

Minutes

of the Meeting of the

Adult Services & Housing Policy & Scrutiny Panel

Friday, 21st November 2014

Item 4

held at the Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

Meeting Commenced: 10.30 am Meeting Concluded: 12.05 pm

Councillors:

P Anne Kemp (Chairman)

A Jill Iles (Vice-Chairman)

A Michael Bell

P Robert Cleland

- Peter Crew

A Catherine Gibbons

P Tom Leimdorfer

- Robert Payne

A Arthur Terry

A Roz Willis

A Mary Blatchford

P Andy Cole

- Stephen Fudge

P David Jolley

P Ian Parker

A Marcia Pepperall

P Liz Wells

P Bob Garner (substitute for Jill Iles)

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Also present: Councillors Ann Harley, Reyna Knight and Dawn Payne (Assistant Executive Members) and Georgie Biggs (North Somerset HealthWatch)

Officers in attendance: Sheila Smith (Director of People and Communities), Mark Hughes, Gerald Hunt, Claire Leandro, and Donna Miles (People and Communities Directorate), David Jellings (Corporate Services)

ASH Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 3)

21

None.

ASH Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th September 2014 (Agenda Item 4)

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Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

ASH 23 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2018 – Update Report (Agenda Item 5)

The Panel considered this reference from the Executive.

In order to assist each Panel's responsibilities for scrutiny of the directorate's budget within their remit, this reference was covered by the separate workshop for the People and Communities Directorate, to which elected members of all Panels were invited.

Concluded: that the reference be received and dealt with as detailed above.

ASH 24 North Somerset Public Mental Health Strategy (Agenda Item 7) Members

The Panel was invited to comment on the draft North Somerset Public Mental Health Strategy as part of the consultation process.

The Strategy was out for consultation from November 2014 to January 2015 and further comments could be submitted by Members subsequent to this meeting.

Panel Members commented as follows-

- Groups at higher risk of poor mental health - It was suggested that travellers be added to the list.
- The Panel concurred with the Visions and Objectives for the Strategy as set out in Section 3.
- Action Plan (Section 4) – It was suggested that a timeline be added to each listed action.
- Improving Access to Psychological Support (IAPT)

A Member commented that there appeared to be a shortage of IAPT provision in North Somerset.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities advised that to her knowledge North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group had invested and increased this provision over the last 3 or 4 years. The CCG would be asked if they could provide an information note to be circulated to the Panel on this area of commissioning.

- The importance of raising awareness and understanding of mental health was emphasised.
- Ensure that there are effective links for people with specific needs.
- Opportunities for joint commissioning – The Council, North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health

Partnership were working together on several of work areas which will help to reduce costs.

- It was important that there was close monitoring and evaluation of progress on the action plan.

Panel Members also commented on children related matters including working with schools to tackle bullying.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities undertook to arrange for a Member to receive information on the Green Space Strategy Group.

Concluded: that Panel's comments be forwarded to the steering group working on the Strategy.

ASH 25 North Somerset People and Communities Board Strategy (Agenda Item 7)

The Panel received as requested a report on the development of the People and Communities Board Strategy and the work of the Board during 2014-15.

The Director of People and Communities responded to Members' questions, queries and comments.

The Panel was informed that the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were monitored on an annual basis to ensure that the Partnership was making a difference in these areas. The overall position for the Board's priorities and outcomes as measured by 46 KPIs Performance Indicators as at 31 March 2014 was as follows-:

- 21 were currently better than target, or on target
- 5 were currently within tolerance
- 15 indicators are not on target
- 5 indicators were unavailable for reporting.

A development session involving members of the Board had focused on the particular challenges faced and proposals for priorities for the Board in 2014-15 and 2015-16. Arising from these discussions the Board had agreed to explore new priorities focusing on high impact individuals and various aspects of prevention. The session had also agreed to review its structure to ensure the Board was meeting its statutory functions and could effectively deliver its work programme.

It was explained that the People and Communities Board met in its formal and statutory health and wellbeing role twice a year. These specific meetings were open to the public and agendas, reports and minutes were in the public domain. Panel Members would be advised on to how to access meeting papers online.

Concluded: that the report be received.

ASH 26 Report of the Life Course (Cradle to Grave) Working Group (Agenda Item 8)

The Panel complimented the working group on their thorough investigation and for producing an excellent report. The Executive Member specifically commented on the comprehensiveness of the report and the high quality of scrutiny undertaken. He added that he welcomed and supported the recommendations.

Councillor Kemp, Lead Member of the Working Group expressed thanks for the support provided and the work carried out by the officers. She added that the Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel had endorsed the recommendations. The Panel was informed that the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services had specifically commented on the comprehensiveness of the report and the high quality of scrutiny undertaken. He had he welcomed and supported the recommendations.

Councillor Kemp and the representative of the Director of People and Communities responded to Members' questions and queries. Key points-

(i) The focus of the working group

- Focus on the cohort of people with the most complex needs. It was considered that if successful the lessons could be applied to other cohorts where applicable.
- The initial focus was on the 18-25 age range having regard to the wish of the working group to improve services and promote independence across the life course.
- It was more helpful to explore a "single seamless straight-forward pathway" for children and young people through services rather than a single team or service. This would reflect the direction of policy and service delivery in children and adult services over recent years.
- Focus on transitions and developing services contributing to a single pathway.

(ii) Develop the concept of key working - focus on coordination, communication and supporting families along the "pathway". The provision of key workers is something that parents and carers of disabled children and young people and children and young people with SEN have consistently raised as something they would wish to see considered.

(iii) Personal budgets

These offered choice and flexibility. Pilots had started and the take-up had been positive. Over 100 parents were on personal budgets.

(iv) Engagement

Following on from the success of the Older People's Champions Group, officers would be exploring and developing an engagement process for the

parents of disabled children to enable them to communicate directly with Members.

(v) Housing

The possibility of broadening the scope of the post in housing services currently working primarily with people with a learning disability to cover people with a physical or sensory impairment would be explored.

(vi) Employment of young people with learning disabilities – staff had been engaged specifically to work with and encourage employers.

(vii) Development of 14-25 service was key

The working group was aware of the outcomes of the Respite Care and Short Breaks Working Group regarding the development of a 14-25 service which will provide more effective transitional arrangements between children's and adults' services, will promote individuals' journey towards independence and will ensure that high quality short breaks remain available to those families which need them.

Concluded:

That the Executive Member for Adult Care and the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services be recommended to approve

(1) that officers continue to develop and implement effective pathways for disabled children with complex needs to take them through to adulthood, to ensure that their progress through the health, education and social care cycles brings about the best outcomes for them and their families, with the aim of developing a near seamless pathway from childhood to adulthood, with particular emphasis on transition protocols;

(2) that officers further explore the funding implications of the Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans introduced by the Children and Families Act with particular regard to the provision for the age range 18-25 years;

(3) that officers further explore, consider and report back on the challenges and benefits of a developing the role of a 'key worker' for disabled children with complex needs to take them through to adulthood, with the aim of developing a near seamless pathway from childhood to adulthood;

(4) that having regard to the success of the Older People's Champions Group, officers explore and develop an engagement process for the parents of disabled children to enable them to communicate directly with Members;

(5) that officers explore the possibility of broadening the scope of the post in housing services currently working primarily with people with a learning disability to cover people with a physical or sensory impairment;

(6) that the report and recommendations be referred to the People and Communities Governance Group;

(7) that officers report back on the above matters in six months' time to the Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel and the Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel;

(8) that this working group endorses the outcomes of the Respite Care and Short Breaks Working Group.

ASH 27 Oral Update from Assistant Executive Members (Agenda Item 9)

The Panel welcomed reports from Councillors Ann Harley, Reyna Knight and Dawn Payne.

(1) Councillor Dawn Payne

It was reported that the budget for Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) was £394,000 and that spend was expected to be within budget by the year end.

Following the last DHP officer briefing, it was suggested that the Council look to use DHP to help housing benefit customers with any shortfall due to Social Rent Restriction where their child is aged 9-10 years. This had now been implemented and DHP awarded to those that qualify. The officer team was also looking at expanding the campaign to include 15-16 year olds.

Councillor Payne responded to Members' questions and queries.

A Member referred to the issues of court action and levels of debt recovery.

The Chairman and the Assistant Executive Member commented that these matters came within the remit of the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel and not this Panel.

(2) Councillor Reyna Knight

Councillor Knight updated the Panel on the Dementia Care Culture Change Programme which sought to improve the quality of life for people with dementia in care homes.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities advised that 20 care homes were involved in the base programme and 5 care homes had been selected to engage in the whole programme with staff receiving training.

(3) Councillor Ann Harley reported on the Integration of Health and Social Care with particular reference to-

(i) Monitoring cost and avoiding duplication

(ii) Updates on the Weston and Worle projects including Single Managers

(iii) Accommodation

(iv) North of the District and rural areas

(v) NSCP Contract Renewal and Procurement

(vi) Evaluation Procedures

(a copy of the report has been placed in the signed Minute Book)

Councillor Harley responded to Members' questions and queries.

**ASH
28** **Performance Monitoring Report (Agenda Item 10)**

The Panel received the latest finance and performance figures, including key performance indicators.

The representatives of the Director of People and Communities commented on the finance and performance figures and the areas of performance and they responded to Members' questions, queries and comments.

Concluded: that the General Performance Update report be noted.

**ASH
29** **The Panel's Work Plan (Agenda Item 11)**

(1) Support for homeless people discharged from hospital

This matter had been raised by Councillor Mike Bell at the meeting of the Health Overview and Panel during the discussion on the HealthWatch North Somerset Report July 2014.

The Panel asked the Head of Housing to investigate with the aim of reporting back later in this Council year.

(2) Community Meals on Wheels and the START Teams

The Panel agreed to set up a task and finish working group to look at the Support Services of the Community Meals on Wheels and the START Teams but only (i) if this does not duplicate the work already being carried out on the Support Services Contract by the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel and (ii) that there is added value for it to be scrutinised. Panel Members would be advised accordingly.

Officers' reports dealt with at this meeting would be deleted from the Work Plan.

Chairman
