



## Executive Advisory Panel for Pathways to Independence/Social Care

Notes of the meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park,  
Dorchester, DT1 1XJ on Friday, 23 June 2017.

### **Present:**

David Walsh (Chairman)  
Graham Carr-Jones, Beryl Ezzard, Katharine Garcia and Ros Kayes.

### Members Attending

Jill Haynes, Cabinet Member for Health and Care.

Officers Attending: Diana Balsom (Commissioning Manager, Housing and Prevention), Harry Capron (Assistant Director - Adult Care), Helen Coombes (Transformation Programme Lead for the Adult and Community Forward Together Programme), Michael Ford (Service Manager - Policy, Welfare Reform and Income Generation) and Fiona King (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

### **Election of Chairman**

#### 8 **Resolved**

That David Walsh be elected as Chairman of the Panel for the remainder of 2017/18.

### **Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

9 Following a discussion members agreed that an additional member needed to be appointed to the Panel as the Cabinet member attended meetings in her role as the Cabinet Member for Health and Care and not as a regular member.

#### **Recommended**

That the Cabinet be asked to appoint an additional member to the Panel.

#### **Resolved**

That the appointment of Vice-Chairman be deferred to the next meeting of the Panel.

### **Apologies for Absence**

10 An apology for absence was received from Kate Wheller.

### **Code of Conduct**

11 There were no declarations by members of disclosable pecuniary interests under the Code of Conduct.

Katharine Garcia declared a general interest in item 8, Self-Funder Advice and Information Pathways, in that her partner worked for Help and Care.

Ros Kayes declared a general interest in that she worked as a counsellor for carers, but added that this was documented in her register of interests.

### **Notes from Previous Meeting**

12 The notes of the meeting held on 24 February 2017 were confirmed and signed.

### **Terms of Reference**

13 Members considered a report by the Transformation Lead for the Adult and Community Forward Together Programme which included the draft terms of

reference.

The Service Manager – Policy, Income and Welfare Reform advised members that there was a strong financial emphasis within the terms of reference in order to free the Panel to look at most areas of Social policy for Adults.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Care commented that she found the work of this Panel very helpful with cross party understanding prior to items being presented to the Cabinet.

### **Resolved**

That the Panel noted the terms of reference attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

### **Progress on 'Making charges Fairer'**

- 14 The Panel considered a report by the Transformation Programme Lead of the Adult and Community Forward Together Programme which reviewed the progress so far in implementing the new charging policy for non-residential care.

The Service Manager – Income, Policy and Welfare Reform advised members that implementation was going reasonably well in most places. In respect of Deferred Payment Agreement, two other councils had so far been identified who were at a similar stage as Dorset of working towards a discretionary scheme. Compliance with the Consumer Credit Act was a hurdle at present.

Following a question from a member about the issues, the Service Manager advised that the council would need to be licenced and then to make annual returns. Officers did not yet fully understand the expectations as a whole as it was not straightforward.

In response to a question regarding 4 weekly charging, the Service Manager advised that the charging cycle was aligned with welfare benefits, there might be a change in the future but for now it was 4 weekly. There was a need to recognise when people received their benefits when setting up billing payments.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Care advised members that there was a new billing approach in place now, the majority of people were paying by direct debit and adjustments were done quarterly. She recognised that invoices were not as up to date as they could be as not everyone had moved over to direct debit payments.

The Service Manager made reference to Mosaic, a new case management system which would be in place for October 2017 and would provide more of a catch up in respect of invoices. The Transformation Programme Lead Officer highlighted that the new system represented a culture change for staff.

The Assistant Director, Adult Care reminded members that these invoices were just for commissioned care, personal budgets were not involved with this process.

Members felt it would be helpful to have an update report on the Mosaic system for their next meeting.

### **Recommended**

That the Cabinet be asked to accept the significant progress towards prompt billing offered by the implementation of the standard configuration of Mosaic, and resume work towards the objective of billing two weeks in advance and two weeks in arrears in the autumn.

### **Resolved**

That an update report on the Mosaic system be considered at the next meeting on Tuesday 3 October 2017.

Reason for recommendation

To help secure a sustainable approach to the County Council's Corporate Plan aims that people in Dorset be safe, healthy, independent and prosperous.

**Self-Funder Advice and Information Pathways**

- 15 The Panel considered a proposal to hold a workshop event with partners in order to explore ways to signpost people more effectively. The Service Manager explained that the points members had raised at their last meeting and the strong messages received from the public consultation, regarding information and advice, had been taken into account.

A collaborative approach had been suggested with a wide range of participants to alleviate an area of risk that had been highlighted whereby more self-funders would be looking for ways to shelter their assets. The Care Act had given officers stronger duties around information and advice. The Assistant Director, Adult Care explained to members how the self-funding process worked.

Following a question from a member regarding the use of insurance in this regard, the Transformation Programme Lead Officer made reference to this new and emerging market where more work needed to be done. There was legislation for this in terms of the Care Act, but it was in the second part of the Act which had not yet been implemented.

One member felt there was a big demand for self-funders in the Purbeck area and the Service Manager undertook to provide a note for members on how the funding worked, outside of the meeting.

The Transformation Programme Lead Officer invited members to add people to the participant list. Members suggested the Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme (POPPS) registered providers e.g. Sovereign, Extra Care Providers and general members of the public who were self-funders.

Members were advised that the workshop had been pencilled in for September 2017.

**Noted****Work Programme**

- 16 The Panel noted the suggested work programme and timeline.

Following a question from a member regarding clarification of the new Transport Policy, the Assistant Director, Adult Care advised that there had been disparity between the different client groups and the aim was to ensure that Dorset was clear about equality and that this was then fed into the bigger holistic transport work.

**Noted****Date of Next Meeting**

- 17 **Resolved**  
That the next meeting of the Panel be held on Tuesday 3 October 2017 at 2.00pm in Committee Room 2.

**Exempt Business**

- 18 **Resolved**  
That in accordance with Section 100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting in relation to the business specified in minute 19 as it was likely that if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1,3 and 4 of Part 1 of

Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

### **Integrated Prevention and Support Service**

- 19 The Panel considered an exempt report by the Corporate Director for Children, Adult and Community Services which included a business case for the development of an Integrated Prevention Service.

The Commissioning Manager advised members that officers had used information gained from a range of different providers to complete this work and it would represent some savings to district and borough councils as they dealt with homelessness at the present time. It was noted that this would become a County Council responsibility at some point. Officers were reliant on district housing colleagues on sharing up to date information.

The Transformation Programme Lead Officer advised that whilst there would be a saving the proposal was more about getting better value for money.

One member commented that whilst this was an exciting piece of work in some areas an additional charge for repairs and maintenance as well as a service charge was being levied on some people. The Commissioning Manager undertook to look into this further outside of the meeting.

Following a concern from a member about any duplication with this work, the Transformation Programme Lead Officer advised that officers would be working more closely with all of the districts and borough councils as in the past they had taken a different approach. She confirmed that she would shortly be meeting with the Chief Executives from Purbeck, East Dorset and Christchurch to take this work forward. She also confirmed that the Housing Portfolio leads would also be included.

The Assistant Director, Adult Care added that officers were now starting to get to the heart of support which from a safeguarding point of view was really positive. In respect of hospital discharges this proposal would help with difficult cases and it was noted that there was also a significant emphasis on mental health which was really helpful.

### **Recommended**

That the Cabinet be asked to approve the proposal for the continuation of the development of the Integrated Prevention and Support Service.

### **Resolved**

1. That further work on the alignment of the Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme (POPPs) to support the service be continued.
2. That further work on the inclusion of mental health recovery services, subject to business case approval, be progressed.

### **Reason for recommendation**

The development of the service would:-

- Release £782k pa cashable savings
- Introduce targeted and evidenced based interventions available to a range of vulnerable people, regardless of tenure.

Meeting Duration: 10.00 am - 11.30 am