

ADULTS COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 12th January 2016

Time: 2.00p.m. to 4.20 p.m.

Present: Councillors A Bailey (Vice-Chairwoman), D Giles, L Harford, R Mandley, L Nethsingha, T Orgee (substituting for Councillor Hoy), P Sales, M Tew (Chairman) and G Wilson

Apologies: Councillors C Boden, S Hoy, G Kenney and F Yeulett.

139. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

140. MINUTES – 1ST DECEMBER 2015 AND ACTION LOG.

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Action Log was noted. In relation to item 104.b, the Finance and Outturn Performance Report 2014/15 it was requested that the overall strategy for falls prevention be presented to the Committee. **ACTION**

141. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

142. HOMELESSNESS SERVICE WISBECH: THE FERRY PROJECT.

Members received a report informing the Committee that following market testing to establish whether there was sufficient interest from the market to justify undertaking a tender exercise for the Homelessness Service contract in Wisbech currently run by The Ferry Project, only one organisation had expressed an interest in providing the service. It was therefore requested that the Committee agree to an exemption from undertaking a full tender. Members were informed that the value of the contract was £197,968 per annum over 6 years.

During discussion of the report Members:

- Welcomed the length of the contract to be awarded, and questioned what arrangements were in place with regard to inflationary pressures and the Living Wage. Officers reported that work was being undertaken with all providers regarding the Living Wage and how the costs would be managed.

- Confirmed that the projected cost for the lifetime of the contract was approximately £5k less than the current contract.
- Clarified what the Council was actually purchasing through the contract and questioned whether the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT) should make a contribution towards the cost. Officers reported that the contract would pay for the staffing costs. It was explained that due to the transient nature of the service user group, the Ferry Project was viewed as a preventative service to attempt to mitigate the risks of individuals care needs escalating and therefore requiring more expensive social care intervention at a later date.
- Requested that when future contract exemptions were presented to the Committee that performance data was included in the report for scrutiny purposes. Officers confirmed this would be provided in future and directed Members to the Ferry Project website where many performance reports were available.
- Questioned whether the overall levels of homelessness had increased as anecdotally there appeared to be more individuals sleeping rough. Officers explained that the numbers had remained fairly static; however the number of admissions to night shelters had increased.
- Underlined the importance of promoting and maintaining a service in the north of the county and commended the skills and education programme.
- Sought clarification regarding the funding streams of the service. Officers explained that since 2003 the support cost element of Housing Benefit was paid directly to County Councils because support costs were increasing rapidly. It was confirmed that the money was not ring-fenced but the Council had statutory duties it needed to discharge. It was confirmed that the Ferry Project had a number of funding streams beyond those provided by the Council.

It was resolved unanimously:

To agree an exemption from a full procurement exercise following the market testing exercise, so that the contract could be awarded to The Ferry Project.

143. DRUG AND ALCOHOL INPATIENT DETOX BEDS CONTRACT EXEMPTION.

The Committee received a report that requested an exemption from a formal tendering process for an additional two years from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2019 for the countywide Drug and Alcohol Inpatient Detoxification Service. The contract was worth £159k per annum for the duration of the contract. Three beds would be procured as part of the contract based at an acute mental health ward at Fulbourn Hospital. The purpose of the beds was for inpatient medically assisted withdrawal from alcohol and/or drugs. The contract included a 24 hour package of clinical care and oversight from a specialist consultant in substance misuse psychiatry.

During discussion Members:

- Welcomed the good value of the contract and requested information regarding outcomes of patients. Officers confirmed that work was taking place that identified approximately 20 patients where updates would be sought on how they were progressing 6 and 12 months on following treatment. **ACTION**
- Expressed concerned that the service might become a “revolving door” as two weeks was not long enough for an individual who suffered from a chronic addiction to recover and break the habit. Officers explained that some patients did not want to achieve complete abstinence and used detox as a health break; however the detox beds were one element of a much wider treatment system that included psychological help as part of rehabilitation.
- Confirmed that there was a waiting list for the beds and that an additional bed was purchased last year following an underspend in the budget.
- Questioned why the contract would end in March 2019. Officers informed Members that a number of contracts would be renewed in 2019 and the contract might form part of a larger contract in the future rather than being tendered separately.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Approve a contract exemption from a formal tendering process for an additional two years (1st April 2017 – 31st March 2019).

144. CONTRACT EXEMPTION FOR POPPYFIELDS EXTRA CARE SCHEME

A report was received by the Committee that outlined the case for the approval of contract exemptions for the provision of care and support at PoppyfieldsExtra Care housing scheme. Poppyfields was described as one of the older schemes and had been effective in reducing the need for residential care for many people. Contracts of this type had traditionally been very comprehensive but greater flexibility from the contract was now required.

During discussion of the report Members:

- Confirmed that the number of care hours would always fluctuate depending on demand; however it was preferred to have a more flexible contract that better responded to fluctuations in demand.
- Confirmed that there were elements of the scheme that focussed on preventative measures that were not necessarily statutory obligations for the Council to provide. It was noted that the schemes were a good focal point for a community and there was a desire to broaden the use of the schemes for outreach purposes and broader community use.

- Expressed concern regarding the level of social interaction for residents at the scheme as feedback from residents had suggested that it had reduced. Officers reassured Members that there was an element of the contract that would tackle the creation of a community for the residents and the wider community as a whole.
- Expressed concern that the current contract expired on 30th January 2016 and that it left a very tight time-scale for the contract exemption process to be followed. Officers accepted that the time-scales were not ideal and work was already being undertaken to address the issue.

It was resolved unanimously:

- a) To approve a contract extension for one year until 30th January 2017.
- b) That officers work with the current provider to re-configure the staffing so that it reflects the care needs of people living in the scheme.
- c) To tender future care and support services contract as a flexible 'core and add-on' contract.

145. ADULTS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF DRAFT REVENUE BUSINESS PLANNING PROPOSALS 2016/17 TO 2020/21.

Members received the Draft Revenue Business Planning Proposals 2016/17 to 2020/21. The Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults highlighted the changes since the December meeting of the Adults Committee.

Members were informed that the "ring-fence" of the Public Health Grant remained in place. Reductions in the grant therefore had to be absorbed by the grant. The report set out proposed funding for Older People's day centres that adopted a more measured approach which allowed more time to complete the necessary transformation work.

It was confirmed that there would be no central government funding for the additional costs that would be incurred as a result of the implementation of the Living Wage. Research had demonstrated that the forecast pressures would be less than originally expected and work was ongoing with care providers on how the Living Wage would affect them.

Members were informed that further "invest-to-save" proposals were being worked through and being tested rigorously by the Council's Section 151 officer.

During discussion Members:

- Confirmed that the Business Plan was based on a predicted 1.99% increase in Council Tax.
- Questioned whether there was a £4.8m hole in the budget regarding the Living Wage. Officers explained that the Living Wage would be corporately funded from reserves or revenue streams.

- Questioned whether the Treasury had explicitly intended the Adult Social Care precept to cover the cost of the Living Wage. Officers explained that although it had not been made explicitly clear by the Treasury that the purpose of the precept was to offset this additional pressure, there was a clear indication of what the precept was intended to do.
- Welcomed the reversal of the planned reduction to Older People's Day Centres, highlighting their importance to those who used them.
- Sought clarification of what was provided as community equipment. Officers reported that the equipment was provided for people in their own homes to enable them to remain living there longer and prevent them moving to residential care. It was confirmed that equipment was recycled as much as possible and targets were in place for recycling. Discussions were also taking place with the Fire Service to explore whether they could provide certain equipment.

It was proposed by Councillor Bailey, seconded by Councillor Orgee, to amend recommendation b) to read, "To recommend to the General Purposes Committee that the Social Care Precept was not utilised".

In speaking to her proposed amendment, Councillor Bailey emphasised the hard work of the Committee in producing a balanced budget but stressed that there were still opportunities for efficiency savings to be made in back office services. The forecast £4.8m generated by the precept would not be enough to reduce the overall savings required significantly and it was imperative that the Transforming Lives model was implemented to change the culture of social care delivery in Cambridgeshire. Whilst the demographic challenges facing the Council were recognised, there was comfort to be drawn from the budget lines contained within the report. The Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme (CLAS) was highlighted by Councillor Bailey as there was currently a £70k underspend being reported. She also drew the Committee's attention to the CLAS reserves that could be utilised.

During discussion of the proposed amendment concern was expressed regarding the increased risks individuals faced as a result of the budget cuts and that to not utilise the additional funding the precept would provide would be detrimental to service users. There was also concern regarding a proposal to administer the Council's debt differently in order to provide a short-term revenue stream. It was highlighted that there would be a £4.8m deficit as a result of the Living Wage next financial year.

One Member expressed the view that the public were being squeezed enough through taxation and was opposed to any increase to Council Tax. Another explained that the increase in Council Tax, if the use of the precept was recommended to the General Purposes Committee, would equate to 50p per week per household and could make a real difference to the most vulnerable in society.

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried.

It was resolved:

- a) To note the overview and context provided for the 2016/17 to 2020/21 Business Plan proposals for the Service, updated since the last report to the Committee in December.
- b) To recommend to the General Purposes Committee that the Social Care Precept was not utilised.
- c) To comment on the draft revenue savings proposals that were within the remit of the Adults Committee, including the suggested reductions in savings listed in section 3.7, and endorse them to the General Purposes Committee as part of consideration for the Council's overall Business Plan.
- d) To note the unchanged capital programme, for schemes within its remit, which it endorsed at the December meeting.
- e) To note the ongoing stakeholder consultation and discussions with partners and service users regarding emerging business planning proposals.
- f) To endorse the proposed Key Performance Indicators as part of the Strategic Framework, alongside the 2016-21 Business Plan.

146. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT NOVEMBER 2015

The November 2015 Finance and Performance report was presented to Members. It was highlighted that the position had improved significantly since the October Finance and Performance Report. The forecast underspend on Adult Social Care Practice and Safeguarding had increased by £510k due to a shortage of assessors available to process Mental Capacity Act/Deprivation of Liberty safeguard cases. There were further increases in forecast underspends on Care Act funding and carers support. Members were informed that the additional information requested regarding key activity data would be provided from the start of the new financial year in April.

During discussion Members drew attention to the temporary cessation of reporting on the percentage of Adults with secondary mental health services in employment due to issues with the data provided by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT). Officers reported that there were questions over whether the data was being recorded properly by CPFT, or whether there were compatibility issues between systems that were leading to difficulties in collating data. It was acknowledged that the performance was unacceptable and officers agreed to pass on the concerns of Members to CPFT. **ACTION**

It was questioned how the City and South locality team had achieved an increase in the forecast underspend of £304k. It was noted that work was being undertaken to understand how it had been achieved and to ensure that savings were not being achieved through longer waiting lists for care packages.

It was resolved unanimously:

To review and comment on the report.

147. OLDER PEOPLE'S ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY.

The Committee received the initial draft of the Older People's Accommodation Strategy. It was noted that accommodation was a major factor in promoting individuals independence. Three main pressures had been identified that the strategy sought to mitigate: demographic changes; financial constraints; and the supply of suitable accommodation.

During discussion Members:

- Highlighted the need for developers to ensure that the homes they constructed were built to easily accommodate future adaptation to meet the needs of people as they grew older. Officers recognised that this was an area that required attention
- Linked the strategy with local planning authorities and recommended that officers should be robust when negotiating Section 106 agreements with developers. Officers acknowledged that there was an opportunity to be more influential in that area confirming that there was a strong market for Extra Care schemes.
- Highlighted the importance the role of Older People's Day Centres played in reducing bed blocking in hospitals.
- Questioned whether there was a requirement for a percentage of new Extra Care developments to be passed on to Housing Associations and Local Authorities as social housing. It was confirmed that there was no such obligation.
- Noted that the Member Reference Group was focussed on developing a single care home and it formed part of the wider strategy for discussion.
- Welcomed the detailed and comprehensive Accommodation Strategy and questioned when it was likely that a progress report would be presented to the Committee. Officers explained that the action plan would be regularly updated but some work-streams would take much longer to complete, such as the development of a Local Authority run care home.

It was resolved unanimously:

To approve the overall approach set out in the draft Older People's Accommodation Strategy and Action Plan.

148. ALL AGE CARERS STRATEGY 2016- 2020.

The All Age Carers Strategy 2016 – 2020 was presented to the Committee. The strategy set out the Council's approach to supporting carers in Cambridgeshire. Members were informed that the scope of the strategy had been extended to include parent carers and young carers. The strategy was due to be presented to the forthcoming meeting of the Children and Young People's Committee. The involvement of carers in the development of the strategy was also highlighted to Members.

During discussion of the report Members:

- Commended the underlying principles of the strategy and questioned how its success would be measured. Officers confirmed that data was available that showed the number of new carers that had been assessed and a regular contract monitoring meeting took place at which officers scrutinised and challenged the available data.
- Requested assurance that carers were feeling that they had been helped and that there was a proactive way of obtaining feedback from them. Officers confirmed that the Carers Trust played an integral role in obtaining feedback from carers.
- Identified a number of typographical errors within the strategy. Members agreed to send officers an annotated copy of the strategy. **ACTION**
- Highlighted the need to ensure that the needs of young carers were being met appropriately as they provided a high level of support to those they cared for. Members requested to receive Key Performance Indicators regarding young carers. **ACTION**

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Comment on the All Age Carers Strategy 2016-2020
- b) To delegate authority to the Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults, to approve the strategy after it had been presented to the Children and Young People's Committee following discussion with the Chairman of the Adults Committee and the Chairwoman of the Children and Young People's Committee.

149. ADULTS COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN.

The agenda plan for the Committee was presented to Members. Members questioned when they would receive an update on the position regarding the Council building a care home and a report on Disabled Facilities Grants. Officers confirmed that updates would first be provided at Spokes meetings.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note the agenda plan including the updates provided orally at the meeting as

follows:

17th May 2016

Add- Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme

Moved from 1st March 2016 – Legal Position in Relation to Property Disregard for Home Care.

150. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC.

It was resolved:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following report on the grounds that it was likely to involve disclosure of exempt information under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 as it referred to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

151. PROCUREMENT OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND ADULTS SERVICES.

The Committee received a report that set out the outcome of the recent procurement exercise for the Information Management Systems to support the Children's, Families and Adults Directorate.

It was resolved unanimously to agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

Chairman