

**ADULTS POLICY AND SERVICE COMMITTEE –  
ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**

*To:* Council

*Date:* 10th May 2016

*From:* Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults Services

*Purpose:* To consider the Annual Report 2015/16 for the Adults Policy and Service Committee.

*Recommendation:* Council is recommended to note the Adults Policy and Service Committee Annual Report 2015/16.

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Adults Committee comprises the following Members: A Bailey, C Boden, S Crawford, L Dupre, D Giles, L Harford, S Hoy, G Kenney, R Mandley, P Sales, M Tew, G Wilson and F Yeulett
- 1.2 The Chairman is Councillor Michael Tew, the Vice-Chairwoman is Councillor Anna Bailey and the Spokesmen/women are Councillors Crawford, Giles, Mandley and Wilson.
- 1.3 Over the last twelve months the committee has met seven times. Section 2 of the report highlights a number of significant issues considered by the Committee during this period, a full list of decisions taken can be found via the link included in the source documents.

## **2.0 ADULTS POLICY AND SERVICE COMMITTEE WORKLOAD**

- 2.1 Key issues decided over this period of time include:

- 2.1.1 An overview of key decisions made in the year

There were six key decisions agreed within the year, all relating to contract exemptions. In September 2015 the Committee agreed a contract exemption for the provision of advocacy services and services that promote independence and wellbeing for older people to allow time for the advocacy project to develop a single integrated advocacy contract for all ages and client groups. In November 2015 the Committee agreed an exemption to the Homelessness Service Contract, as the tender process had failed to generate three quotes from the market. A six month contract extension was granted for the provision of care and support in an extra care housing scheme at Ditchburn Place in December 2015 to allow Officers to negotiate joint management arrangements with Cambridge City Council. In January 2016 exemptions were granted for Homelessness services in Wisbech and a countywide Inpatient Detox Bed service due to a lack of sufficient market interest, giving Officers time to undertake full tendering processes, and a 12 month extension to the Poppyfields Extra Care scheme to enable Officers to work with the current provider to re-configure the staffing so that it reflects the care needs of people living in the scheme.

- 2.1.2 Specialist accommodation for older people

In May 2015 the Committee received a report providing an overview of the key challenges and opportunities facing the Council with regard to residential, nursing and specialist accommodation for older people. The challenges detailed included availability, price and choice in relation to specialist care together with demographic pressures and financial constraints. Officers had identified opportunities for closer working with other organisations to tackle the issues through the Better Care Fund, Cambridgeshire Executive Partnership Board and other initiatives. The Committee received progress updates in July and November 2015, giving Members the opportunity to provide direction to work undertaken by Officers, and in January 2016 the Committee received a draft Older Peoples Accommodation Strategy for comment and review. It was resolved unanimously to approve the overall approach set out in the draft Older People's Accommodation Strategy and Action Plan.

#### 2.1.3 Transforming Lives: a new strategy approach to social work and social care for adults in Cambridgeshire

The Committee received progress reports on the Transforming Lives programme of work in May, September and December 2015 and in March 2016, giving Members an opportunity to scrutinise and direct implementation throughout the year. During the process the Committee considered and commented on the impact of the new model on service user experience and Council budgets, the learning from innovation sites, the implementation of geographical patches and the use of mobile devices to increase productivity, and examples of best practice implemented in other local authority areas.

#### 2.1.4 Business Planning proposals for Older People, Mental Health and Adult Care Services 2016/17 to 2020/21

The Committee received progress reports on the business planning proposals in September, November and December 2015 and January 2016, giving Members an opportunity to scrutinise and direct the proposals as they were being developed. During the process the Committee considered and commented on the approach to demographic and inflationary pressures for 2016/17 business plan, requested for General Purposes Committee to consider the implication of increasing Council Tax by 5%, debated the impact of the new National Living Wage, the impact – and potential impact – of a 1.99% increase in council tax and the 2% adult social care precept following its announcement in the Autumn Statement. The Committee also endorsed the capital programme and the plan for ongoing stakeholder consultation and agreed the Key Performance Indicators as part of the Strategic Framework.

#### 2.1.5 Better Care Fund

In March 2016 the Committee received a report which updated Members on the development of the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2016/17 and sought the view of Members in order to inform the plan. Members noted the events surrounding Uniting Care Partnership and some of the changes to the Better Care Fund that included the following: the removal of the performance related pay element of the Fund; the addition of a new national condition regarding the management of Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOCs); a significant increase in the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) administered by District Councils created by the removal of the Adult Social Care Capital Grant Funding; and the requirement for local areas to develop a plan for multiple years that described a move towards the Government's definition of integrated health and social care services. The Committee resolved unanimously to note the report and, due to the short national timetable, agreed to further involvement via email.

#### 2.1.6 Building community resilience

In March 2016 a report was received by the Committee that introduced, "Stronger Together – Cambridgeshire's Strategy for Building Resilient Communities, and sought the views of Members on the actions that were taking place in support of the strategy. Officers drew the attention of Members to the links with Transforming Lives and the Better Care Fund. Members discussed how areas of activity would be mapped and tracked. The Committee noted the importance of residents associations and groups as a source of information and support in urban areas and confirmed the importance of church and faith groups in

delivering community resilience. The Committee resolved to comment on the actions proposed to support the Community Resilience Strategy.

#### 2.1.7 Recruitment and Retention Strategy

In July and December 2015 the Recruitment and Retention Strategy for social care services was presented to the Committee. Across CFA the recruitment and retention of staff in social care, in both qualified and unqualified roles, presents an increasing challenge resulting in the wide use of agency staff at an increased cost to the Council. To tackle this challenge the strategy proposed measures including a more streamlined recruitment process, improving benefits for staff, improved learning and development opportunities and increasing the flexibility of the workforce to respond to needs. Linked to this there was also re-evaluation of roles resulting in an uplift in grade and salary for qualified roles bringing Cambridgeshire in line with other local authorities. The successful implementation of this strategy should result in less staff turnover and less use of agency staff resulting in a savings to the Council. The Committee endorsed the strategy, including monitoring of staff turnover and inclusion of seven day working.

#### 2.1.8 Strategies and policies approved in the year

The Committee approved a number of key strategies and policies throughout the year. In May 2015 the Committee approved a revised transport policy covering adults and older people and in September 2015 it approved the Social Care Strategy for Adults with Mental Health Needs and the Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Strategy 2015-19. In November 2015 the Committee approved the Cambridgeshire Adult Autism Strategy and in January 2016 the Committee approved the All Age Carers Strategy 2016-2020. In March 2016 the Committee approved revisions to the Support Planning section of the Care Act Policy Framework.

#### 2.1.9 Member involvement in the CFA Management Information Systems project

CFA is in the process of procuring new IT systems to replace existing client management databases. A member reference group has been established to provide oversight and direction to the procurement and implementation of the new systems. The reference group is made up of three members from the Children and Young Peoples Committee, three from the Adults Committee, and one from the Health Committee.

Source Documents	Location
Agenda and Minutes of the Adults Policy and Service Committee	<a href="http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Committee.aspx?committeeID=72">http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Committee.aspx?committeeID=72</a>