

By: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member, Adult Social Services
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To: Adult Social Services Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
21 September 2010

Subject: **PROCEDURE FOR THE CONSULTATION ON THE
MODERNISATION, VARIATION OR CLOSURE OF SERVICES
RUN BY KENT ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES (KASS)**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Updates and revises the procedure for consulting on varying or closing KASS run services in the light of legislative and KCC constitutional changes as well as emerging best practice.

FOR DECISION

Introduction

1. (1) The existing procedure was agreed in 2006. Since then there have been legislative changes with the new duty to involve and also to KCC's constitution which has enhanced the scrutiny role of the Adult Social Services Policy & Overview Scrutiny Committee (ASSPOSC). There has also been a significant body of experience developed through the PFI projects, the Good Day Programme and more recently the Older Peoples Strategy. These changes have informed the revision of the procedure, notably through the inclusion of good practice guidance and a flow chart.

Policy Context

2. (1) The existing procedure was agreed by the Cabinet Member in 2006 (Decision No. 06/00874) following endorsement by the then Adult Services Policy Overview Committee on 5 July 2006. This was an update on the previous 2004 version (Decision No. 04/00566) which in turn updated the procedure as agreed by the then Social Services Committee in 2000 and 1997 respectively.

(2) The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 introduced new responsibilities from April 2009 on KCC to:

'embed a culture of engagement and empowerment. This means that authorities consider, as a matter of course, the possibilities for provision of information to, consultation with and involvement of representatives of local persons across all authority functions'

(3) The existing procedure covers the spirit of the new act. The revised procedures make an explicit reference to these responsibilities, along with the need for minuted consideration by Members and officers of whether to hold a public meeting on any proposals.

Timeline

3. (1) Following discussions earlier in the year with both ASSPOSC members about their role and with Democratic Services, it was agreed to review the procedure. Subsequently the procedure has had the input of:

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| Good Day Project Managers | 31 March |
| Democratic Services | 6 April |
| Good Day Programme Board | 13 July |
| Head of Provision (Modernisation) & OP Strategy Project Manager | 22 July |
| KASS SMT | 6 August |

(2) Following the ASSPOSC discussion on the 21 September, and taking into account comments made, the Cabinet Member will be asked to make a decision to accept the revised procedure.

Recommendations

4. (1) Members are asked to COMMENT on and ENDORSE the revised procedure as attached (Appendix 1).

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Background documents: None