

## Minutes

of the Meeting of the

# Adult Services & Housing Policy & Scrutiny Panel

**Friday, 6th March 2015**

**4**

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

Meeting Commenced: 10.30 am Meeting Concluded: 12.10 pm

### Councillors:

P Anne Kemp (Chairman)

P Jill Iles (Vice-Chairman)

- Michael Bell

P Robert Cleland

A Peter Crew

P Catherine Gibbons

P Tom Leimdorfer

- Robert Payne

A Arthur Terry

A Roz Willis

P Mary Blatchford

P Andy Cole

- Stephen Fudge

P David Jolley

P Ian Parker

A Marcia Pepperall

P Liz Wells

P Charles Cave (substitute for Roz Willis)

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**Also present:** Councillor Sonia Russe; Georgie Bigg (North Somerset HealthWatch)

**Other Member apologies:** Councillors Ann Harley, Reyna Knight and Dawn Payne (Assistant Executive Members)

**Officers in attendance:** Mark Hughes, Gerald Hunt and Christine Jupp (People and Communities Directorate), David Jellings (Corporate Services)

### ASH Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 3)

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None

### ASH Minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2015 (Agenda Item 4)

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

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**ASH  
41 Alliance Homes Annual Report (Agenda Item 6)**

Clive Bodley, Group Chief Executive Officer of Alliance Homes presented the report. The key points included-

- Effective year re achievements – targets met
- Receiving regional and national recognition
- Alliance Homes would be subject to a new regulatory framework and a new regulatory code with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015
- Challenges
  - (i) The impact of in public funding and changes in the welfare system on the capacity to deliver services
  - (ii) Key business risks including Welfare Reform changes and loss of contracts - action being taken to avoid exposure to a few key contracts
- Ensuring that sheltered housing was fit for purpose
- Housing provision for older people
- Planning for future housing need
- The business structure of the Alliance Group of companies ensured that the housing, social care and energy heating divisions effectively operated as separate subsidiaries. Alliance Homes' tenants would not be subsidising social care activity.

Members congratulated Alliance Homes on the recognition they had received through local, regional and national awards including becoming one of the “Top Ten” landlords nationally. Members also complimented Alliance Homes on seeking to be a Living Wage Employer.

Mr Bodley undertook to provide Members with a written copy the statistical data that he had reported verbally.

The Chairman on behalf of the Panel thanked Mr Bodley for his report and for the continuing good work being carried out by Alliance Homes.

**ASH  
42 Hospital Discharge – Homeless People (Agenda Item 7)**

The Panel was invited to consider and comment on the information they had requested regarding the arrangements for discharging homeless people from hospital.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities presented the report and highlighted the following-

(1) The report summarised research undertaken into the experiences of homeless/vulnerable service users in Weston-Super-Mare in relation to hospital discharge from Weston General Hospital and identified 3 key issues:

- The need to improve hospital discharge arrangements to ensure that the needs of homeless/vulnerable people are identified prior to

discharge and arrangements put in place to meet those needs for example: access to accommodation and support services;

- To improve the arrangements for handling homeless/vulnerable people who present at the emergency department but do not require hospitalisation;
- To improve the arrangements for provision of follow up care and/or treatment.

(2) The following range of services were currently provided for homeless people leaving hospital to assist their discharge and provide access, either directly or through out of hours arrangements, to key services, eg, statutory homelessness, social care-

- (i) Home from Hospital Service
- (ii) Assisted Discharge Service
- (iii) Aftercare - Community Outreach Practitioner Service
- (iv) Health Trainers.

(3) Discussions with service providers and commissioners had identified a number of areas to improve the services provided for homeless people using hospital services-

- (i) Training on the services available for homeless people and how to access these services
- (ii) Improving links between the statutory homelessness, Home from Hospital, Red Cross and community based services
- (iii) Community Outreach Practitioner Service to be linked in with new and existing services being commissioned for rough sleepers through Strategic Housing (HomeChoice and Housing Advice Service) in partnership with Bristol City Council
- (iv) Senior nurses who provide mentoring to promote the Home from Hospital service
- (v) A guide for rough sleepers was being developed and would be distributed to partners.

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

The Chairman on behalf of the Panel thanked Mark Hughes and his housing team and HealthWatch for the work they had carried out.

**Concluded:** that the report be received and that an update report be received by the Panel in six months.

**ASH  
43 Members Response of the Executive Members to the  
Recommendations of the 'Life Course' (Cradle to Grave) Working  
Group (Agenda Item 8)**

The representative of the Director of People and Communities presented the report and highlighted the key points.

The report focused in particular on the key area of transitions and the development of the 14 -25 project for a new transitions service. It also complimented the work and recommendations of the Short Breaks Working Group.

It was explained that the original focus of the working group was to consider options for delivering services in alternative ways and that this could include having one children and adult disability service or a single pathway. At an early stage, the working group had recognised and agreed that the focus needed to be the cohort of people with the most complex needs. It was considered that if successful the lessons could be applied to other cohorts.

The Panel welcomed the positive response of the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services and the Executive Member for Adult Care. The Executive Members supported the recommendations and welcomed the initiatives contained therein.

Reference had been made to recommendation (v) "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". The post did not have the capacity to expand to young people with physical disabilities but this would be further explored within the 14 – 25 work. In the interim the officer would attend the transitions meetings and be able to give advice as required and link people to housing colleagues.

The Chairman referred to the success of the Older People's Champions Group and the development of proposals for a champions group for parents of disabled children and children with SEN.

**Concluded:** that the report be received and that the relevant Panels receive a report in six months on progress in implementing the recommendations.

#### **ASH 44**      **Performance Monitoring Report (Agenda Item 9)**

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

The representatives of the Director of People and Communities responded to Members' questions, queries and comments relating to the areas of activity, key corporate performance indicators and revenue and benefits.

It was noted that there was a projected end of year underspend for adult social care.

The Panel received assurances that where performance was below target, action was being taken to ensure that in most cases performance would be back on target by the year end (as explained in the report).

Revenue and Benefits – performance regarding both new claims and changes in circumstances continued to be very positive.

**Concluded:** that the General Performance Update report be noted.

**ASH 45 Oral report of Assistant Executive Member (Agenda Item 10)**

The Chairman on behalf of Councillor Dawn Payne reported that the Assistant Executive Member would circulate a paper to Members on the impact of welfare reform.

**ASH 46 The Panel's Work Plan (Agenda Item 11)**

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

**Concluded:** that the work plan be updated accordingly.

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Chairman

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