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WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: HOUSING COMMITTEE -25TH JANUARY, 2000
SUBJECT: STRATEGIC LIAISON WITH SOCIAL SERVICES/HEALTH
FROM: HOUSING

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise members of the arrangements for Strategic Liaison with Social Services and Health in compliance with Paragraph 5.9 of the Service Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 Over the years, Housing and Social Services have had excellent working arrangements with both Health and Social Services at Operational and Strategic levels. These arrangements have taken many forms over the years but has resulted in notable examples of good practice e.g.
- Special Needs Housing Register
 - Joint Protocol for assessing Young Peoples Needs
 - Elderly Persons Integrated Care Scheme (EPICS)
 - Review of Sheltered Housing
- 2.2 At a County level, the Head of Housing is a member of the Joint Care Planning Team (Officers) and the District was invited to become a member of the Joint Care Consultative Committee (members). This County level strategic liaison is now up for review as there is now no longer a legal requirement for a JCCC. The future of the JCPT is also in doubt and will probably be replaced by liaison arrangements under the auspices of the Health Improvement Programme (HImP).
- 2.3 However, arising out of the County liaison arrangements, a more formal approach was recommended for District/Borough level and this has been in place for some twelve months.

3. Structure

- 3.1 Membership of the Strategic Liaison Group includes:-

Warwick District	-	Head of Housing & Housing Services Manager
Warwickshire County Council - Social Services	-	District Manager
	-	Service Manager x 2
Primary Care Group	-	Chief Executive

- 3.2 A formal constitution has also been created (Appendix 1) which outlines the purpose of the meetings, which take place quarterly and the general areas for discussion.

4. Topics

- 4.1 Recent topics for discussion have included

- Better liaison with Health and the creation of Primary Care Groups and the Importance of Housing to be involved with the Health Improvement Programme.
- Recent difficulties with the Local Partnership Team
- Crime & Disorder Strategy/Introductory Tenancies
- Joint Training
- Young People Issues
- Structure of the two Departments and links with Central Units
- New Year Arrangements
- Arrangements to consider special cases

5. **Future**

- 5.1 It is obviously important, for effective strategic liaison, that meetings do not take place simply for their own sake. This has never been the case within the Social Services/Housing arena. Consequently, the members of the Housing/Social Services/Health Strategic Group are conscious that their role may overlap with other liaison arrangements that may exist e.g. Local Partnership Team and the District Council's own Health Forum. This will need to be monitored to ensure any such liaison is complementary and does not create duplication.
- 5.2 However, it is important to note that in many guidance documents emanating out of Government, stress is placed particularly on effective liaison between Housing and other "welfare" services - Housing within its widest context i.e. not just the District as a housing provider but as the Strategic Housing Authority responsible for both public and private housing and the enabling of future provision.

6. **Key Issues**

- 6.1 The provision of housing, working in partnership, equality in the provision of services and monitoring the Health Improvement Programme are all key elements within the Key Issues Strategy. Co-operation and effective liaison, at District Level, between Health/Social Services and Housing is therefore essential.

6. **Recommendation**

- 6.1 That members endorse the current strategic liaison arrangements between Health/Social Services and Housing.

Derrick S. Dyas
Head of Housing.

Background Papers
Nil.

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Areas in District Affected: All

**Warwickshire Social Services Department and
Warwick District Council Housing and Warwick
District Primary Care Group
Liaison Meeting**

Purpose:

To:

- Explore the possibilities for developing joint strategies
- Identify areas of common priority, differences, and overlap in order to explore/scope possibilities for joint work and minimise duplication/conflict
- Share information

Areas for Discussion.-

1. Share and explore priorities identified in our respective strategies in order to identify the implications for joint work or the current use of resources eg. Community Care Plan, Children's Services Plan, Adult Services Plan, County and District Community Plans, Housing Strategy, Warwick District Key Issues, HIMP, and Primary Care Investment Plan
2. Corporate Initiatives
3. Local priorities and Initiatives
4. Co-ordinate networking at strategic and operational level
5. Monitor and evaluate the operation and development of policies and procedures locally and
6. Develop protocols where necessary

Other Links:

1. Issues should only come to this group for resolution after all operational channels have been explored
2. Links will be made by group members with the agenda of the Local Partnership Team

Frequency

Quarterly

Membership

**Social Services Department District Manager and Service Managers
Head of Housing
Housing Services Manager
Chief Executive Warwick District Primary Care Group**