

ADULTS COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Thursday 15th September 2016

Time: 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors A Bailey (Vice-Chairwoman), P Brown, S Crawford, L Dupre, D Giles, L Harford, G Kenney, R Mandley, Z Moghadas, M Smith and G Wilson.

Apologies: Councillors S Hoy (Councillor P Brown substituting) and F Yeulett (Councillor M Smith substituting).

The Committee thanked the outgoing Executive Director: Childrens, Families and Adults, Adrian Loades for the hard work and support that he has provided to the Committee.

The Committee also thanked the former Chairman of the Adults Committee, Councillor Tew for his hard work and dedication to the role.

183. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bailey declared a non-statutory interest in agenda item 12, "Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme (CLAS) as she was a member of East Cambridgeshire District Council that had undertaken work in the areas the CLAS Scheme was developing and may, in the future, submit a tender response.

184. MINUTES – 7th JULY 2016 AND ACTION LOG.

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairwoman.

The Action Log was noted together with the following updates provided at the Committee. Item 181; it was confirmed that "direction travel arrows" had been incorporated into the Finance and Performance report. Item 115; work was progressing regarding the identification of cases that should have been funded through Continuing Health Care funding but negotiations with the Clinical Commissioning Group were progressing more slowly. A joint approach with Peterborough City Council was being adopted and it was agreed that Spokes would be informed about the proposed actions and timings. **ACTION**

185. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

186. BUSINESS PLANNING: DEVELOPMENT OF REVENUE PROPOSALS

Members received a report that updated the Committee on the development of business planning revenue proposals for the financial years 2017/18 to 2022/23.

Members noted the continuing service re-design and initiatives that included the expansion of early help, development of Assistive Technology, increasing the take up of Direct Payments and the proposed adoption of the Buurtzorg model of community care via a small initial implementation.

Following a question from a Member, officers informed the Committee that there were approximately 80 ideas progressing through the Transformation Pipeline that had arisen from a range of sources including staff, managers and partner organisations. The ideas were being assessed by the Children's, Families and Adults (CFA) leadership group.

It was resolved to note and comment on the plans for the development and presentation of business planning revenue proposals.

187. SERVICE COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE DRAFT 2017-18 CAPITAL PROGRAMME.

The Committee received a report that set out an overview of the draft Business Plan Capital Programme for Adults Services. Members were informed that changes to the Department of Health funding of the Better Care Fund in 2016/17 meant that the Council no longer received the £1.3m in direct grant to support the capital programme. In order to continue to meet the capital needs of Adults Services it would be necessary to borrow in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance.

During discussion Members:

- Expressed concern regarding Community Hubs and whether work was being effectively coordinated with District Councils. Officers confirmed that the Interim Service Director for Infrastructure Management and Operations had met with District Council colleagues to ensure that a collaborative approach was adopted.
- Confirmed that borrowing was monitored closely by the Council's Section 151 officer and noted that although borrowing may increase in one area it did not necessarily translate to an increase in net borrowing.
- Questioned how effective the Council was at collecting and recycling assistive technology and equipment after it was no longer required. Officers informed Members that the collection and recycling of equipment was subject to a performance management process at the Council was highly effective at meeting targets.

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the overview and context provided for the 2017-18 Capital Programme and endorse their development
- b) Comment on the draft proposals for Adults' 2017-18 Capital Programme and endorse their development

188. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT – JULY 2016

The July Finance and Performance Report was received by the Committee. Members noted that 2 changes to the format of the report had been incorporated; direction of travel arrows and report now showed the original budget as well as the current budget. Officers highlighted the revenue position with a forecast overspend of £700k with pressures in Learning Disability services due to care spending increases exceeding expectations, updated estimates of savings deliverable in the remainder of the year and the rescheduling of planned savings measures in the in-house Provider Services. Members noted the increase in the forecast underspend in Mental Health services in anticipation of the NHS taking over primary funding for Section 45 cases.

During discussion of the report Members:

- Sought clarification regarding vacancy savings and questioned how forecasts were made and if the vacant posts were required. Officers explained that the vacancies were spread across the service and it was standard practice to forecast the level of savings that would be achieved through vacancies across the year. Although there had been focus on recruitment and retention with the adoption of a recruitment strategy, vacancies persisted in some teams including Reablement, partly due to the cost of accommodation but also the availability of other employment.
- Confirmed that for areas where agency staff were more prevalent in their use to mitigate vacancies, the vacancy saving allowance would be less. Officers explained that vacancy savings forecasts were based on historic trends.
- Expressed concern that underspends highlighted in the report were to the detriment of people trying to access services. Officers advised that spending had not been restricted that changes in service delivery with increased focus on early intervention and preventative measures had resulted in people's needs being met in different ways. It was explained that all budgets were reviewed each year to understand the causes for underspends and overspends and whether the budgets required adjustment for the following year.
- Welcomed the creative approaches to staff recruitment that included attending jobs fairs where interviews were undertaken and provisional job offers made at the event, an arrangement had been agreed with Jobsgopublic to design a recruitment website and a dedicated small recruitment team that was in daily contact with successful candidates, updating them on the progress of their job offer. Officers drew Members attention to the Recruitment and Retention Strategy that had been approved by the Committee and the agreement reached with 10 neighbouring local authorities not to compete on price for agency staff thereby controlling costs.
- Confirmed with officers that there was a longer term issue with the home care sector being able to compete in the current jobs market in Cambridgeshire.
- Highlighted the opportunity for the Council as a land developer to support services by building affordable accommodation specifically to cater for care sector workers. Officers agreed to discuss the possibility of developing land for such purposes with the Council's Section 151 officer and recommended it as an item for discussion at the Assets and Investments Committee. **ACTION**

- Expressed concern regarding the assumption in the Older People's Services forecast underspend that Continuing Healthcare (CHC) funding would be forthcoming from the CCG and requested regular updates be provided to Spokes. **ACTION**
- Noted that £350k, which equated to one years' worth clients had been included within the underspend in Mental Health Services. Members requested regular updates through Spokes on the progress of negotiations with the CCG regarding funding responsibilities related to Section 41 and Section 117 of the Mental Health Act **ACTION**
- Queried whether progress on the implementation of the Transforming Lives model of providing care in Cambridgeshire should have been marked as green in the report. Officers explained that progress was scored against milestones previously set.
- Noted that care workers were able to start in employment relatively quickly and there was flexibility built into the induction programme to account for experience. The Reablement Team placed new members of staff on double up rounds with an experienced member of staff. Care agencies were also being challenged to utilise double up rounds as a means of progressing staff training and development.

It was resolved to note and comment on the report.

189. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ADULT AUTISM STRATEGY

An update was provided to Members on the progress of implementing the Cambridgeshire Adult Autism Strategy. Members were informed that diagnosis rates in 2014/15 for Cambridgeshire were average for England but had doubled for 2015/16. Diagnoses were provided by a clinic at Fulbourn Hospital and a limited service was available in Peterborough that covered the north of the county.

During the course of discussion Members:

- Questioned why the rate of diagnosis had increased so significantly. It was explained by officers that public awareness of Autism had increased leading to an increase in the numbers of people seeking diagnosis. Officers also confirmed that the numbers of females being diagnosed with Autism was increasing and highlighted anecdotal evidence that suggested females were more effective at masking and managing the symptoms of autism.
- Confirmed that a separate strategy was in place for children and was based around Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) guidance. The next step was to bring the strategies together.
- Requested further information regarding the county wide advocacy service. Officers informed Members that the advocacy service brought together several strands of advocacy that covered all client groups. The value of the contract was approximately £800k.
- Requested an update regarding the Council's consideration of providing internships to young people on the autistic spectrum so they can gain work experience in order

to prepare them for employment detailing when a decision would be made and internships offered if that decision was positive. **ACTION**

- Queried whether there was a trend for being diagnosed with autism earlier or later in life. Officers explained that diagnoses in children were increasing as the service improved. Research was taking place into the causes for increased diagnosis rates in children. There was however, no definitive answer as to why diagnosis rates had increased for all age groups.
- Expressed concern regarding waiting times for diagnosis. Officers explained that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT) were experiencing difficulties in coping with demand and would benefit from additional resource. Councillor Wilson in his capacity as a Governor of CPFT agreed to raise the issue and report the outcome to Spokes.

It was resolved to note the progress made on implementing the Autism Strategy

190. BETTER CARE FUND 2016/17

Members received a report that provided an update on the progress against the Better Care Fund (BCF) plan for 2016/17. The BCF created a joint budget intended to help health and social care services work more closely together. The total BCF budget for 2016/17 was approximately £48m. Key activity areas for the BCF were highlighted to the Committee including; promoting independence, intermediate care and re-ablement, neighbourhood teams, carers support and investment in transformation projects.

During discussion Members:

- Clarified that social prescribing was designed to equip G.Ps with additional tools to reduce the number of frequent attenders at G.P. surgeries.
- Questioned the amount of staff time invested in BCF planning and how much staffing costs were. Officers advised that £300k had been budgeted for staffing costs but the actual spend was approximately £190k. It was likely that the BCF planning for 2017/18 would be for a 2 year plan following representations made to the Government.
- Noted that all BCF projects were monitored closely and there was confidence that the majority of the projects would be delivered. Officers confirmed that 7 day working had been implemented within the Discharge Planning Teams (DPT).
- Confirmed that pooled budgets with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had not been created but aligned what was being spent in order to maintain greater control and better understanding of what was being spent.
- Confirmed that a key area of the data sharing project was governance and obtaining agreement for data to be shared. Presently anonymised data was being shared for research and learning but the goal for the project was to share data more effectively with appropriate consents in place.

- Confirmed that Intermediate Care Teams were focussed in the south of the county consisting of approximately 25 workers.
- Questioned whether the Care Home Educators programme was time limited. Officers envisaged that there would be a point in the future where the programme was no longer required as their role will have been fulfilled.

It was resolved to note the update on the Better Care Fund.

191. PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE AND POTENTIAL IMPACT ON EXTRA CARE AND OTHER TYPES OF SUPPORTED HOUSING.

The Committee received a report that informed Members of the proposed changes to Local Housing Allowance and the implications for Social Care. The report proposed that further work to be carried out including the raising of awareness within the County Council of the financial and service risks posed by the potential change to Housing Benefit arrangements, that services at risks be identified together with potential mitigating factors, and to work with other organisations such as the City and District Councils in order that concerns be communicated to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) with the aim of mitigating those risks.

An announcement issued by the Government just prior to the start of the Adults Committee deferred the Local Housing Allowance cap for supported housing providers until 2019/20 and devolved top up funding to local authorities thereafter.

Members requested that a copy of the announcement be circulated to the Committee and when the announcement and its implications had been fully understood a report be presented to the Committee. **ACTION**

It was proposed by the Vice-Chairman with the unanimous agreement of the Committee to amend the recommendation set out in the report following the announcement by the Government.

It was resolved to continue to monitor the proposed changes and the impact of recent announcements regarding proposed funding changes to the Local Housing Allowance.

192. TRANSFORMING LIVES

Members received a report that provided information on the impact of the Transforming Lives Programme for different groups of service users. The report divided the assessment of Transforming Lives progress into several areas, each based on a major area of transformation currently in progress. They were the criteria by which it was intended to understand how well Transforming Lives was progressing.

During discussion Members:

- Clarified the data shown in paragraph 3.3 of the report. Officers explained that it was intended to capture all Transforming Lives outcomes that had occurred.
- Welcomed the further development of the report and requested that in future reports

percentages be displayed on the graphs and tables where appropriate.

- Noted the importance of following up on the cases handled through Early Help expressed in paragraph 4.1.5 of the report in order to understand if they were approaching the Council for further assistance later.
- Noted that the Ambulance Service tended to raise safeguarding concerns that did not turn out to be safeguarding concerns when assessed. The work undertaken to raise awareness of safeguarding within the Ambulance Service was welcomed but work was required to refine and promote understanding of what constituted a safeguarding concern.
- Highlighted the measures set out in section 7 of the report and the high quality of the questions being asked.
- Drew attention to the high proportion of people unable to manage their own finances or personal affairs. Officers advised that if individuals required support with such matters then support would be put in place.
- Expressed concern regarding home care provider capacity following a period of reablement. Officers confirmed that care would continue to be provided by the Reablement Team until a home care provider could be sourced.
- Noted that the Reablement Team provided services to assist people with a broad range of care needs from the Early Help service through to more complex needs.
- Questioned where resources were most stretched in the Reablement Team. Officers explained that there was a degree of pressure regarding hospital discharges and would like to achieve a more effective balance between timely discharge from hospital and preventative measures in the community to reduce the number of hospital admissions. Recruitment had been difficult but had improved recently.

193. CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME (CLAS)

A report was presented to the Committee that updated Members on the future arrangements for CLAS and the research carried out. Officers informed Members of the specific focus on the provision of information and advice and providing recycled white goods and household items when required.

During the course of discussion, Members:

- Noted that there had been issues in setting up the recycling scheme for white goods but had identified a supplier in WEEE Reuse that operated from a site owned by Amey Cespa to refurbish and recondition white goods ready for distribution.
- Noted and welcomed the high quality of the responses to the consultation.
- Noted the quality of the research that had been carried out during the process of developing CLAS.

- Expressed concern regarding the supply of recycled white goods as more local authorities begin to offer similar schemes. Officers explained that the supplier had more than enough stock to meet forecast demand.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Agree the procurement of the proposed scheme in accordance with the outline service specification that was detailed in section 5 of the report.
- b) Agree the procurement of a 3 year contract with the option to extend for a further 2 years.

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

It was resolved to appoint Councillor Bailey to the Older People's Partnership Board.

195. ADULTS COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN

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

Added: Disabled Facility Grant Review - 3rd November 2017

Chairman