

ADULTS COMMITTEE: MINUTES

- Date:** Thursday 13th October 2016
- Time:** 2.00 p.m. to 4.40 p.m.
- Present:** Councillors A Bailey (Vice-Chairwoman), C Boden, P Brown, S Crawford, L Dupre, D Giles, L Harford, R Mandley, Z Moghadas, M Smith and G Wilson.
- Apologies:** Councillors S Hoy (Councillor P Brown substituting) and G Kenney (Councillor M Smith substituting).

The Vice-Chairwoman welcomed the newly appointed Interim Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults.

196. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

197. MINUTES – 15th SEPTEMBER 2016 AND ACTION LOG.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairwoman.

The Action Log was noted. Members requested that the Action Log be reviewed as certain items had been in progress for some time and progress had been made. It was also that items that required action from a Councillor be recorded also. **ACTION**

198. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

199. SERVICE COMMITTEE REVIEW OF DRAFT REVENUE BUSINESS PLANNING PROPOSALS FOR 2017/18 TO 2021/22

Members received the Service Committee review of draft revenue business planning proposals. Members noted that the business planning proposals were based around preventative measures and managing demand for services. Officers informed Members that there was currently a further financial gap to be resolved across the Council before a balanced budget could be delivered.

Services were expected to meet the first 1.4% of increasing demand through increased demographic pressure. Demographic pressures were explained as where it was recognised that there would be increased demand and need for services.

During the course of discussion Members:

- Questioned whether the re-evaluation of Business Rates would mean greater income for the Local Authority. Officers explained that it was not possible to quantify what impact Business Rates would have upon the revenue stream of the Council and Members' noted that there had been discussion regarding how Business Rates would be divided across the two-tiers of local government but agreement had yet to be reached.
- Questioned why the current total recommended demography allocation contained within paragraph 6.3 of the report had decreased from the previous year. It was explained that forecasting methodology was subject to constant review and refinement and the process had resulted in a decrease from the previous year.
- Welcomed the focus on preventative measures designed to help people remain in their own home for as long as possible and emphasised the need to grow services such as Reablement, Occupational Therapy and Assistive Technology as the long term preventative savings were far greater than the initial cost of the equipment.
- Sought clarification regarding the expansion of the Early Help team as there was no new money to support it. Officers explained that existing resources contained within the care teams would be re-distributed to the Early Help team to support their work.
- Noted that there was a risk that the savings would not be achieved due to savings having been delivered in other areas. For example, an individual that received assistance through the Early Help team may also receive support through the Reablement team and therefore it would be difficult to allocate savings to look at cumulative numbers of people where care packages were assumed to be avoided to ensure the total number was realistic.
- Requested that paragraph 7.6 of the report included and emphasised the word local within the final sentence. **ACTION**
- Sought reassurance regarding the savings that would be derived from the rationalisation of voluntary sector contracts and requested further information regarding how the savings would affect individual organisations and emphasised the important role the voluntary sector carried out in providing social care and urged caution in cutting funding to organisations that would provide services that the Council was no longer able to. **ACTION**
- Highlighted the additional pressures that would be placed upon individuals' immediate families and support networks as a result of the savings made and future savings. Officers highlighted that the vast majority of people did not require statutory services provided by the Council and drew attention to the Community Resilience and Think Family work that was ongoing. Members noted that the Transforming Lives model relied upon the wider support networks provided by not only families but wider communities in providing support and care to individuals.

- Expressed concern whether the Council was placing sufficient emphasis on the importance of youth training and preparing for employment. Ongoing work that engaged with schools and children's services to ensure the best work placements were made available.
- Noted that there appeared to be a large number of out of county placements. Officers explained that 70% of out of county placements were no more than 15 miles across the county border. The focus was to return those who were placed further afield to in-county placements, thereby reducing associated costs to the Council. Members noted that individuals placed in another county remained the responsibility of the Local Authority that placed them.
- Sought greater clarity regarding carers' assessments and how they would be taken into account within the care planning process when the budget was being reduced by £2.4m. Officers explained that part of the process was to negotiate with families and carers regarding the level of support they were able to provide and how much support they required also. All carers had the right to an assessment and if it was determined that a carer had needs then the Council had a statutory duty to meet them. Work had been undertaken with regard to social activities and to what level the Council should fund them together with supporting individuals with welfare benefits so that they were able to utilise them fully.
- Questioned whether the savings identified in paragraph 7.24 of the report associated with increasing independence and resilience when meeting the needs of people with learning disabilities were achievable. It was confirmed by officers that the savings targets had been revised to what was thought to be achievable based on experience so far. Members noted that the savings target was £1m less than was contained in the previous years' business plan.
- Noted the issues regarding Deprivation of Liberty cases highlighted within paragraph 7.27 of the report and questioned what action had been taken to address the issues. Officers informed Members that the number of permanent posts that would undertake best interest assessments had been increased and agency workers had been contracted to complete assessments. The collaborative approach with neighbouring Local Authorities whereby the rates paid to agency workers was limited was highlighted to the Committee. Feedback was being provided to the Government through the Local Government Association regarding the bureaucracy that surrounded Deprivation of Liberty cases.
- Noted that there was a focus on the cost effectiveness of placements rather than their location within or out of the county and that coincidentally, the least cost effective placements were located out of county.
- Emphasised the relationship between the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and discussed the need to strengthen partnership work with the CCG which had been highlighted in a recent Peer Review. It was confirmed that discussions had taken place with the CCG regarding greater collaborative work and attention was drawn to the Better Care Fund that demonstrated collaboration could be achieved between the two organisations.

- Expressed frustration with the limited progress that had been made with regard to the negotiations taking place with the CCG relating the S117 and Continuing Healthcare funding. Members noted that a detailed report on the matter would be presented to the November meeting of the Adults Committee. A meeting was scheduled to take place with legal representatives regarding the next legal steps in the process.
- Noted that financial reassessments should be completed annually in line with the Contributions Policy and this at present was not being achieved. There were also large numbers of people that were eligible to claim Attendance Allowance but failed to do so and a claim would benefit individuals and the Council. It was requested that that welfare benefits advice was placed within the relevant Community Impact Assessment. **ACTION**
- Questioned how the Council could cooperate more effectively with other local authorities to offer services to them and vice-versa. The work undertaken by LGSS was highlighted by officers where the method by which financial assessments were undertaken by Northamptonshire County Council had benefited the Council in terms of an automated system and drew attention to discussions that had taken place with neighbouring local authorities regarding recruitment of staff.
- Highlighted the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) survey for 2016 and questioned whether officers agreed that position with regard to funding was pessimistic. Officers confirmed that the position remained the same but highlighted the more positive approach of the business planning process for the current year.

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the overview and context provided for the 2017/18 to 2021/22 Business Plan revenue proposals for the service
- b) Comment on the draft revenue savings proposals that are within the remit of the Adults Committee for 2017/18 to 2021/22

200. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT – AUGUST 2016

The Committee received the August 2016 iteration of the Finance and Performance report. At the end of August Children, Families and Adults (CFA) forecast an overspend of £2,521k. This was a significant deterioration from the previous month when the forecast overspend was £693k. However, the budgets within the remit of the Adults Committee continued to forecast an underspend which was currently stable at £966k. The underspend within the Learning Disability Partnership (LDP) had worsened by £320k, reflecting care purchase costs, slow progress against savings targets and staffing costs in in-house provider services. Older People's Mental Health reported new underspends totalling £410k across centrally commissioned contracts for domiciliary care cars, respite block beds and 24 hour supported living.

During discussion Members:

- Requested that officers focus was maintained with regard to managing the continued overspend within the LDP.

- Confirmed that if a situation arose where budgets needed to be revised and moved around the Council then it would be presented to the General Purposes Committee for consideration.
- Questioned whether the level of resource allocated forecasting trends and demands was sufficiently able to ensure that estimate were as reasonable as possible. Officers explained that whilst the forecasting process was reviewed and refined regularly there were occasions where statistical anomalies occurred for which there was no clear apparent reason.
- Noted that the number of Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOCs) attributed to delays within social care had increased and was an example of where greater cooperation between the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) could successfully address the issue. Officers explained that there was a level of variance in the figures each month and the latest figures supplied by the Department of Health showed that the number of DTOCs associated with adult social care had decreased and that there was a need to distinguish between lost beds days and actual number of delays. The overall position had remained stable and the position had improved by 40% over the course of the last 3 years.
- Requested a report on DTOCs and how they were measured in order to improve understanding of the figures and how they were recorded. **ACTION**

It was resolved to review and comment on the report.

201. OLDER PEOPLE'S ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

The Older People's Accommodation Strategy was presented to Members. A number of contributions had been received from a broad range of stakeholders. The focus of the strategy was the housing requirements for older people; housing was a significant factor in maintaining health and wellbeing and thereby reducing dependency on statutory care services. Members were informed that the work-stream regarding the development of a care home would be presented to the Committee at a later date along with a report that covered Disabled Facilities Grants that had reached and advanced stage following collaborative work with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) through investment from the Better Care Fund (BCF).

During discussion of the report Members:

- Noted that discussions regarding a local authority run care home had been long running and questioned what stage they were at. Officers explained that consultants had been commissioned to produce an options appraisal that covered several wide questions including; whether the Council could utilise assets such as land to encourage the expansion of the care home market and maintain affordable costs, an evaluation of planning and finance and a market evaluation. Consultation had taken place with stakeholders, including the CCG and providers. Five options would be presented to Members contained within the report at Committee. Members noted that challenge the report had presented.

- Expressed concern about whether the County Council officers and members had done enough to influence the Local Plans being developed by District Councils and ensure that Local Plans enable the implementation of the Accommodation Strategy. Members noted that only 3% of the elderly population required accommodation in residential care home setting and it was vital that new accommodation was built to meet the needs of the 97% that did not require permanent residential care. The development of care homes would not be sufficient to address the issues faced by the Council and Extra Care, single level accommodation and older person friendly accommodation was also required. Members were informed that discussions were taking place regarding the Northstowe development to ensure the Councils goals regarding accommodation were met.
- Confirmed that links existed between the County Council and District Councils at sub-regional housing boards where the strategy had been presented.
- Emphasised the importance of location when determining where to build new sites. Officers explained that some exception sites may be suitable for care home provision but not for general housing. Work was continuing with Planning Officers to look at a range of potential sites.
- Requested that District Councils were encouraged to include provision for key worker accommodation within their Local Plans. **(ACTION)**
- Requested that the graph on page 16 of the strategy have further comment added to it in order that it is clearer to the reader. **(ACTION)**
- Questioned how Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) would be prioritised. Officers explained that work was being undertaken to achieve consistency in the delivery of DFGs but also that there were wider issues that should be considered before DFGs were approved. It was confirmed that a report was to be presented at the November meeting of the Adults Committee.
- Expressed concern regarding the amount of work required to deliver the strategy and the resources required. Members were informed that further investment would be required to take forward work regarding the care home as expertise was required that the Council did not possess.
- Noted that the action plan on page 38 of the strategy required updating following the recent government announcement regarding Local Housing Allowance and requested that updates be provided to the Committee on work-streams that had been completed. **(ACTION)**
- Requested that Members were kept updated with information and developments outside of Committee meetings. **(ACTION)**
- Appointed Councillors Harford, Tew and Wilson to a Member Reference Group to support the action plan relating to care home development with Councillors Bailey, Brown and Smith as substitutes.

It was resolved to endorse the integrated approach set out in the Older People's Accommodation Strategy. In particular to:

- a) Support the multi-agency approach to planning and developing accommodation for older people and
- b) Agree the establishment of a Member Reference Group to support the action plan relating to care home development
- c) Request that the strategy be shared with District Councils so that it informs local plans.

202. DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICE UPDATE

An update was provided to Members on the Drug & Alcohol Team for strategic oversight. The Drug and Alcohol Team worked on behalf of a partnership of Public Health, Police, and Council's. Officers highlighted the young people's services and prevention work carried out by the team.

During the course of discussion Members:

- Expressed concern regarding the 7% success rate of treatments for opiates and questioned how many people it equated to. Officers informed Members that the success rate was in line with the national average and there were approximately 1200 people undergoing treatment. The effects of not providing the service, such as homelessness, poor health outcomes and greater strain on other services was highlighted to the Committee. Members noted that the success rate for alcohol dependency was much higher at 40%. A new Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) had been developed that was designed to increase coordination between agencies and manage long term drug users differently was welcomed by Members.
- Noted the challenges faced by Looked after Children (LAC) as they were at significant risk of substance misuse due to their personal circumstances and despite prevention work there was a reluctance from many young people to engage with services and there were significant barriers that had to be overcome.
- Questioned what could be done to increase the percentage of individuals successfully treated. Officers informed Members that the latest figures provided by Public Health England showed an increased success rate of 42% for alcohol dependency. Communities needed to be strengthened in order to support individuals in order to prevent them returning to specialist services.
- Noted that savings had been achieved through rationalising the management structure of the services and that the Saturday service had been stopped due to few people using it and therefore an evening session was to take its place.

- Welcomed the social enterprise café, “The Edge” that was due to open on 14th November, located on Mill Road in Cambridge that was designed as a place where people undergoing recovery could seek support, guidance and training and employment opportunities.
- Noted the work undertaken with regard to all public services to support in the work of the Drug and Alcohol Team. The Fire Service was provided as an example of when they were attending fires, support was also provided regarding alcohol misuse. The Police were also involved in such preventative work.

It was resolved to note the information provided in the update

203. ADULTS COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN

It was resolved to note the agenda plan and the oral update provided at the meeting.

Care Home Development Plan – moved from December to January
Recruitment and Retention – removed.

204. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES, PARTNERSHIP LIAISON AND ADVISORY GROUPS AND INTERNAL ADVISORY GROUPS AND PANELS.

There were no appointments to be made.

Chairman