

ADULTS COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Thursday 10 September 2020

Time: 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Present: Councillors A Bailey (Chairwoman), D Ambrose-Smith (Vice-Chairman), A Costello, S Crawford, D Giles, M Goldsack, N Harrison, M Howell, D Wells and G Wilson.

Apologies: None

298. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No apologies received or declarations of interest made. Councillor Giles joined the meeting at 2.15pm.

299. MINUTES – 2 JULY 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2020 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairwoman when next possible.

300. ACTION LOG

The action log was noted.

Members requested updates on the following actions:

- Minute 233 - Learning Disability Partnership - Baseline 2020/21 - Pooled Budget Review. Officers explained that they were in the process of agreeing a priority around assessments which would focus on a priority around those individuals that were discharged. Officers explained that this was forecast to run until the beginning of March 2021.
- Minute 295 – In relation to any updates on further funding from Government around infection control. Officers explained that some of the detail requested was contained in the Service Directors Update and the Recovery Plan update later on in the agenda.

301. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No petitions or public questions received.

302. CONTRACT EXTENSION REQUEST – HOMECARE BLOCK CAR PROVISION

The Committee received a report that outlined the case for the approval of a contract exemption for the provision of homecare capacity provided by a block car arrangement across Cambridgeshire.

Introducing the report officers explained that currently Cambridgeshire County Council had a block contract for 20 cars to deliver 1,771 hours of care provision per week across the county at a value of £1,919,511, funded by what was the Winter Pressures Grant, which from 2020/21 formed part of the Improved Better Care Fund grant. The contract was due to expire on 26 November 2020. This was in addition to the main Transition and Block Car contract which provided approximately 2,310 hours of care per week. Officers clarified that it was planned to carry out a review of this contract early this year. However due to the impact of COVID 19 on resources and the need to retain the capacity to meet demand, this had not been possible. An extension was therefore sought to continue this contract whilst work was undertaken to develop a new care pathway to enable more, older people to return home from hospital. The block cars would be reviewed as part of this work and the commissioning plans developed as a result. The extension period would align with the conclusion of the care pathway commissioning.

In discussing the report Members:

- Sought clarification on whether the rates on the cars would change. Officers explained that there would be no rate change and that a notice would not be issued until the Committee agreed to the extension.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) approve the extension and award of homecare block car provision to the current providers for 12 months until 26 November 2021.

303. CONTRACT EXTENSION REQUEST – INTERIM BLOCK BEDS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The Committee considered a report that outlined the case for the approval of a contract exemption for the provision of block interim beds across Cambridgeshire.

Introducing the report officers explained that an extension was sought to retain the 18 Interim beds beyond 31 March 2021 in order to develop a new care pathway across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to support better hospital discharge. This work was being undertaken in conjunction with a review of the hospital discharge cars which provide domiciliary care on discharge from hospital and the extension period would align with the conclusion of the care pathway commissioning.

In discussing the report Members:

- Sought further clarity on what interim beds were used for. Officers explained that interim beds were used when people were unable to return home from hospital immediately. Officers clarified that this could be for a number of reasons including that adaptations needed to be made at home. They were also used for short term emergencies.
- Queried whether the authority had seen a change in demand because of COVID. Officers explained that they had seen an increase in demand but that this had now worked its way through the system. Officers stated that it was difficult to say what future demand would be and that they did not currently have robust data on this but that officers were looking to review data going forwards.

It was resolved unanimously to:

approve the extension and award of interim block bed provision to the current Providers for a further 7 months and 26 days until 26 November 2021.

304. PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES PRIORITIES AND RECOVERY PLAN

The Committee received a report that outlined the approach for People and Communities Priorities and Recovery Plan.

In introducing the report officers gave a presentation outlining the approach which can be found at appendix 1 of the minutes.

In discussing the report Members:

- Questioned whether there would be a focus on Think Communities as there was an increased desire to invest in prevention. Officers explained that Adults Positive Challenge focused on the client group that is currently or is likely to be the responsibility of Adult Social Care and that Think Communities was a broader approach with a wider range of activities focussed on a wider population. Officers explained that for example Think Communities worked with a broad range of people that did not see themselves as carers but were fulfilling carer type functions and Think Communities rooted commissioning into local communities.
- Sought three strategic points from Officers from the presentation as a whole that Members should be focused on. Officers explained that it was not clear on what the impacts of COVID would be yet. Officers acknowledged that a range of complex cases with multiple factors had arisen through the pandemic combined with a real lack of confidence observed in older people who have been in lock down which had reduced mobility and independence in some cases. Officers explained

that it was still not known what demand and need would be for services in the future.

- The Executive Director: People and Communities stated that throughout the lockdown they had seen the benefits of a place based approach. She explained that many carers were very tired now and that the authority were proactively offering them additional help now. Officers reiterated that services had been under a lot of strain and that the community approach had been successful through the first wave of COVID and that the providers and carers had been amazing and that the authority would need to continue to support them. The Chairwoman highlighted that officers had received wonderful comments back from providers on the County Council's support during the pandemic.
- Queried whether there were particular areas where latent demands could not be met. Officers explained that one area that had been challenging was provision of beds for people with dementia. Officers clarified that they had been working hard with providers to help build up capacity and that officers were mindful of keeping track of demand on services and where officers could pre-empt demand.
- Highlighted the excellent support of the voluntary sector throughout the pandemic and questioned whether this support had been captured to guide future planning and if the authority would be providing some skills and knowledge transfer to the volunteers in order that it would make it easier for them to report a note of concern. Officers acknowledged that there was a need to capture this and that Adrian Chapman was leading on a piece of work that focused on lessons learnt from the first wave of the pandemic. The Chairwoman agreed that this was a key action point and that this needed to be built into the recovery plan. **ACTION.** Officers also highlighted ongoing work with partners on the prevention agenda including CPFT and CCG which included four strands of work focusing on recovery and resilience.

It was resolved unanimously to:

to discuss and agree the approach for People & Communities recovery plan and priorities.

305. COVID - 19 RESILIENCE FUNDING TO SUPPORT INDEPENDENT SECTOR PROVIDERS OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE

The Committee considered a report that gave an update on the urgent decision taken under emergency powers by the Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to allocate the discretionary element of the Infection Control Grant.

Introducing the report Officers clarified that following consultation with local providers, a decision had been made under emergency powers by the Chief

Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to allocate the remaining 25% of the fund, equating to £1,536,727, to providers commissioned by the County Council to deliver 'homecare' type services in the following ways:

- Domiciliary Care: Funding allocated based on number of hours delivered
- Extra Care: Funding allocated based on number of hours delivered based on a return from providers
- Supported Living: Funding allocated based on number of hours delivered based on a return from providers
- Direct Payments: A fund based on number of service users and average number of hours has been allocated to draw upon in the event PPE is required

In discussing the report Members:

- Queried whether there had been any indication that further funding would be made available by Central Government for Infection Control. Officers explained that they had not as yet received any further indication that funding would be made available but that it was an ever changing situation, and that they would keep members updated. Officers clarified that they would be sharing the recovery plan with providers and asking providers to shape the plan as investment was needed to keep the market vibrant and resilient.
- Questioned when the Committee would be updated further on the resilience planning. Officers explained that this work would be fed into the business planning process and a business planning report had been scheduled for the next Committee meeting.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Note the decision made under emergency powers by the Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council in consultation with the Chairwoman of the Adults Committee, to allocate the Infection Control Grant provided by central government.

306. SERVICE DIRECTORS UPDATE - ADULTS & SAFEGUARDING AND COMMISSIONING

The Committee received a report that provided an update on progress on Adult Social Care across commissioning and operational delivery.

Introducing the report officers outlined a number of points in relation to operational delivery of Adult Social Care that included:

- Referral rates had started to increase
- Remote working performance had improved and different ways of working had been embraced.

- A dedicated team of Social Workers had been set up for care home support
- Learning Disability challenges included the return to day services and focusing on new guidance
- There were pressures on hospitals to get back to business as usual
- Staff had been encouraged to take a break

In relation to commissioning officers reiterated that the focus was on recovery and resilience.

In discussing the report Members;

- Queried whether there was an update on the current financial position for Adult Social Care as the general Purposes Committee had reported an overall balanced position, but this report had reported an overspend of £7.5 million and the situation could potentially get worse. The Executive Director of People and Communities stated that it was an ever changing picture and the Minister for Housing Communities and Local Government has not as yet given feedback on the funding position. She explained that officers provided weekly financial updates on the position

It was resolved unanimously to note and comment on the contents of this report.

307. ADULTS COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN AND TRAINING PLAN

The Committee noted two additions to the agenda plan for the October meeting;

- Business Case/Transformation funding bid for a Micro-enterprise pilot
- Care Suites Working Group

Members noted the agenda plan and training plan

308. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was resolved to note the date of the next meeting as Thursday 8 October 2020.

309. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was resolved unanimously to:

exclude the public and press from consideration of this report on the grounds that the report contains exempt information under Paragraphs 1,3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed information relating to any individual, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular

person (including the authority holding that information) and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

310. A REQUEST TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT LENGTH OF THE BLOCK CONTRACT OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTIAL, NURSING AND PLANNED RESPITE CARE BEDS

The Committee considered a report that sought approval to increase the maximum contract length of the current block contract for residential, nursing and respite care commissioning which was currently out to tender from 10 to 15 years.

It was resolved unanimously to:

to approve increasing the maximum contract length of the current block contract for residential, nursing and respite care commissioning which is currently out to tender from 10 to 15 years.

Chairwoman