

ADULTS COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Thursday 11 June 2020

Time: 2.00 pm to 3.20 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

279. NOTIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Committee was notified by the Democratic Services Officer that Council had appointed Councillor Anna Bailey as Chairwoman of the Committee and Councillor David Ambrose-Smith as Vice Chairman for 2020/21 when it met on 19 May 2020.

280. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No apologies received or declarations of interest made.

281. MINUTES – 12 MAY 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2020 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairwoman when next possible.

282. ACTION LOG

The action log was noted

283. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No petitions or public questions received.

284. ADULT SOCIAL CARE PROVIDERS - TEMPORARY 10% RESILIENCE PAYMENT

The Chairwoman explained that the situation in relation to the 10% resilience payment to social care providers, which had been agreed to the end of June 2020 by Committee, was fast moving and asked that the Service Director: Commissioning, update the Committee verbally on the position going forward.

The Service Director: Commissioning explained that the 10% resilience payment for social care providers had been provided to build and maintain capacity, defend home care capacity and support market sustainability and

this had been provided as an interim emergency payment to the end of June 2020. He explained that on 14 May 2020, the Government announced £600m of one-off funding to support infection control across adult social care providers. Grant Determination Letters and guidance was issued on the 22 May and the allocation to Cambridgeshire County Council equated to £6,146,908. The primary purpose of this fund was to support adult social care providers, including those with whom the local authority does not have a contract, to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in and between care homes and support wider workforce resilience. Guidelines stated that the funding was to be spent by the end of September 2020. He clarified that 75% of the £6 million would be paid directly to the residential providers with the remaining 25% being at the discretion of the local authority. He confirmed that the authority had made a decision to pass the full amount on to providers. He acknowledged that there were significant challenges ahead including the possibility of a second wave, the ramping up of NHS resources and going into the Winter period.

In discussing the update Members:

- Welcomed the additional funding from Government.
- Sought confirmation that the 10% uplift would no longer be required after June 2020. The Service Director: Commissioning explained that the 10% uplift had been emergency funding and was no longer required as the Infection Control Funding from Government was now in place and funding would go directly to providers. Payments would be made in two instalments to providers in May 2020 and July 2020, in line with the allocations being paid to the local authority. The Chairwoman highlighted that the funding from Government had been as a result of lobbying and that the 10% resilience payment had put additional pressure on the authorities' budgets.
- Queried whether any of the funding could be used for long term benefit. The Service Director: Commissioning clarified that the guidelines were very specific that the funding be used by the end of September 2020 with a focus on infection control.

285. COVID-19 - UPDATE REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE

The Committee received a report outlining the Council's response to COVID-19, updating on activity since the last report to Committee on 12 May 2020.

Given the rapidly changing situation and the need to provide the committee and public with the most up to date information possible the Chairwoman had accepted this as a late report on the following grounds:

1. Reason for lateness: To allow the report to contain the most up to date information possible.

2. Reason for urgency: To enable the committee to be briefed on the current situation in relation to the Council's response to Covid-19 for those service for which it is responsible.

In introducing the report officers highlighted a number of operational points covered in the report which included:

- An update on current data on infection rates including where homes had reported an outbreak.
- The roll out of the Infection Control Funding by Government.
- PPE in good supply for own staff and currently no issues with providers and the establishment of a tracker that each care home was required to complete with a lead that they could contact for support.
- Development of a care home support plan which was submitted to government on 29 May 2020.
- Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC) – demand was being managed across the system and a weekly phone call took place with Senior NHS colleagues regarding out of hospital pathways.
- Training with the bereavement charity Cruise had taken place with staff working with the bereaved and had proved to be very successful.
- Good feedback from carers regarding support from the council.
- The Learning Disability Partnership had done an outstanding job in preventing admissions to hospital.
- Implementation of contributions policy was ongoing and the Financial Assessment team now had a new manager.
- Adults Positive Challenge Programme was ongoing and will help to inform the authority on next steps coming out of COVID.

Officers clarified that the key points covered in the report in relation to the commissioning of services had been covered in the previous item on the agenda.

In discussing the report Members:

- Queried whether there was any cause for concern in relation to staffing levels particularly in relation to staff who were self-isolating, if there was a second wave of COVID. Officers explained that staff who had to self-isolate were supported in getting back to work safely and that support from HR and Occupational Health had been vital. Officers clarified that there had been a lot of positive interest in the jobs that

had been advertised recently and officers were looking to review whether they could recruit to additional reablement posts to cover potential gaps in the future.

- Questioned what the financial and service impacts had been in relation to COVID and if the Council was able to recover any additional costs back from Government. The Chairwoman clarified that information in relation to the anticipated impacts had been shared at General Purposes Committee. The Executive Director: People and Communities explained that robust business cases had been developed around what the authority would need to spend coming out of the pandemic and they had been shared with the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government. Officers reiterated that the authority was still at a point where it was still not clear what demand would look like. Services had adapted to the pandemic and officers explained that it would be useful to get feedback from service users on their experiences. The Chairwoman highlighted that the pandemic had accelerated the work of Think Communities and the roll out of technology. She explained that there was a potential new dependency in the future in relation to those in the shielded category, which was currently an unknown.
- Queried whether bereavement training could be rolled out to voluntary groups within communities. Officers explained that they would follow this up with Public Health colleagues. **ACTION**
- Raised concern in relation to the availability of respite care for those with learning disabilities. Officers clarified that they worked closely with this group of carers and had well established relationships and had honest conversations throughout the pandemic. Officers explained that they would follow up and report back on the respite care available. **ACTION**
- Sought clarity on what officers biggest concerns were in relation to coming out of the pandemic. Officers explained that the biggest concerns at present were going into the winter period and the possibility of a second wave. Officers clarified that they would make the most of the opportunities to recruit to ensure that the authority had sufficient staffing capacity. The Executive Director: People and Communities highlighted the need to talk to communities about what they will do in the long term as there was a need to find the capacity to build on what will come afterwards.

It was resolved unanimously to:

note the progress made to date in responding to the impact of the Coronavirus.

286. ADULTS COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN, TRAINING PLAN AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND INTERNAL ADVISORY GROUPS AND PANELS

It was resolved unanimously to:

- (i) Note the Committee agenda plan.
- (ii) Note the Committee training plan.
- (iii) Agree the appointments to outside bodies as detailed in Appendix 3;
- (iv) Agree the appointments to Internal Advisory Groups and Panels as detailed in Appendix 4.

287. 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 1,2 and 3 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 which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

288. REQUEST TO COMMISSION ADDITIONAL BLOCK CONTRACT RESIDENTIAL, NURSING AND PLANNED RESPITE CARE.

The Committee considered a report requesting the commissioning of additional block contract residential, nursing and planned respite care beds.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) approve the tender of 810 block beds and 12 planned respite beds for older people and people with a physical disability in Cambridgeshire at a total cost of £353.1million over a period 10 years.
- b) delegate authority to award contract(s) to the Executive Director of People and Communities.

289. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was resolved to note the date of the next meeting as Thursday 2 July 2020.

Chairwoman