

## Draft Minutes

of the Meeting of the

# Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 7th July 2022

held in the New Council Chamber, Town Hall.

Meeting Commenced: 10:06      Meeting Concluded: 12:39

### Councillors:

P Timothy Snaden (Chairman)

P John Cato

A Mark Crosby

P Wendy Griggs

A Ann Harley

Karin Haverson

P Sandra Hearne

P Ruth Jacobs

P Huw James

A Richard Tucker

Richard Westwood

P Roz Willis

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**Officers in attendance:** Hayley Verrico, Gerald Hunt, Michael Hennessey (Adult Social Services); Mark Jarvis, Kathy Fisher, Brent Cross (Corporate Services).

### ASH Election of the Vice-Chairman

1

**Resolved:** that Councillor Sandra Hearne be elected Vice-Chairman.

### ASH Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

2

Apologies as above; no substitutions.

### ASH Public Discussion (Standing Order SSO 9)

3

None.

**ASH Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37)**

4

None.

**ASH Minutes (Agenda Item 5)**

5

Minutes of 24 February 2022 – to approve as a correct record.

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting of 24 February 2022 be approved as a correct record.

**ASH Matters referred by Council, the Executive, other Committees and Panels**

6

None.

**ASH Adult Social Services Annual Directorate Statement (ADS) 2022/2023 (Agenda item 7)**

7

The Director of Adults Services presented the report, which highlighted the key aspects of the annual directorate statement and the links to the medium-term financial plan and transformation programme. The Director suggested that regular update reports to the Panel would be useful to scrutinise how the objectives in the Statement were being met.

In discussion, the following points were raised (officer responses in italics):

- How were the outcomes in the statement to be measured?  
*Organisation-wide commitments were set by the performance team. The Director would be able to bring performance measures for the Directorate to the next ASH Panel meeting.*
- Would there be a renewal of the safeguarding training for Members?  
*This had slipped during Covid, and would be reinstated.*
- When was the next CQC inspection due? *These were due to restart in April 2023 – the last one had been in 2010. The new regime for CQC inspections was to be based around outcomes and behaviours. The Director introduced Michael Hennessey, who was the newly appointed CQC Assurance Programme Manager, and was the officer leading on preparations for the CQC inspection.*

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

**ASH Adult Social Care Reforms (Agenda item 8)**

8

The Director of Adults Services presented the report updating the Panel on the key aspects of the reforms along with timescales for implementation, and highlighted the risks to North Somerset Council as well as the actions being taken to address these. The uncertainty on how the reforms were to be funded was explained, along with the background of North Somerset having the lowest cost of care in the south-west (while being close to the England average), and with 54% of the care market being self-funded in the District.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- Who would pick up the bill for self-funders once the cost of care cap had been reached? *The Directorate was undertaking a cost of care exercise, and there were concerns that this would be higher than currently paid. Providers, on the other hand, were concerned that this would be lower than they currently received.*
- What was the process involved for North Somerset to implement the reforms? *There would need to be recruitment or secondment to fill the staffing gaps, and there was a risk that some projects might have to be de-prioritised.*

There were also concerns raised around the issues of communicating the changes to the community, and whether the £200 per week living allowance was sufficient

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

#### **ASH 9 Adult Social Care Finance Update (Agenda item 9)**

9

The Senior Accountant updated the Panel on the current forecast spend against budget for Adults Services, highlighting key variances, movements, and contextual information. The £350,000 adverse variance was an improvement on the 2021 forecast and was better than predicted. The key work for the coming year was to identify where sustainable savings could be made.

In discussion, Members raised the point of the travel allowance being too low, at 45p per mile, and discussed methods of lobbying national government to allow HMRC to increase this.

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

#### **ASH 10 Older Person and Specialist Housing Needs Assessment for North Somerset**

10

The Principal Head of Commissioning, Partnership and Housing Solutions presented the report commissioned from Housing Lin to the Panel, which outlined predicted demand for specialist older people's Housing requirements for North Somerset over the next thirty years and provided granular detail at the local level to evidence market engagement plans and business case for investment in accommodation shift proposals as part of the MTFP (Medium Term Financial Plan) process.

Members then discussed assured tenancies and shared ownership for older people.

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

## **ASH North Somerset Annual Complaints Report 2020-21**

**11**

The report was presented by the Director of Adults Services, and contained statistics of customer feedback received from April 2020 to March 2021. The report indicated that complaints were lower compared to 2019-20, but also highlighted some trends, learning and service improvements that resulted.

In discussion, Members discussed whether compliments were recorded (they were, but had to be made in writing), and whether complainants were signposted to the appropriate advocates when necessary.

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

## **ASH Draft Carers Enquiry Day Report**

**12**

With the Strategy & Policy Development Officer unable to attend to present the report, Members discussed the recommendations and next steps. The Inquiry Day and resulting report sought to inform and influence the development of the Carers' strategy.

Members felt that there should be a 'think carer' golden thread running through the work of the Council, as well as that there should be a Carer's Champion promoting an understanding of, and championing support for, carers.

**Concluded:** that

(1) the Panel recommended that an elected Member be a Carer's Champion; and that

(2) the final report and recommendations be submitted to the Executive Member for consideration.

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

**13**

The Scrutiny Officer discussed the Panel's work plan and invited discussion with Members for additional items to add to it, as well as picking up any actions from the meeting.

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

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Chairman

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