

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY PANEL  
17 JANUARY 2012  
7.30 - 8.40 PM**



**Present:**

Councillors Turrell (Chairman), Harrison (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Baily, Blatchford, Brossard, Mrs Temperton and Mrs McCracken (Substitute)

**Executive Member:**

Councillor Birch

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Councillors Virgo and Ms Wilson

**Also Present:**

Andrea Carr, Policy Officer (Overview and Scrutiny)  
Martin Gilman, Chief Executive, Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action  
Neil Haddock, Chief Officer: Performance & Resources  
Mira Haynes, Chief Officer: Older People & Long Term Conditions  
Zoë Johnstone, Chief Officer: Adults and Joint Commissioning  
Glyn Jones, Director of Adult Social Care and Health  
Amanda Roden, Democratic Services Officer

**25. Apologies for Absence/Substitute Members**

The Panel noted the attendance of the following substitute member:

Councillor Mrs McCracken for Councillor Virgo

**26. Minutes and Matters Arising**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 11 October 2011 be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

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

Councillor Baily declared an interest in Item 6, the petition in relation to Ladybank Residential Care Home, as the Home was located in his ward.

**28. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

**29. Public Participation**

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

30. **Petition submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9**

*Councillor Baily declared an interest in Item 6, the petition in relation to Ladybank Residential Care Home, as the Home was located in his ward.*

Carol Brooker presented a petition, on behalf of a resident of Bracknell Forest Mrs Walsh, in relation to the future of the 'Ladybank Older Persons Home' consultation. Approximately 1,200 signatures had been received and the petition had been referred to the Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

Approximately one hundred questionnaires were being analysed in relation to the consultation regarding Ladybank Older Persons Home and the petition signatories included a range of residents across Bracknell Forest.

Points raised in the presentation included residents having a choice of where to live, taking into account family views, a tendency to be biased towards home care, offering alternative care provision before the consultation regarding Ladybank had finished. Residents at Ladybank were reported to feel safe at Ladybank and many had not left the Home for years. The thought of leaving Ladybank, for its residents and their families, was inconceivable for some. It was thought that the intention was to reduce some care provision and not to eliminate it.

Ms Brooker thanked the Panel for hearing her presentation and urged the Panel to consider keeping Ladybank Older Persons Home open.

Arising from Members' questions and comments the following points were made:

- The consultation in relation to Ladybank Older Persons Home was due to close on 18 January 2012 and a report would go to the Executive on 21 February 2012. The points raised in the presentation would be covered in this report and were noted by the Panel and the Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing who was present at the meeting.
- 108 questionnaires had been received at present in relation to the consultation.

The Chairman thanked Ms Brooker for attending the meeting and giving the presentation.

31. **Bracknell Forest Older People's Partnership**

Martin Gilman, Chairman of the Bracknell Forest Older People's Partnership, presented a report on the Partnership's progress to date.

The Partnership was organising the biannual Voice of Experience Conference event on 30 March 2012, at Easthampstead Baptist Church in Bracknell, which would be used as one of the tools for the refresh of the Older People's Strategy.

The Chairman commented on the good work being undertaken and achievement by the Partnership.

32. **2012/13 Draft Budget Proposals**

The Director of Adult Social Care and Health presented a report on the key themes and priorities for the Adult Social Care and Health Department as outlined in the Council's Draft Budget Proposals for 2012/13. The key themes included revenue budget, commitment budget, draft revenue budget pressures, draft revenue budget

savings proposals, proposed fees and charges, equalities screening record form, capital programme report and summary, and proposed capital schemes.

Adult Social Care and Health major service areas included information and advice, assessment of need, support planning, purchasing and support, direct service provision – residential care, home support, day services, intermediate care/ reablement, commissioning and market management, joint work with health, financial assessment, and regulation/ contract management.

The draft budget proposals included information regarding people receiving support in Bracknell Forest. The majority of the day support was provided by the voluntary sector and funded by Bracknell Forest Council. There were a significant number of staff vacancies in Adult Social Care and Health at present. The cash budget gross spend in 2011/12 was close to £38 million. There was significant income from the Primary Care Trust, including £7.5 million to support people with learning disabilities.

There were significant budget pressures in relation to demographic changes in all care groups, including an increasingly ageing population. The Adult Social Care and Health Department were tracking and monitoring people from a young age regarding the support people received. The Dementia Advisor post had been funded for one year in 2011 and would continue to be funded at present. Self-funding service users sometimes found the funding for their care was exhausted and the local authority then became responsible for funding this care under regulations; £100,000 was spent in 2011 and was found within the budget for this.

The Autism Strategy had been launched and there had been an increase in the number of people presenting with autism for support. There had been a reduction in Supporting People funding. Significant budget reductions were proposed via the reprovision of home support, the recommissioning of Ladybank, Section 28A: demography and Continuing Health Care (CHC) taper, back office costs: management layering, administration review and personal assistants, underlying underspend, changing working practices, and learning disabilities changes (Headspace/ day services). The first two proposals were out for consultation at present.

The Section 28A: demography and CHC taper involved the transfer of people with learning disabilities. A fixed amount of money was given for the support of people living in Church Hill House when it was decommissioned and when this was no longer needed there was a cost saving. Back office costs including the removal of a management post would result in £148,000 in savings altogether. There was an underspend of £200,000 and changing working practices included electronic monitoring and the creation of an organisation to run Headspace rather than Bracknell Forest Council.

The Community Team for People with Learning Disabilities would be re-located to the Time Square council offices and Waymead would then house day support and overnight respite care in the same building. The Community Capacity Grant funded a range of initiatives. The aim would be to develop more personalised approaches to Adult Social Care.

Arising from Members' questions and comments the following points were made:

- The 'sales income and other grants' under the Headspace Service in Annex C of the draft budget savings proposals referred to fees charged to attend the service and if artists sold work through Headspace there was a commission payable. The Headspace Service would be unable to apply for a grant whilst

part of Bracknell Forest Council and the proposal was for the service to become a community interest company.

- There were seven residents currently in the accommodation at Ladybank.
- A management post would be removed from the Older People and Long Term Conditions Team. Administrative tasks would be reviewed and posts would be moved under the wider review of personal assistant support.
- In the transfer of learning disability funding, some of the funding in this grant was used to manage the Blue Badge Scheme now that the scheme had transferred from health to Bracknell Forest Council. An additional Occupational Therapist was needed to manage this process and provide clinical assessment of applications. The charge for blue badges would increase from £2 for three years to £10 for three years. The funding given for blue badges was more than that asked for and was a corporate saving rather than a departmental saving.
- Demographic changes did not particularly influence the investment into different Adult Social Care services in Bracknell Forest. More investment was being directed to services in Sandhurst to improve the service for people with additional needs. This would help to meet departmental objectives and the vision of the Adult Social Care and Health Department in providing and commissioning services. It was in keeping with the policy direction and a white paper was expected in the near future in relation to Adult Social Care and Health services.
- There would be monitoring of care provision and electronic monitoring of support when care workers arrived and left to provide support to service users which would be used to bill accurately with real time information. A roster and schedule of support was needed and there was potential for efficiencies.

### 33. **Quarterly Service Report (QSR) and Service Plan 2011/12**

The Panel considered the latest trends, priorities and pressures in terms of departmental performance as reported in the Quarterly Service Report (QSR) for the second quarter of 2011/12 (July to September) relating to Adult Social Care and received an overview of the key issues in relation to the third quarter.

Neil Haddock, Chief Officer: Performance and Resources, gave a presentation in respect of the Adult Social Care and Health Department's QSR and Service Plan.

The QSR was a new format, replacing the previous Performance Monitoring Report style of reporting. The new QSR was shorter and more informative. Modernising Older People Services consultations had been undertaken over the last quarter. The new procedure for the Blue Badge Scheme became operational on 1 January 2012 and thirty people had applied under the new scheme at present.

The Adult Social Care and Health Department had considered the structure of the Emergency Duty Service team and a new model was introduced in November 2011. The current contract for the Community Equipment Services was due to end on 31 March 2012. The new provision would be provided by Nottingham Rehabilitation Services starting from 1 April 2012.

The Community Team for People with Learning Disabilities would be re-located, and capital works were due to begin in the next quarter. The Local Account had been produced for the first time and less strong areas had been highlighted in the report. Jobcentre Plus was now ranked green in terms of performance and mobile working financial assessments would be undertaken. There had been some software issues in the financial team which would affect the timing of when this would go live.

There were recording issues with the 'IS' system and ways to clean up data would be investigated further. There were five new providers and there was sufficient capacity to absorb new demand. There had been an underspend of £500,000 and the Adult Social Care and Health Department would continue to look for new ways to make efficiencies. Current projected savings totalled £650,000.

The Carers' Strategy and the Long Term Conditions and Sensory Needs Strategy would be considered by the Executive in March 2012.

Arising from Members' questions and comments the following points were made:

- The percentage of jobs gained from Jobcentre Plus improving pathways into employment for people with substance misuse issues would be confirmed. Compared to other local authorities, Bracknell Forest performed well in this area.
- Some posts had been held vacant in the Adult Social Care and Health Department in an effort to make savings and avoid redundancies. Savings proposals would be undertaken next year.
- The recording issue with carers' risk assessments would be investigated further.
- The needs of individual carers within families would be considered collectively, rather than everyone's needs separately. The system currently only allowed for the recording of one family member and some manual recording was undertaken.
- Waiting times for assessments and services were currently above target at 91%. The date an assessment was inputted in to the data system appeared as the date the assessment was undertaken unless changed manually.

#### **34. Implications of the Blue Badge Reform Strategy**

Mira Haynes, Chief Officer: Older People and Long Term Conditions, presented a report advising of changes to the Blue Badge disabled parking permit scheme and the transfer of responsibility to the Council.

Training was being undertaken by staff in Reading and thirty people had applied for blue badges so far under the new scheme. Blue Badges would be sent out from the Blue Badge Improvement Service, a project which was expected to be self-funding and to deliver efficiency savings. Enforcement procedures formed part of road traffic regulations and there had been changes to eligibility criteria which were set by the Department of Transport.

There would be an assessment clinic and an appeals process for when Blue Badge applications were refused. More evidence would be needed to support an application but there was no obligation to review an application.

Arising from Members' questions and comments the following points were made:

- The charge for Blue Badges was capped at £10, even though the cost of administration, assessment and issuing of Blue Badges could be up to approximately five times this amount.
- Blue Badges would be replaced under the new scheme as existing badges were renewed over the next three years.
- The number of people in Bracknell Forest Borough who qualify for the Blue Badge Scheme would be confirmed.

The Panel noted:

- i. The changes and additional responsibilities placed upon Adult Social Care and Health in administering the reformed Blue Badge Scheme.
- ii. That subject to the outcome of the budget consultation, the cost of a full time Blue Badge Assessor/ Co-ordinator was agreed by the Executive.
- iii. The Executive had agreed to raise the charge of a Blue Badge from £2 for three years to £10 for three years from 1 January 2012.
- iv. The progress made in readiness for the reformed Blue Badge Scheme to go live on 1 January 2012.

**35. Working Group Update Report**

The Panel noted the update report in respect of the working groups of the Panel.

**36. 2012/13 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

The Panel considered items to be included in the Panel's Work Programme for 2012/13 and it was noted that two working groups were still in progress at present.

**37. Adult Social Care and Health Local Account 2010/11**

The Panel noted the report on the Adult Social Care and Health Local Account for 2010/11 as set out in Annex A.

**38. Executive Forward Plan**

The Panel noted the forthcoming items relating to Adult Social Care on the Executive Forward Plan.

**CHAIRMAN**