

ADULTS COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Thursday 10 December 2020

Time: 2.00 p.m. to 4.06 pm

Present: Councillors A Bailey (Chairwoman), D Ambrose-Smith (Vice-Chairman), A Costello, J French, N Harrison, A Hay, M Howell, L Jones and G Wilson.

Apologies: Councillors M Goldsack and D Wells.

323. Apologies for Absence, Declarations of Interest and Announcements

Apologies received from Councillor M Goldsack, Councillor J French in attendance as substitute and Councillor D Wells, Councillor A Hay in attendance as substitute. Councillor D Giles was also not in attendance.

The Chairwoman explained that Councillor Crawford who was the Labour representative on Adults Committee had resigned from the Labour Group on Tuesday. She clarified that it was not possible to substitute for someone who was no longer a member of a Committee. She explained that the Constitution stated that the Democratic Services Manager needed to be informed of any changes in Committee membership no later than 12.00 noon five clear working days before the meeting. She highlighted that given that Council had approved a place to the Labour Group on Adults Committee, she proposed that the standing order (Section 23 - Appointments to Committees, Part 4.4 – Committee and Sub-Committee Meetings, Part 4 Rules of Procedure) be suspended to enable Councillor Linda Jones to represent the Labour Group at the meeting. She stated that it was important that the Labour group was represented on Adults Committee, which covers vital areas of council policy even more. The motion was seconded by Councillor Ambrose –Smith.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Approve the attendance of Councillor Linda Jones at the Committee meeting as the Labour representative.

324. Minutes – 8 October 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2020 were unanimously agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairwoman when next possible.

325. Action log

In discussing the action log it was highlighted that:

- Action 294 - Arc 4 report was now available and would be circulated to both Adults and Children and Young Persons Committee. **ACTION**

The action log was noted.

326. Petitions and Public Questions

One public question received

327. Infection Control Fund

The Committee received a report asking the Committee to consider the allocation of the Infection Control Grant. The grant aimed to support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in and between care homes and support wider workforce resilience.

Introducing the report officers explained that the first tranche of funding had been agreed back in September 2020 and a further extension of the funding had been agreed by government until the end of March 2021, which equated to £5,429,954 in Cambridgeshire. Officers clarified that the primary purpose of this fund was to support adult social care providers, including those with whom the local authority did not have a contract, to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in and between care homes and support wider workforce resilience. Officers explained that the report recommended that the discretionary element of the funding, which was 20% of the total funding be distributed to CQC Registered Community Providers, providers of commissioned Day Services who remain open and operational and commissioned Housing Related Support provision.

Discussing the report Members;

- Queried whether self-funders would benefit from the funding. Officers clarified that the funding is split into two parts. The first part, equating to 80% of the fund, will go to all service users whether their support is self-funded or funded by the Council in line with guidance issued. The second discretionary part of the fund, equating to 20%, would go to all service users of CQC Registered Community Providers including self-funders. However, funding would be allocated only to commissioned providers of Day Services and Housing Related Support. Officers explained that due to the nature of these services the funding would still have a positive impact on the wider cohort of self-funding customers and that this would not be seen as a particular challenge for housing related support services as this was not generally accessed by self-funders.

It was resolved unanimously to:

agree the recommended allocation of the discretionary element of the Infection Control Grant. This will see 20% of the fund distributed to CQC Registered Community Providers, and providers of commissioned Day Services

328. Adults Committee Review of Draft Revenue and Capital Business Planning Proposals for 2021-2026

The Committee considered a report that outlined the current business and budgetary planning position and estimates for 2021-2026, the principal risks, contingencies and implications facing the Committee and the Council's resources and the process and next steps for the Council in agreeing a business plan and budget for future years.

Introducing the report officers explained that work had been carried out to understand and work through the changes in demand for services as a result of COVID-19 and refined assumptions had been built into the business planning process. Officers had reviewed undelivered savings to identify those that could be delivered next year as well as any new opportunities for savings. Officers clarified that the total gap for the whole Council had been revised and now stood at £21 million. Officers stated that this would be reviewed when there was more clarity on the settlement in the next two weeks and that the numbers outlined were still the best estimate taking into account COVID-19 impacts.

Discussing the report Members;

- Queried if the additional demand highlighted in 7.5 of the report covered people who were self-funding who may need to shift as well as additional demand from new self-funders into the services. Officers explained that the additional demand covered both scenarios and therefore the baseline demand line had been recalculated to factor this in. The Chairwoman commented that over the past few years' officers had been incredibly accurate in their budgeting.
- Questioned what was meant by the phrase on page 16 of the papers 'to date the Council has not taken all of the upside created from the change to its Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy into revenue'. Officers explained that this was how the transformation fund had been established and it meant that the Council had more flexibility in this area.
- Queried whether the Adult Social Care precept could go up to 3% as outlined in the spending review and whether there was a view on this from officers. Officers explained that there was still a huge amount of uncertainty and that there was currently no detail at the local level. The Chairwoman stated that this was a matter for the administration and

other political Groups to consider at the Full Council budget meeting in February, and also that there was a concern that the Adult Social Care funding formula might remain the same as it had been in the previous round which had not been favourable for the authority, with a large driver in the formula linked to deprivation.

- Sought clarity on whether the authority was a high tax authority and how it compared to other Councils. Officers explained that they could circulate the relevant comparisons to the Committee for clarity.

ACTION

- Raised concern about the additional vacancy factor line on page 44 of the report which highlighted a £150,000 saving for 2021-22 and highlighted the need to be careful not to double count. Officers explained that there had been a lot of discussion in this area and that the figure was a pragmatic recognition that there would be a possible underspend. Officers clarified that Managers were being told to recruit to vacancies in a timely manner.
- Questioned what quality and monitoring checks would be in place for the micro-enterprise proposal. The Chairwoman highlighted the report that had been discussed at the last Committee on the subject and that the proposal had been built into a wider project of place based activity and commissioning. Officers explained that monitoring and reviewing would be built into the process and that direct payment providers carried out quality checks as well as the authority monitoring and reviewing individuals' care packages on an annual basis.

It was resolved by majority to:

- a) Note the overview and context provided for the 2021- 22 to 2025-26 Business Plan, updated since the last report to the Committee in October.
- b) Comment on the draft budget and savings proposals that are within the remit of the Committee and endorse them to the General Purposes Committee as part of consideration for the Council's overall Business Plan
- c) Comment on the capital programme update that is in the remit of the Committee, and endorse them to the General Purposes Committee as part of consideration for the Council's overall Business Plan
- d) Note the fees and charges for 2021-22

329. Housing Related Support Strategy

The Committee received a report that sought endorsement of the new Housing Related Support Strategy to enable a clear strategic direction for commissioning of Housing Related Support services and the reconsideration of the current savings requirements for Housing Related Support Services, and determination of whether the savings should still be pursued.

Introducing the report officers explained that the new strategy moved away from the current model to a more flexible commissioning of a mix of provision. Officers highlighted that there was a focus on gaps in provision particularly in relation to individuals with complex needs. Officers explained that the re-design work had already begun and that there would be market engagement sessions in February next year. Officers stated that they were working closely with procurement colleagues in relation to the procurement timetable and were working with the legal team on contract development. Officers clarified that Contract Specifications would be shared with the Committee at their meeting in March 2021 after being shared with the member reference group.

The Committee heard one Public Speaker in relation to the content of the report.

Mr Chris Jenkin, a Trustee of the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project addressed the committee and highlighted the work of the “It Takes a City” (ITAC) initiative emerging from the Cambridge Summit on Homelessness on 29th November 2019. He explained that they had established projects through partners around support, employment, housing and information, and were currently leading on the provision of emergency support and accommodation for Cambridge rough sleepers as part of COVID-19 “Everybody In”. He warmly welcomed the proposed “Street to Home” strategy for Cambridge City, seeking to bring together commissioned and non-commissioned support “for the journey”. He payed tribute to Lisa Sparks and her City and County colleagues for the way that stakeholders had been engaged in the run-up to the formal commissioning process. He explained that the strategy was bold, potentially changing the Cambridge hostel system, and the contracts previously awarded, that had been in place for many years. He asked the Committee to consider a number of points detailed below:

1. Adopting a “learning alliance” model, where a group of partners under a lead partner are commissioned to work out over time how best to achieve high-order outcomes related to reducing rough sleeping, sustaining accommodation, improving health, human flourishing and self-efficacy, and an end to the “revolving door”?
2. Adjusting the procurement strategy so that it gave time for partners to get together and prepare bids
3. Setting out a target architecture for the systems change expected, with the bias over time towards support “for the journey” and independent accommodation rather than hostels
4. Setting out a broad timetable for the systems change expected, starting with the status quo on 1st January 2022 so that changes happen through the lifetime of and within the contract framework, not at the start
5. In addition to the requirement to re-purpose street-based voluntary work, to set expectations on the very considerable support that might be available from the private and third sectors in the provision of

accommodation, support and all those many things necessary for human flourishing such as employment, social capital and life skills.

The Chairwoman thanked Mr Jenkin for his comments and explained that there were a number of points that he had raised that she had also questioned with officers, in particular on timescales for procurement and implementation.

A Member sought further detail from Mr Jenkin on the work of 'It Takes a City' Mr Jenkin explained that following the summit in November 2018 10 conversations were framed in the wider community regarding tackling rough sleeping. He explained that then 8 action groups were established and the action groups had steadily progressed. He explained that the groups has taken part in discussions with the Housing Related Support team at the County Council and had also developed modular homes with the support of the City Council and the Combined Authority. He clarified that they had four paid members of staff but that they worked on a neutral basis. The Chairwoman highlighted that it would be beneficial to review the June date in relation to the procurement strategy and asked officers to look into revised timescales. **ACTION.** She also highlighted the importance of delaying the start of the contracts and potential phasing. A Member stated her support for Mr Jenkin and the Chairwoman's comments as there would not be enough time allowed for community based partnerships to develop.

The Chairwoman thanked Mr Jenkins for attending the meeting and stated that a formal response would be sent to him within 10 working days.

Discussing the report Members;

- Welcomed the strategy and the time and work that had gone into developing it.
- Queried how the savings that had already been taken had been achieved. Officers explained that the savings were achieved through a review of services including legacy services that sat in the supporting people budget. Officers explained that many had now moved to sit in the mainstream Children's and Adults budgets.
- Questioned the use of the word innovative as it was felt that this had the implication of solutions being big bang and solutions being more radical. A Member stated that there needed to be continuity of support throughout the changes and that more stable and long term funding streams would be more beneficial. Officers clarified that they were working with providers to reform some of the services and that the need for flexibility was paramount with Housing First embedded in the model. Officers stated that there would also be retendering in other areas and that some providers had offered up savings, as well as Finance securing underspend through uplifts.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Adopt the new Housing Related Support Strategy
- b) Note that the draft budget tables which they are being asked to endorse include a removal of the remaining HRS saving.

330. Discharge to Assess

The Committee considered a report that gave an update on the progression in relation to the new Discharge to Assess hospital discharge pathway.

Introducing the report officers explained that the Committee had asked for an update on the new pathway and that it was a live issue at the moment. Officers clarified that the new pathway was part of a national drive to assess individuals within the community instead of delaying their discharge from hospital. Officers stated that it was a multi-agency effort and Social Workers had been moved into the community to support this as well as the service moving to seven days a week. Officers explained that the authority had received additional funding until April next year to implement the pathway and that wrap around support was being developed to be delivered by community services with additional funding for CHC assessments. Officers clarified that there were complex challenges including ensuring that there were designated settings for those that need to return to a care home but are COVID positive. Officers stated that the Delayed Transfers of Care indicator had currently been suspended due to the pandemic and a new set of key Performance Indicators had been agreed. Officers stated that a Winter Plan had been developed and quality assured by ADASS along with the development of a Mass Vaccination Programme.

Discussing the report Members;

- Queried how COVID testing was being carried out in care homes and sought assurances that testing would be sustained. Officers explained that the authority was keen to ensure that no one left hospital without their COVID status being known and that if someone could not be safely transferred then they could complete their isolation period in hospital.
- Questioned what would happen in April when the funding came to an end. Officers stated that this was a good question and that it was going to be very challenging as latent demand had been building up in the community. Officers highlighted the benefits of pooling resources and multi-disciplinary teams in the community supporting care homes. Officers explained that Business Planning focused on Think Communities and the integrated care model and sustaining joint working even if it meant working through financially challenged times. A Member highlighted that one issue was that the Primary Care support was not in place seven days a week in terms of GPs and getting medication and that there was a long way to go in terms of it being seen as a seamless service. Officers acknowledged that this

was an area that needed improvement and joint work is taking place to develop 7 day working arrangements.

- Sought clarification on whether there was data on people that had been re-admitted to hospital following discharge and what conversations were being had with families and whether they were they comfortable with the discharges. Officers stated that this data was collected and that there is a process for reviewing failed discharges, readmissions and lessons learnt. Officers explained that there was a need to accept a level of risk and that there was a good system in place but that there was always room for improvement. Officers stated that recently there had been an increased greater Social Worker presence in hospital and that this was being reviewed on an ongoing basis as it involves taking staff back out of the community.
- Sought confirmation that people would have the freedom to say no to the vaccine if they did not wish to have it. Officers clarified that people have the capacity to make their own decisions and that they could not force people to have the vaccine.

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

331. EU Exit Preparations

The Committee received a report that updated the Committee on the preparations that had been taking place since the last report presented to the Audit and Accounts committee on 12 March 2020 in relation to the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

Introducing the report officers explained that meetings of the taskforce were suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic but reconvened on 30 September 2020 with a second meeting on 24 November 2020. Officers clarified that these meetings had representation from services from both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to ensure that both organisations were aware of and updated on key issues including the EU Settlement Scheme, Business Readiness, Communications and Supply Chain Risk. Officers explained that they had been reviewing worst-case scenario guidance provided to the Local Resilience Forum from Government and the risks relevant to the County Council were reflected in the risk register that accompanied the report. Officers explained that Stewart Thomas from the Emergency Planning team at the County Council sat on the Local Resilience Forum and that there were robust plans in place for scenarios such as fuel shortages. Officers clarified that a key area for concern was the EU Settlement Scheme and how this would affect Adult Social Care. Officers explained that they were continuing to work with providers ensuring that there was a strategy in place. Officers highlighted that other issues being monitored included data protection, any new legislation and supply chain risk. Officers clarified that the risk register was reviewed on a regular basis. Discussing the report Members;

- Sought further information on Risks BX6 Recruitment and BX9 Finance and Funding. Officers explained that BX6 and BX9 were closely linked BX6 related to the long term impact on recruitment to the workforce and the new immigration scheme and BX9 related to general inflation at a national level and costs rising.
- Requested that an update report was included for January or March depending on the outcome of EU exit negotiations. **ACTION**

It was resolved to note and comment on the information within the report

332. Adults Committee Agenda Plan

In discussing the agenda plan:

- A member requested that the Finance and Performance report be considered at Committee as the overspend had increased to £9.7 Million and that it was crucial for Committee to take a view on this. The Chairwoman explained that this was included in the Business Planning proposals that had been discussed at the meeting and there had been a good opportunity to debate this already. The Chairwoman stated that the finance and performance report would continue to be circulated to Committee

The agenda plan was noted.

333. Date of Next Meeting

It was resolved to note the date of the next meeting as Thursday 14 January 2021

Chairman