

## Minutes

of the Meeting of the

# Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel

**Thursday, 14th November 2019**

held in the New Council Chamber, Town Hall.

Meeting Commenced: 10:30      Meeting Concluded: 12:45

### Councillors:

P Mark Crosby (Chairman)  
A Caroline Cherry (Vice Chairman)

P Gill Bute  
P John Cato  
P Paul Gardner  
P Ann Harley  
P Karin Haverson  
P Sandra Hearne  
P Ruth Jacobs (Substitute for Councillor Willis)  
P Huw James  
P Patrick Keating  
P Ian Parker  
A Roz Willis  
P Andy Cole

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**Other Members (as appropriate):** Georgie Bigg (co-opted Member, Healthwatch)

**Officers in attendance:** Mark Hughes, Gerald Hunt, Hayley Verrico, Steve Devine (People and Communities); Michael Reep (Development and Environment); Katherine Sokol, Leo Taylor, Brent Cross (Corporate Services).

### **ASH Public discussion (Standing Order SSO 9)**

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There were no speakers representing the public.

### **ASH Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest (Standing Order 37)**

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None.

### **ASH Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 June 2019 (Agenda Item 4)**

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

**ASH 14 Matters referred by Council, the Executive, other committees and panels (if any) (Agenda Item 5)**

None.

**ASH 15 Co-option of the Chairman of Healthwatch (Agenda Item 6)**

**Resolved:** that the Chairman of Healthwatch, Georgie Bigg, be co-opted onto the Panel.

**ASH 16 Older Persons Accommodation and Planning Policy (Agenda item 7)**

The Planning Policy Manager presented a report outlining the issues related to older person accommodation and how planning policies within the new Local Plan could help to address these.

A statement was also read out from one of the Members and reproduced below.

“Intergenerational” planning for families trying to take care of older relatives or younger disabled relatives, when being processed through planning policy, need to be “joined up” to enable this Council to take into account our own Policy on Adult Social Care.

Officers responded to Members’ questions and requests for clarification as follows:

- The definition of a Care Village; an example was the Sandford Station Retirement Village.
- If we plan for more Care Villages, does this change the emphasis away from the wider strategy of encouraging care at home? – *The Council’s vision of maximising opportunities to support independent living at home was critical but Care Villages could provide some flexibility. There is some conflict with the objective of creating balanced communities, but they do have a role to play, responding to both what older people wanted and to meet demonstrable needs. The care home market was in decline and changing demographics meant that numbers of people who could not be cared for at their own homes due, for instance, to issues around dementia were increasing.*
- When would the policies be updated to encourage developers when building care homes? Could it be built into planning permission that more up-market care homes, if they became unsustainable, were able to be easily transferred to other providers? *Evidence was being gathered to determine the proportions of elderly residents in in different classes of care accommodation, including dementia care. We are at the start of a new local plan process and it will not be until 2022/23 that new policies are in place.*
- Care villages were usually inhabited by those with more wealth, while poorer residents tended to be placed in care homes – would it not be more valid to focus on addressing the decrease in care homes? – *Care villages were a hybrid model with mixed sized housing and were more about building-in “care” into new development; not necessarily focussing provision one place but aligning support units across a wider setting, using technology to support residents and staff.*

- Was there scope for using the planning system to encourage more inclusive (less luxurious) care villages – *this was difficult in planning terms. Demographic trends showed that that demand was increasing across the wealth spectrum – the important issue was to encourage the appropriate balance.*

In bringing the discussion to a close, the Chairman referred to a previous proposal by Members that a planning working group be established in order that the Panel might more effectively input into the proposed Members' engagement on the development of the Local Plan. Discussions around the terms of reference of this working group were ongoing but the Panel should expect its establishment and recruitment of Members in the near future.

**Concluded:** that the report be noted and the Members' comments forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

#### **ASH 17 Domiciliary care update (Agenda Item 8)**

The Head of Commissioning presented the report outlining current domiciliary care capacity.

Members' questions and comments were made as follows:

- Was the current stability in terms of service providers likely to persist? *Officers were constantly checking on the stability of each provider; it was noted that some providers were facing financial challenges due to the complexity of care in some cases and the size of the area that they covered.*
- Could the Proud to Care initiative be extended to cover care home staff too? *This would use more of the budget than was available.*

**Concluded:** that the report be noted and the Members' comments forwarded to Officers in the form of minutes.

#### **ASH 18 Technology enabled care (Agenda Item 9)**

The Head of Commissioning presented an item on the background leading up to some of the innovations being used in North Somerset.

It was pointed out that the cost of all the innovations had used only £30 000 of Council funds, in addition to the creation of two posts – the rest of the funding had come from elsewhere.

It was also confirmed that the team had been given access to the Hydration Risk Assessment tool for checking that residents had been drinking a sufficient quantity of fluid, which was more useful and cost effective than obtaining hydration checking patches for residents to wear.

**Concluded:**

- that the report be noted and the Members' comments forwarded to officers in the form of minutes; and
- that a site visit to Sycamore Lodge in Wraxall be undertaken.

**ASH 19 North Somerset adults complaints report 2018-19 (Agenda Item 10)**

The Complaints and Directorate Governance Manager presented the report detailing complaints and compliments received by Adult Social Services in 2018-19.

Members queries and requests for clarification were responded to as follows:

- What were the complaints about Deprivation of Liberty relating to?  
*These were about people who lacked capacity to make decisions about their care, meaning that Adult Social Care had to decide on their behalf.*
- Could we not reinstate reminders about Blue Badges about to expire?  
*This was not in the budget, and no other local authorities in the South West did this any longer. Moreover, some parking wardens were trying to be flexible about recently-expired Blue Badges.*

**Concluded:**

- That the report be noted and Members' comments forwarded to officers in the form of minutes;
- That outcomes of the Blue Badge workshop be revisited by Members.

**ASH 20 Month 5 adult care budget monitor (Agenda Item 11)**

The Panel received the report from the Finance Business Partner on the Month 5 Adult Care and Housing Budget Monitor.

The report summarised and discussed the current forecast spend against budget for adult services, highlighting key variances and contextual information.

It was announced that at the time of reporting, there was a slight net underspend projected for the year.

Officers also stated that efficiency savings were being made by challenging decisions on care packages made by the Clinical Commissioning Group.

**Concluded:** that the report be noted.

**ASH 21 The panel's work plan (Agenda Item 12)**

In considering the work plan, the Panel reiterated the proposal for a site visit to Sycamore Lodge to examine how the Technology Assisted Care systems were being used.

It was noted that the outcomes of the Blue Badge workshop would need to be revisited, particularly the appeals process.

There was also discussion around the need for a workshop or presentation on the Council's Homelessness Strategy, as well the need to set up a Planning Policy working group to investigate the policies for housing.

Finally, it was discussed that a presentation from the Portishead Dementia Action Alliance would be useful for Members to see what community organisations were doing to support those suffering from dementia.

**Concluded:** That the Work Plan be noted.

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Chairman

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