working that it has introduced. It also recognised the need to identify a way forward aligned to the longer-term vision of commissioning Primary Care Trusts.

The simplest and probably the best way of achieving this is for all parties to confirm their commitment to continuing with the current working arrangements and agree new governance arrangements, in so far as they are able to, by signing an additional agreement extending the existing agreement under Section 31 of the Health and Social Care Act. This could then be carried out by establishing a Partnership Board, a vehicle that most parties are familiar with, to enable appropriate business to be conducted.

Over the course of the next six months the Partnership Board can consider in detail the future of the arrangement. This will include the implications for the council and Greenfield Community Housing.

2. Options

Alternatively, the council could begin immediate negotiations to end the arrangement with a view to transferring the council Elderly Services Team back. However, this would not be without complications as services are integrated and is not recommended.

3. Risks

None with this proposal, subject to all three parties' agreement.

Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Customer Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Health and Children and Young People, is given delegated authority to enter into the required an agreement to extend the current working arrangements until 31st March 2007.

**Background Papers: - Delegated Decision to the Cabinet 6th February 06 - Minute 77 (3)
Minutes of the Meeting of the Care Trust Partnership 11 August 06**

Financial Implications: - None

Equalities Implications: -None

Legal Implications: - Detailed in report

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