

Adults Committee Minutes

Date: Thursday 18 March 2021

Time: 2.00 p.m. to 3.40 p.m.

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

Apologies: Councillor S Crawford

342. Apologies for Absence, Declarations of Interest and Announcements

Apologies received from Councillor Crawford.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in item 5 as he is a Governor on CPFT Board of Governors.

Councillor Jones declared an interest in item 5 as she is the County Council representative on the Papworth Hospital Board of Governors.

343. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 14 January 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

344. Action Log

The action log was noted.

345. Petitions and Public Questions

There were no petitions or public question

346. Transitioning to an Integrated Care System

The Committee received a presentation from the Interim Chair of the Local Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) on transitioning to an Integrated Care System. The presentation can be found at appendix 1 of the minutes.

In discussing the presentation Members;

- Queried issues with cross border flows with specialist hospitals and how this would work across the system in the future. The Interim Chair of the STP stated that there was no simple answer to this and that there was a network of

STPs across the region that collaborated and that the aim was to try and avoid patients going out of the East of England in to London, which would be a much better quality statement and would help with the financial deficit.

- Highlighted that the funding for discharge to assess ended at the end of March and queried how this would be taken forward in the future. The Interim Chair of the STP commented that discussions were ongoing in relation to this.
- Questioned the ICS strategic commissioning function in terms of what it meant in practice and whether it was value for money.
- Queried how much the success of the integration relied on Government coming forward with a national strategy for social care. The Interim STP Chair stated that this was a big question and that the Government white paper was eagerly awaited.

The Committee noted the presentation.

347. Integrated Community Equipment Service Procurement

The Committee considered a report that sought approval to proceed to tender the Integrated Community Equipment Service.

Introducing the report officers highlighted several points in the report:

- The contracted service was responsible for the purchasing, delivery, installation, collection, recycling, repair and maintenance of a large range of health and social care equipment which helped people to remain as independent as possible in the community and in the home of their choice.
- The contract had been in place since 2014 and was extended for two years in 2019 and again last year due to Covid for a further year. The current contract was due to expire at the end of March 2022.
- Approval to proceed with the tender of the Integrated Community Equipment Service was sought with a proposed contract term of 5+3+2 years, with a total contract value of £47m.

Discussing the report Members:

- Expressed their support for the proposals. The Chairwoman stated that she had personal experience of the service and it was highly valued.
- Queried the feedback of 71% of individuals saying the equipment helped them to reduce the amount of help they need from others and questioned why it was not higher. Officers explained that the equipment supported long term conditions as well as preventative support and it was also used for end of life care.

- Questioned how the Council would engage with the wider market in terms of carbon neutral goals, and how this was worked into the procurement process, as this would be challenging for smaller providers. Officers explained that a lot of companies that provided this type of service were experts in logistics and utilised route planning software and were looking at deploying electric and hybrid vehicles.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Approve to proceed with the tender of the Integrated Community Equipment Service. Proposed contract term of 5+3+2. Total contract value is £47m.
- b) Delegate the award of the new contract to the Executive Director of People and Communities.

348. Mental Health Section 75 Partnership Agreement: Annual Report

The Committee received a report that outlined the Mental Health Section 75 Partnership Agreement including service activity, financial performance and the future form of agreement by way of an extension of the existing arrangement to be agreed for a further four years enabling the delivery of vital mental health services to those who need it.

Discussing the report Members;

- Queried the reduction in care packages due to block provision in relation to the Good Life Service transfer (page 41 of the agenda pack). Officers stated that a number of individuals had been given social inclusion support and the contracting arrangements had changed and this was now being delivered through The Good Life Service provided by CPSL MIND.
- Questioned why the care package figures outlined were almost a year out of date. Officers stated that this annual update report has been delayed in its presentation to Adults Committee to ensure a fuller picture of figures from 2019-20 had been included. Updated figures will be provided within the next annual update.
- Requested more detail on the types of complaints received and if there were any trends for identification in future reports.
- Queried why the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) had been transferred back to Cambridgeshire County Council. Officers explained that the MASH arrangements had been reviewed and streamlined during 2020-21 and this piece of work had supported the full transfer of MASH responsibilities to the County Council's MASH Team from 1 January 2021, to ensure the safe and effective discharge of statutory safeguarding adults' duties to be achieved. Officers stated that further work was ongoing during 2020-21 within

the Trust to establish clear and robust structures for the delivery of safeguarding duties and regulatory requirements.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Endorse the report as a full account of service and financial performance, activity and outcomes under the Mental Health Section 75 Partnership Agreement.
- b) Approve the continuation of the Mental Health Section 75 Partnership Agreement, including secondment arrangements, commencing from 1st April 2021.
- c) Approve the amendment to the Mental Health Section 75 Partnership Agreement to revise the term of the agreement to 4 years commencing 1st April 2021 for a maximum value of £5.5M.

349. Adults Social Care transport exemption request

The Committee considered a report which sought approval for an exemption waiver for an additional £1.3m of funding to enable the expired medium to long term contracts for Adults Social Care transport to remain in place for one further year (in line with section 5 of the Cambridgeshire County Council Contract Procedure Rules 2020).

Introducing the report officers explained that the exemption waiver would allow for a detailed tendering plan to be drawn up which would be informed by the work of the transformation team which would then be brought back to Committee for approval.

Discussing the report Members;

- Queried how the Council's low carbon priorities would be built into the tendering process. Officers explained that when the re-tendering takes place there would be a specification in the contract specifically in relation to the Council's Carbon Neutral goals.
- Questioned if the extension for the last 12 months was in relation to Covid and whether an extension of another 12 months was a necessary requirement. Officers explained that Covid had impacted on the retendering process and the extension for another 12 months was to allow for the transformation work to take place on the tendering plan.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Approve an exemption waiver for an additional £1.3m of funding to enable the expired medium to long term contracts to remain in place for one further year (in line with section 5 of the Cambridgeshire County Council Contract Procedure Rules 2020); and

- b) Receive a report later in 2021/22 detailing the tendering plan for approval, which will result in contracts to supersede the exemption waiver. This report will be informed by the transformation teamwork.

350. Housing Related Support (HRS) Update and Approach

The Committee received a report that gave an update- on the redesign of the Housing Related Support Services for Adults.

Introducing the report officers explained that they were seeking approval for new timescales for the planned procurement exercise and that the current contracts be extended in line with the procurement timetable and that a further update report would come back to Committee in July 2021.

Discussing the report Members;

- Sought assurances that smaller providers had been taken into consideration in relation to the procurement exercise as there had been situations recently where place based and community expertise had been lost. The Chairwoman stated that there had been some concern from District colleagues on this point. Officers reassured Members that there had been ongoing discussions and had signalled to the market quite early in order that there was a focus on partnerships and ensuring there was time in terms of the bidding process. The Chairwoman stated that officers needed to be very careful that proper recognition and time was given to partnerships to move over to new ways of working.

The Chairwoman thanked officers for their work on the redesign and stated that it had been a valuable and necessary process.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note and comment on the update provided.
- b) Approve the new timescale for Procurement.
- c) Approve the requested extensions for HRS contracts.

351. Adult Social Care Service User Survey results

The Committee considered a report that gave an overview of the findings of the 2020 Adult Social Care Statutory Service User Survey the results of which were published in December 2020.

Introducing the report officers explained that the survey was a national survey that was run annually using nationally set parameters. Officers stated that the survey ran between February and March 2020, at the start of the Covid pandemic whilst the

levels of anxiety were rising. Officers explained that this was likely evidenced in the reduced response rate. Officers highlighted a number of points in the report including:

- There had been a worsening of responses around the level of health and care needs. Officers stated this could be because the Council was more effective in its prevention services meaning people had high levels of need by the time they needed long term care, or this could be in relation to levels of anxiety during the pandemic.
- The Council had performed less well on access to information and advice.
- There had been an improvement in the overall satisfaction rating.
- The report set out details of the way the survey fed into the work of the Council.

Discussing the report Members;

- Questioned what the very best authorities did to score highly that Cambridgeshire did not do. Officers explained that some of the authorities may be in a better financial position but also that some of the questions were focused on the experience of public services including the NHS. Officers also stated that the ADASS network was strong so there were opportunities for authorities to challenge each other and share experience.
- Highlighted that people with physical disabilities had stated they were less happy and queried if there were any particular issues in this area. Officers explained that there was a connection between quality of life indicators and demographics and there was a marked difference between client categories which would be reviewed further through an analysis of the comments.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Consider the content of the report and note how the survey has been linked into the development of Adult Social Care in Cambridgeshire.

352. Adults Safeguarding Board Annual Report

The Committee received the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board 2019-20 Annual Report.

Introducing the report officers highlighted a number of key points in the paper including:

- Partnership Board Governance
- Key learning from safeguarding reviews
- Training needs

- Thematic Reviews

Discussing the report Members;

- Queried the average length of time it took to complete a safeguarding review. Officers explained that cases were large and very complex and there needed to be confidence that the process had been undertaken thoroughly. Officers clarified that there was also a need to ensure that the person undertaking the review had the right skills and expertise to support a robust process and sometimes this can create a delay. Officers were looking at alternative ways of undertaking the reviews whilst still ensuring that a robust process is followed. The Chairwoman commented that if there were any new processes identified then the Committee would welcome an update.
- Highlighted the importance of the reviews and welcomed the contents of the report.
- Questioned why Members were only seeing the 2019-20 report now. The Chairwoman explained that due to Covid the report had been rescheduled on the agenda.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Receive and note the contents of the 2019-20 Annual Report.

353. Workforce Capacity Grant

The Committee considered a report that outlined 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 Workforce Capacity Grant provided by central government.

Introducing the report officers clarified that an amendment to the report (section 4.2) had been circulated and published prior to the meeting. Officers explained that the decision had been taken by the Chief Executive as the funding from Government had to be spent by 3 March 2021. Officers stated that they had consulted a wide range of stakeholders to determine how the funding should be spent and the funding allocations were highlighted in table 1 of the report. Officers explained that it had been agreed that to drive forward the recruitment campaign within the short timescales set by the conditions of the grant, a contract for £192,500 had been directly awarded to CPL Ltd. Officers clarified that the contract would be jointly funded through the grant allocated across Cambridgeshire County Council (£134,750) and Peterborough City Council (£57,750). Officers highlighted that this organisation had evidenced achievement of positive outcomes in successfully undertaking equivalent activities previously.

Discussing the report Members;

- Queried whether the opposition party lead members had been consulted before the decision made. Officers confirmed that all Lead Members had been consulted.
- Sought further clarification in relation to the awarding of the contract for the recruitment campaign. Officers stated that to drive forward the recruitment campaign quickly and effectively external expertise was required. Officers explained that CPL Ltd had successfully managed the Reablement recruitment campaign and had a robust understanding of the sector.

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 Workforce Capacity Grant provided by central government.

354. Adults Committee Agenda Plan

The Committee noted the Agenda Plan.

In bringing the meeting to a close the Chairwoman thanked all members and officers for their commitment and hard work, to the Committee over the past four years.