

## **ADULTS COMMITTEE: MINUTES**

**Date:** Thursday 2 July 2020

**Time:** 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

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

**Apologies:** Councillor D Giles

### **290. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies received from Councillor Giles. No declarations of interest made.

### **291. MINUTES – 11 JUNE 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2020 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairwoman when next possible.

### **292. ACTION LOG**

The action log was noted.

### **293. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No petitions or public questions received.

### **294. HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Committee considered a report that sought agreement to contract extensions for Housing Related Support Services.

Introducing the report officers gave an update on the countywide COVID response in relation to rough sleeping. Officers explained that 278 people were being housed in temporary COVID accommodation as at 26 June 2020, and that support and welfare packages had been provided. Officers explained that currently the relevant authorities were looking at the next steps in terms of moving on plans, including what interim and long term accommodation was available. Officers stated that the Housing First Service was providing opportunities for some people and that housing related support services were also supporting move-on. Officers explained that there had been an impact on the delivery timetable for the review which was outlined in 3.1 of the report and that the risks were highlighted at 2.1.3 of the report. Officers confirmed that they were seeking an extension to the current contracts so that learning from COVID could be incorporated into the process with a start date for the new contracts of January 2022.

In discussing the report Members:

- Queried the numbers in relation to rough sleepers in terms of how many were in Cambridgeshire and the associated costs. Officers explained that the numbers were 179 without Peterborough and that the costs were being picked up by the District Councils using the COVID related funding received from Government. The Chairwoman stated that in East Cambridgeshire 6-7 people had been housed that would not normally be housed, due to the pandemic, with no cost.
- Highlighted the micro pods that had been built in Cambridge to temporarily house the homeless by Jimmy's. The Chairwoman reiterated that it was imperative that the County Council worked in partnership with the Districts as a holistic response to homelessness was needed. Officers explained that Cambridge City Council were looking at how pods could be rolled out further but that location and support offer had to be taken into consideration. Officers stated that the Counting Every Adult team had been recruiting to posts and had started to pick up cases through Housing First in Cambridge City and were looking to roll out in Fenland.
- Queried how the savings would be achieved. Officers confirmed that the savings identified would be made through service redesign. Officers confirmed that the Member Reference Group would be reconvened and that they were currently looking at dates.
- Requested that the Arc report be circulated to the Committee once available. **ACTION**
- Questioned whether the contracts were being extended at the same rates. Officers confirmed that the contracts would be extended at the same rates.
- Noted that if anyone presented themselves as rough sleeping during the pandemic that they were currently entitled to be accommodated. Members queried how long this would go on for. Officers explained that general homelessness presentations still went through the District Councils and that a verification process was being followed for rough sleepers and EU nationals were included in the process. Officers explained that in the current pandemic people who would not generally qualify under the rules were being accommodated and that all Districts were working on plans to move people to more permanent solutions.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- 1) Note the content of this report
- 2) Agree to the requested contract extension (2.3.2)

## 295. 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:

- Adults services continued to respond whilst moving into recovery and were seeing complex cases and new needs that had developed during the lockdown starting to come through the system and were starting to consider what demand would look like.
- Consulting on the challenges and opportunities ahead and looking at learning through a series of workshops with staff. Including remote reviews which had challenged assumptions about face to face being the preferred method as family and carers have been able to get involved. Cambridgeshire County Council were looking at how community hubs could be retained going forwards.
- Ongoing discussions with carers and seeing more carers now needing additional support and access to respite care.

In a further overview of the report officers highlighted a number of key points in relation to the commissioning of services which included:

- Looking at recovery and resilience now from a commissioning perspective. There was a need to understand demand going forward taking into account winter pressures and the possibility of a second wave. Working with the market and providers and support them where possible.
- Increasing block beds and shift towards new models of care including Care Suites and Outcome Based Commissioning.
- Received the first phase of the infection control money from Government and a detailed action plan was in place. Government grant comes to an end in September so there was a need to

understand local needs going forwards. Officers would provide a summary of their findings back to Committee. **ACTION**

In discussing the report Members:

- Highlighted the need to work with Community and Partnerships Committee to ensure that the ongoing positive support in local communities continued. The Chairwoman thanked officers for the detailed report and highlighted the mapping of community support in the appendices of the report as a useful tool.
- Queried how Members were being kept up to date with what was happening within local care homes and if there were any issues in their localities. The Director of People and Communities stated that if there was an outbreak of concern in a care home then the local Member would be informed. She explained that improvements in infection control had resulted in a big drop in outbreaks in care homes. She clarified that an Outbreak plan had been signed off last Friday, She stated that there was an ONS report that was circulated on a weekly basis by Public Health and she agreed to ask for the Committee to be included in the distribution list for circulation. **ACTION** She also explained that a detailed action plan on how the test and trace would work in different settings had been produced and this would also be circulated to the Committee. **ACTION**
- Questioned the financial gap of £15.5 million and how this was being approached with Government and what the estimated gap would be for 2022. The Executive Director of People and Communities clarified that the £15.5 million gap was across the whole Council and that there was an estimated gap of £19.3 million over the next four years. She explained that business cases had been put forward to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in relation to what had been spent and what was likely to be spent. She clarified that officers were working on recovery and resilience plans for Adults Services in terms of how they would manage demand and cost going forwards and that all Councils were showing a deficit. The Chairwoman stated that there had been a helpful piece of work undertaken by all of the Section 151 officers across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to inform local MPs and Ministers of the pressures.
- Raised concerns in relation to the pressures on carers and queried what the Council was doing to support them. Officers explained that they were getting more enquires from carers needing respite care and that it was a big part of the recovery work. Officers clarified that respite care was not always necessarily the most suitable solution and carers welcomed more help on a day to day basis, which is where community support came in. The Executive Director of People and Communities stated that during the pandemic the Community Hub working with Adults and Safeguarding had contacted every carer by telephone and many carers had commented that they had appreciated

this. She explained that they had supported carers through the community hubs with practical things and that through the Community and Partnerships Committee work was ongoing to support carers in the future. A Member commented that a buddy system for carers would help to solve some of these issues. The Chairwoman agreed that this would be a good system to look into and asked officers to consider this further. **ACTION**

It was resolved unanimously to:

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

**296. ADULTS COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN AND TRAINING PLAN**

Members noted that the Housing Related Support Strategy would be added to the agenda plan for October 2020. **ACTION**

**297. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

It was resolved to note the date of the next meeting as Thursday 10 September 2020.

**Chairwoman**