

## **Draft Notes**

of the informal Meeting of the

# **Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel**

**Thursday, 4th November 2021**

held in a Virtual Meeting.

Meeting Commenced: 10:30      Meeting Concluded: 13:35

### **Councillors:**

P Mark Crosby (Chairman)  
P Huw James (Vice Chairman)

P Gill Bute  
P John Cato  
A Wendy Griggs  
A Ann Harley  
A Karin Haverson  
P Sandra Hearne  
P Richard Tucker  
A Richard Westwood  
P Roz Willis

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

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

**Officers in attendance:** Hayley Verrico, Jo Baker, Martin Hawketts (Adult Social Services); Howard Evans (Public Health and Regulatory Services); Mark Jarvis, Katharine Sokol, Leo Taylor, Brent Cross (Corporate Services).

### **ASH Notes of the meeting held on 8 July 2021 (Agenda Item 2)**

**Resolved:** that the notes of the meeting be approved as a correct record for endorsement at the next formal meeting.

### **ASH Month 5 Adult Social Care Budget Monitor (Agenda Item 3)**

The Senior Service Accountant Director of Adult Social Services took Members through report, which included details such as the amount of the directorate's overspend in the last financial year as well as the predicted overspend for the current year.

In the discussion that followed, Members sought and received clarification on the following: the trends for long-term care support packages; whether there was data available on how well the Home First strategy was working against the backdrop of an elective care backlog; the need for more one-to-one support for mental health after the lack of social contact over the lockdowns; how provider costs had risen for staffing, fuel/heating charges, and insurance increases which were now being passed on; modifications to the budget that could be made if fewer or more people needed long-term care than predicted; how successful the management of direct payment schemes to carers had been, and the future bid by Adult Social Services to expand the team doing this; and the possibility of Members being sent the budget reports monthly as opposed to waiting for formal meetings.

**Concluded:**

- (1) that the report be received and the Members' comments forwarded to officers in the form of minutes; and
- (2) that Members be sent budget reports on a monthly basis, to be coordinated through the Scrutiny Officers.

**ASH Social Care reform announcement (Agenda item 4)**

The Finance Business Partner gave a presentation on the Social Care Funding Reform Announcement given by government during September 2021. This included information about the Health and Social Care Levy to be introduced in April 2022, the Care Charging reforms to be introduced in October 2023 and the financial impacts to North Somerset Council as well as wider financial issues and risks. It was noted that more information would be coming in a future white paper.

Members expressed an interest in receiving more detail once more information had been provided by national government.

**Concluded:**

that the report be received and that Members' comments be forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

**ASH Mental Health support project update (Agenda Item 5)**

The Service Manager presented the report, including case studies, on the pilot service after sixteen weeks (approximately one third of the way through the pilot project). He went on to demonstrate the high impact that the preventative interventions were having, and expressed his hope that the service would be made permanent.

Members were pleased with the progress of the scheme, and discussed ways in which it could be further supported.

**Concluded:**

That the report be received, and the Members' comments forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

#### **ASH Safeguarding Adults Annual Report (Agenda Item 6)**

The Head of Service for Safeguarding and Quality Standards gave the presentation on behalf of the Independent Chair of the North Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board. She went through the purpose and duties of a Safeguarding Board (including the triggers for a Safeguarding Adults Review), provided some local data and provided a review of progress against the key strategic priorities for 2018-2021. Finally, she went through the key strategic priorities for 2021-2024.

In discussion, Members sought and received more information about reporting safeguarding concerns using the website and were informed that an all-Member safeguarding workshop would be due early in 2022.

#### **Concluded:**

That the report be received, and the Members' comments forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

#### **ASH Private sector housing (Action Area scheme) update (Agenda Item 7)**

The Head of Private Sector Housing presented the update report on private rented sector housing. This included a comparison of the work in the area action zone with the historic additional HMO (House in Multiple Occupation) housing scheme.

In discussion, Members sought and received clarification on: whether the team had a statutory right of entry into properties and whether there were many hostile receptions by tenants and landlords; and various types of licensing schemes.

#### **Concluded:**

That the report be received and Members' comments forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

#### **ASH Winter pressures (Agenda Item 8)**

The Director of Adult Social Services presented the report on behalf of the Head of Commissioning. The report outlined the plans for adult social services in respect of winter pressures including the challenges arising from Covid-19, and the presentation explored these risks and challenges and provided an explanation as to how adult social care were working internally and with health partners to mitigate the risks.

#### **Concluded:**

That the report be received and Members' comments forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

## **ASH The Panel's Work Plan (Agenda Item 9)**

The Scrutiny Officer discussed the Panel's work plan and invited correspondence with Members over email for additional items to add to it.

The Carers Enquiry Day had been very successful and Members on the steering group were in the process of finalising the key points from the day. The Head of Adult Social Services expressed her thanks to the Scrutiny Officers and the Strategy and Policy Development Officer for their work on, and leading up to, the Enquiry Day.

An update meeting was planned with the Head of Private Sector Housing to discuss developments on the unsafe building cladding in Portishead.

### **Concluded:**

That the work plan be updated.

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Chairman

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