

Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel
19th September 2014 – Item 11

Report of Councillor Ann Harley, Assistant Executive Member

Integrated Working has now been in place for 14 months and as you would expect with such changes it will take time for a proper and considered evaluation to be made. It was hoped that this would have taken place at the end of June, a year after the launch, but as I have previously reported there were significant problems, not least with the launch of the Worle/St. Georges integration caused not by North Somerset, but by BT, this delayed the launch by some 5/6 months. I am pleased to say that both projects 1 and 2 are now in operation.

Single Management posts came into operation at the beginning of July, with Julie Johnson, who has a Health background being appointed as the Manager of Weston, she will cover not only Health but also Social Care. Deborah Greenfield, who has a Social Care background, has been appointed as the Manager of Worle/St. Georges. Both are very experienced in their own field, but there will be a transition period to ensure that they are perfectly comfortable with their new remit, I see no reason other to believe that they will be a success. These two Pilot schemes will continue to be monitored and it is important that any lessons learnt will be carried into the next 2 Pilot Schemes. We need to know what has worked and what has not.

I think that most people will understand that there has been issues regarding IT and Connectivity, it is a technical challenge mainly due to compatibility with the various systems, very time consuming for all of those concerned and we must have patience, they are working extremely hard to resolve the situation.

Multi-Disciplinary Meetings are well established within the Weston ICT-the process is in place using the same model for the Worle team. Unfortunately AWP staff have had sporadic attendance and when questioned at the and when I questioned them at the Integrated Working Joint Management Team, where they also have an issue. They replied that it was because of lack of resources, as in people. I cannot understand why in this day of technology that video conferencing is not more widely used, the facility is available, I did suggest this as a way forward and it was accepted that it was worth considering, if we are to be integrated we need to keep all our partners on board, and Mental Health is in my opinion a major concern to us all and one of the biggest issues within our society to-day.

Pilots 3 and 4, the North of the Area, accommodation and costings are being worked on at this present time, but I need to raise my concerns to you, which the officers are well aware of, I fear that we need to tread with caution, we are without question committed to Integration, but not at any price, and for all our partners sake as well as North Somerset we really need to look at what those costings would look like with a proper balanced benchmark and outcome, in other words where do we see it going, these discussions are vital for the way forward, and to bear in mind any statistics we will have are from March/April this year, into this equation I need to highlight that the first two pilot schemes were mostly running out of properties owned by North

Somerset, this I would think most probably will not be available to the other 2 schemes, we may need to think smaller and grow within the boundaries that we set.

Cllr Ann Harley

Assistant Executive Member Health and Social Care Integrated Working