

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING  
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL  
25 MARCH 2014  
7.30 - 9.05 PM**



**Present:**

Councillors Harrison (Chairman), Allen (Vice-Chairman), Blatchford, Brossard, Mrs McCracken, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Temperton, Virgo and Ms Wilson

**Executive Members:**

Councillor Birch

**In Attendance:**

Mira Haynes, Chief Officer: Older People & Long Term Conditions

Simon Hendey, Chief Officer: Housing

Zoë Johnstone, Chief Officer: Adults & Joint Commissioning

Glyn Jones, Director of Adult Social Care, Health & Housing

**37. Minutes and Matters Arising**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 14 January 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

- New care agencies were given three months to sign up to the Council's home care electronic monitoring system. Residents who did not wish care providers to use their telephone to log in and out of the monitoring system were provided with a separate monitoring device to enable the system to be used. The system had been set up in such a way as to enable the monitoring of any incidents of 'zero travel time'
- Of the seven residents currently receiving care from the In-House Dementia Team, two had been successfully transferred to new care arrangements, two would have their new care arrangements in place shortly and agency responses were awaited for three residents. Eleven of the In-House dementia Care team had been successfully redeployed to other posts. Four members of staff had not wanted to be redeployed and would be made redundant at the end of the month

**38. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

There were no declarations of interest relating to any items on the agenda, nor any indications that members would be participating whilst under the party whip.

**39. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

40. **Public Participation**

There were no submissions from members of the public in accordance with the Council's Public Participation Scheme for Overview and Scrutiny.

41. **Quarterly Service Report (QSR)**

The Panel considered the latest trends, priorities and pressures in terms of departmental performance as reported in the Quarterly Service report for the third quarter of 2013/14 (October to December 2013) relating to Adult Social Care and Housing. An overview of the fourth quarter (January to March) 2013/14 was also provided.

Key areas for the Department included: reviewing the range and nature of support services provided by Forestcare for vulnerable people, supporting the development of Clement House extra care scheme, developing plans for the implementation of the Care Bill in 2015/16, working with the Acute Hospital Trusts to deliver seven day working so that the discharge of people from hospital was not delayed because they were waiting for social care packages to be arranged, working with retailers and service providers to develop and promote dementia friendly communities and working with the Clinical Commissioning Group to help shape current and future service provision through Better Care Fund plans.

Arising from the Panel's questions and comments the following points were noted:

- Forestcare was currently self funded and it was hoped that this situation would continue
- The legislative framework for the Care Bill had not yet been passed however it was expected that the Council would be in a position to identify the actions that it would have to take and make judgments about funding streams and implications by the late summer
- The Care Bill placed a £72,000 cap on the amount that people had to spend of their own money on their care needs however this sum only covered the care elements of any package and did not cover that which was classified as 'hotel' costs. All those who currently self funded their care requirements would need to be assessed before the Bill became law
- The Council was already in a position to deliver seven day working patterns and work was taking place with external agencies to enable the delivery of seven day working across the field
- There had been a 25% increase in the number of households accepted as being homeless during quarter 3. The high rate of homeless households was attributed in part to the high cost of the private rented sector. A situation which meant that the Council could not make use of it and that it was unaffordable for recipients of Housing Benefit. Adverts to recruit private sector land lords had yielded five homes and it was hoped that five homeless households would be moved out of bed and breakfast accommodation in the near future
- Chief Officers regularly analysed complaints to identify any potential learning areas and detailed information would be included in the Annual Complaints Report. It was stressed that the number of complaints received was very low when measured against the number of adults supported by the Department (9 complaints were received whilst in excess of 1,500 residents receive support)
- All areas of Social Care services were demand led and whilst the number of older people admitted to nursing or residential care was lower than the same quarter in

the previous year it would only take the admission of two new residents to take the Department over budget

- It was not known if Winter Pressure funding would be available on an annual basis however it was expected to be made available for the 2014/15 financial year
- Housing had been working with Public Health to offer residents a three month free trial of pendant safety alarms
- It was clarified that the introduction of fixed civil penalties would be for those failing to inform the Council of a change in circumstances leading to an overpayment of housing benefit in excess of £250. Overpayments of £500 or more resulted in a fraud investigation
- Ministers had been positive about the Council's participation in a national payment by results pilot for Drug and Alcohol Services however it would still be necessary to evaluate the pilot locally

The Panel thanked officers for their update.

#### **42. Service Plan 2014/15 - Revised Key Actions and Indicators**

The Panel received a report and presentation setting out the key actions to be contained in the 2014-2015 Service Plans. Arising from Members' questions and comments the following points were noted:

- Training to identify problematic drinking would equip staff with the skills, understanding and knowledge to enable them to recognise the signs and symptoms of problematic drinking and know when additional help and support would be required. The training module would be shared with the Panel.
- Work was taking place with Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action to refocus the Befriending Service so that those using the service were encouraged to reconnect with their local communities reducing their sense of isolation and making them less dependent on the befriender
- The mental first aid courses were intended to help staff to improve mental health in the local population and information relating to the courses would be circulated

The Panel noted the report.

#### **43. Learning Disabilities Commissioning Strategy 2014-2019**

The Panel received a report providing an update on the Learning Disabilities Commissioning Strategy 2014-2019.

It was reported that the Strategy took national best practice into account and had been tailored to the needs and understanding of the groups that had been consulted with. The Strategy had been approved by the Executive on 11 March 2014 and its implementation would be overseen by the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board, which had set up a specific sub group to develop detailed delivery plans.

The Panel noted the update.

#### **44. Bracknell Forest Joint Commissioning Strategy for Dementia 2014-2019**

The Panel received an update on the development of the Bracknell Forest Joint Commissioning Strategy for Dementia 2014-2019 which had received Executive approval in January 2014.

As a result of the development of training for retail staff and transport providers to help raise awareness of dementia, the Council had received accreditation as a

Dementia Friendly Community. This work was now being expanded and a Dementia Friendly Alliance was being developed.

It was reported that the Dementia Partnership Board now had a GP with special interest in dementia sitting on it.

It was acknowledged that whilst training in dementia awareness was offered to bus companies, contracts did not stipulate that this had to be taken up.

The Panel noted the update.

#### 45. **Better Care Fund - Integration of Health and Social Care**

The Panel received a briefing providing an update on the integration of Health and Social Care services through the use of the Better Care Fund.

It was reported that the initial joint plan for use of the Better Care Fund had been submitted to NHS England in February. Feedback had been received and work was taking place to address any issues raised including engagement with healthcare providers and target trajectories. A Better Care Board had been established; both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board sat on the Board in addition to the statutory representatives.

In addition to the five national priorities, a local priority focused on reducing the number of fractures resulting in admissions to hospitals had been selected. Baseline data would be based on the 2012/13 performance information and targets would be informed using 2013/14 performance data once it had been verified by central government. Arising from Members' questions and comments the following points were noted:

- The local priority would take a holistic partnership approach to fracture prevention including fall prevention and the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis
- Delayed transfers of care would require input from both the Council and the NHS
- It was recognised that some services would need to be double run until new services were functioning fully
- Funding for elements of the Care Bill had to be funded from the Better Care Fund
- Section 256 of the Health Act enabled NHS England to fund Social Care services
- It was hoped that the work taking place under the auspices of the Better Care Fund would enable the transfer of clinical expertise out of hospitals into communities
- The Better Care Fund Plan would need to be signed off by both the Clinical Commissioning Board and the Council's Executive
- The King's Fund had produced 'Sam's Story' a cartoon explaining what all the changes were aiming to achieve. The cartoon was available on You Tube and was recommended as providing a clear, easy to understand explanation

The Panel noted the update.

#### 46. **Working Group Update Report**

The Panel received and noted a report providing an update on the progress made to date by the Working Group of the Panel reviewing the Council's role in regulated Adult Social Care services.

It was noted that the Children, Young People and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel would be establishing a working group to carry out a review of substance misuse by children and young people. The review's focus would include New Hope and CAMHS and had arisen from the outcomes of a review carried out by the Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

47. **Executive Key and Non-Key Decisions**

The Panel received and noted a report setting out the scheduled Key and Non Key decisions relating to Adult Social Care and Housing.

**CHAIRMAN**

This page is intentionally left blank