HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COMMENTS ON THE REVISED ESTIMATE 2002/03 AND REVENUE BUDGET 2003/04

The Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee met on Monday 20th January 2003. The following members of the Cabinet attended the meeting to respond to questions by the Committee:

Mr D R Parsons CC – Cabinet Lead Member for Health and Social Care
Mr R Miller CC – Cabinet Lead Member for Health Partnerships

REVISED ESTIMATE 2002/03

Decisions

That the Scrutiny Commission be recommended to note the Revised Estimates for 2002/03.

REVENUE BUDGET 2003/04

Comments/Issues Raised

The Committee noted:-

a)   that there was an underspending of £520,000 on Residential Care for the Elderly because of a lower than expected growth in demand. The growth provision of £300,000 in 2003/04 for Residential/Nursing placements had taken into account the current trend which indicated that the demand for placements was not expected to increase as sharply as was first anticipated.

b)   that the 1.6% real terms increase in Residential/Nursing Fees would be from 1 July 2003. The Cabinet Lead Member commented that this reflected the Cabinet's recognition of the cost pressures facing independent sector providers of residential care and was a continuation of the two stage process to support the sector started in last year's budget. The overall increase, including inflation, would be approximately 5%, and this would bring Leicestershire into line with some of its neighbours.

c)   comments by the Director of Social Services that the Partnership Agreement being developed in relation to the 'Supporting People Initiative' would address the issue of partner contributions in the event of a shortfall.

Decisions

That the Scrutiny Commission be recommended to note the Revenue Budget proposals for 2003/04.

<u>Outstanding Issues/Questions</u>

The Committee requested comparative information for the Residential fees paid by neighbouring authorities to independent sector providers in 2002/03. A copy of the information requested is attached.

hscbudgsum