



## Minutes

of the Meeting of the

## Adult Services & Housing Policy & Scrutiny

### Panel

**Friday, 18th September 2015**

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

Meeting Commenced: 10.30 am Meeting Concluded: 12.50 pm

#### Councillors:

P Reyna Knight (Chairman)

P Mary Blatchford (Vice-Chairman)

P Robert Cleland

A Peter Crew

P David Jolley

P Richard Tucker

P Roz Willis

P Donald Davies (substitute for Andy Cole)

A Andy Cole

P Ruth Jacobs

P Tom Leimdorfer

P Liz Wells

P Deborah Yamanaka

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**Also present:** Councillor Dawn Payne (Executive Member Adult Care) and Georgie Bigg (HealthWatch)

**Other apology:** Councillor Jill Iles (Assistant Executive Member)

**Officers in attendance:** Mark Hughes, Gerald Hunt and David Jones (People and Communities Directorate), Jo Buchan, David Jellings and Julia Parkes (Corporate Services Directorate) and Kit Wilson (Agilisys)

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

5

None

**ASH Minutes of the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (Agenda Item 4)**

6

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

## **ASH 7 Licensing Private Rented Housing (Agenda Item 8)**

7

The Panel received a powerpoint presentation on the licensing of the private rented sector (copy placed in the signed minute book).

The key headings of the presentation were as follows-

- Private Rented Sector - Background
- What the Council has done in response
- Outcomes and measures of success
- What have we learnt
- What else could be done
- How could we improve outcomes and efficiency

The focus was on the low cost rented homes. The size of the private rented sector in North Somerset had doubled in the last few years but this had been largely at the higher cost end of the market. It was becoming more difficult to get low cost rented accommodation. The focus was on Weston-super-Mare because of the concentration of properties.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities responded to members' queries, questions and comments and highlighted the advantages of declaring a Private Sector Rented Licensing Scheme.

Georgie Bigg commented that this linked in well with a HealthWatch project in Central Ward and she undertook to liaise with the Head of Strategic Housing to ensure HealthWatch asked the right questions.

The next steps were identified as

- Corporate Management Team and the Executive Member had endorsed a project to explore licensing in areas of interest
- Research into areas of interest to be carried out during September – December 2015
- Formal consultation to take place January to March 2016
- Report to Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel meeting in January 2016
- Declaration of Private Sector Rented Scheme following report to Executive in April 2016 and commencement not before July 2016.

## **ASH 8 Report of the START and Community Meals Working Group (Agenda Item 6)**

8

The Panel considered a report setting out the detailed work undertaken by the START and Community Meals Working Group. The report focused on the START aspect of the Working Group's investigation. The Working Group would meet further to complete the Community Meals aspect of its investigation.

The Chairman on behalf of the Panel thanked the Scrutiny Officer for an excellent report, the Working Group for their work and the officers in Adult Social Care for their input.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities and the Executive Member for Adult Social Care responded to the recommendations of the Working Group –

- (i) It was reaffirmed that the contract would be very carefully monitored.
- (ii) The outcomes of Area 2 would be fully evaluated.
- (iii) Monitoring would be rigorous and robust. The local manager would submit weekly reports to the Council and additionally, the Council would be able to access reports in the provider's system.
- (iv) The recommended successful contractor would carry out their own training and provide their own occupational therapist. All staff would receive Induction training.
- (v) The acquisition of necessary equipment would benefit greatly from the Contractor having their own occupational therapist.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities responded to Panel Members' questions and queries and sought to give reassurance. He advised that the Council was being recommended to approve award of the Support to Live at Home (Worley) Contract, the Lakeside Court Extra Care Housing Contract and the Diamond Court Extra Care Housing to the Human Support Group Ltd. No provider had applied for the contract to provide care and support at the Worley Extra Care Housing and Wellness Centre. This may have been due to the delayed commencement of the service and it was proposed to let this contract at the next opportunity so it would be included as a lot in the tender for provision of care and support in Weston-Super-Mare to be undertaken in January 2016.

The Panel was advised that the Human Support Group bid met all the requirements of the service specification and offering significant innovation, added value, social value and price. The new service would include the following elements:

- Re-ablement service
- Signposting to other services where appropriate
- Linking people to preventative services
- Use in-house occupational therapist and therapist support to enhance independence
- Link with statutory and voluntary sector to maximise the effect of their service with the individual
- Reviews of service provision at regular intervals to facilitate reductions as appropriate
- Ongoing care and support where required to maintain people in their own home for as long as possible
- Support and care to people in the community to live at home and to people living in extra care housing schemes
- A "Wellbeing Service" to support people with dementia to remain at home for as long as possible.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities commented that it was encouraging that the proposed contractor for this tender had substantial experience of reablement services in six of the thirty public sector organisations it was working with and that the performance of these reablement services matched or even exceeded current START reablement performance at a substantially reduced unit cost.

The Panel received a brief update on Community Meals.

The Panel was informed that there were some outstanding issues regarding Community Meals Business Support. The Assistant Director Finance, Resources and Strategic Commissioning had been asked to set up a round Table meeting of interested parties to take place shortly, to air issues about The move to the Health Hub and hopefully resolve them.

It was confirmed that Business Support would remain at Castlewood and That training was being put in place over the next 2-3 months.

**Concluded:**

- (1) That the Executive Member for Adult Care be recommended to approve
  - (i) that the process and outcome of the outsourcing of START and the recommissioning of Area 2 be carefully monitored, specifically in relation to reablement packages;
  - (ii) that consideration be given to not commencing the outsourcing of START teams for other areas, until there has been a full evaluation of the outcomes of Area 2;
  - (iii) that within the first six months there should be ongoing rigorous monitoring which should include unscheduled visits;
  - (iv) that training is carried out by carried out by professional specialist trainers (particularly if the provider does not have the necessary expertise);
  - (v) that it is important that the acquisition of necessary equipment should be carried out to the existing timeframe;
  - (vi) that there needs to be robust contingency arrangements if a provider is unable to meet its contractual commitments;
- (2) that the Panel agree to receive a further report in November on the Community Meals aspect of the Working Group's investigation;
- (3) that the Executive Member for Adult Care reports back to the Panel on progress in implementing the recommendations.

The Panel considered an update on proposals for the management of the Better Care Fund through the Section 75 Agreement.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities highlighted the statutory framework and reporting and governance arrangements. He added that the Better Care Fund had delivered significant MTFP savings in the first quarter and financial monitoring indicated that savings of £1.9 million were on schedule.

It was confirmed that the £1 million bond was a Clinical Commissioning Board risk.

The Panel asked to receive regular feedback.

**ASH 10 Performance Monitoring Report (Agenda Item 9)**

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

Revised housing data was circulated.

Members were requested to refer any questions or queries on the data with relevant officers.

**Concluded:** that the Panel receives regular feedback.

**ASH 11 Report of the Assistant Executive Member (Agenda Item 9)**

The Panel asked that in future, the Assistant Executive Member provide a written report to be included with the agenda papers so that the Panel will be aware of the areas of work being covered and be able to formulate questions.

**ASH 12 The Panel's Work Plan (Agenda Item 11)**

The Panel was reminded that seminar led by this Panel to consider the North Somerset Safeguarding Adults Partnership Annual Report 2014-15 was taking place on Thursday 8th October from 2.30 to 4pm in the Old Council Chamber.

The Panel asked officers to check if consideration of Alliance Homes Annual Report could be brought forward from March to January 2016.

**Concluded:** that the Panel's Work Plan be updated to reflect work in progress.

---

Chairman

---