



Executive Advisory Panel for Pathways to Independence/Social Care

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ on Monday, 4 December 2017.

Present:

Graham Carr-Jones, Beryl Ezzard, Katharine Garcia, Mary Penfold (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), William Trite and Kate Wheller.

Members Attending

Jill Haynes, Cabinet Member for Health and Care.

Officers Attending: Julie Caswell (Financial Support Manager), Helen Coombes (Transformation Programme Lead for the Adult and Community Forward Together Programme), Michael Ford (Service Manager - Policy, Welfare Reform and Income Generation), Ann Harris (Health Partnerships Officer), Paul Leivers (Assistant Director - Early Help and Community Services), Matthew Piles (Service Director - Economy) and Fiona King (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

Appointment of Vice-Chairman

20 Resolved

That Mary Penfold be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the remainder of 2017/18.

In the absence of the Chairman the Vice- Chairman took the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

21 Apologies for absence were received from Ros Kayes and David Walsh (Chairman).

Code of Conduct

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

The Vice-Chairman declared a general interest in relation to Agenda item 11, Extra Care Housing – Draft Policy, as her disabled son lives in a house provided by the East Boro Trust.

Notes from Previous Meeting

23 The notes of the meeting held on 23 June 2017 were agreed.

Matters Arising

Note 14 – Progress on ‘Making charges Fairer’ - Following a question about the progress with billing now that Mosaic had been implemented, the Transformation Programme Lead advised that billing would be part of Phase 2 and further information on the system would be brought to members at their next meeting.

Note 15 – Self Funder Advice and Information Pathways – The Cabinet Member for Health and Care asked that the Panel receive an update on the Partnership for Older People’s Programme (POPSS) at their next meeting.

Progress with the Civica 'OnDemand' financial assessment work

24 The Service Manager – Income, Policy and Welfare reminded members of the policy that had been created which led to the reassessing of existing service users onto a new charging framework whilst still assessing new service users. As a result of two periods of purdah in a short period of time officers had been working with colleagues in procurement to publish a work requirement document and had engaged Civica to provide initial assessments. Civica could only do telephone assessments but home visits would be carried out by County Council officers. Quality checks had been carried out and had resulted in a pleasing outcome.

Members were advised that the Directorate was on course to achieve £1.2m of income this year and a further £2m next year.

In response to a question regarding whether the £2m covered all assessments or just those that Civica were carrying out, the Service Manger advised it included all of them and they would be completed by the end of this financial year.

Noted

Adult Services Transport Review - Recommendations and Draft Revised Policy

25 Members considered a report which included a number of recommendations that had arisen from a review of transport to support individuals who attended day services and activities outside of the home.

The Health Partnerships Officer confirmed that people would be encouraged to take a personal travel budget for their transport needs, a direct payment could already be taken but further work was needed to understand direct payments and personal travel budgets.

The Transformation Programme Lead for the Adults and Community Forward Together Programme highlighted that people were now having a much more varied package of care. The first point of the Care Act was to give people choice and control and the County Council was now in the process of implementing this.

Following a question from a member about the importance of knowing what was being spent on transport or whatever aspect the service user decided to spend their allowance on the Transformation Programme Lead reminded members that the Care Act stated that we must give people enough money to meet their eligible social care need. For many it was more cost effective for people to arrange their own care or transport. Policies were quite generalised in this area as officers needed to look at the individual concerned in every case.

The Service Director for the Economy advised that his directorate provided adult day centre transport and made reference to some work in with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) regarding non-emergency transport. In respect of the higher rate mobility allowance, members were advised that some councils were now not providing transport for people in receipt of this particular allowance.

Following a discussion about motability vehicles and the provision of transport, the Senior Exchequer Services Manager advised that the vehicle had to be used to benefit the person who received the allowance. This could mean a family member could use the car for work therefore benefiting the family as a whole and in these cases transport may still need to be provided for the service user.

Resolved

1. That the findings of the review of transport presented in summary at section 2 of the report be supported.
2. That in principle, the recommendations set out in the table within section 3 of the

- report, including the proposed introduction of Personal Travel Budgets, be supported.
3. That the adoption of the revised Transport Provision and Charging Policy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be supported.
 4. That the undertaking of further work (including an EqIA) to determine whether the current charges for transport services by Adult Services should be reviewed to:
 - a. Reflect full cost (following the outcomes of a review by Dorset Travel);
 - b. Consider the creation of a single charge, aligning current Standard and Concessionary charges; and
 - c. Consider the creation of a banded range of charges such as that used by Warwickshire (rate up to 5 miles, 5 to 10 miles and 10 miles or more), be supported.

Reason for Decisions

The provision of transport to support access to day services and activities outside the home enabled Dorset County Council to promote wellbeing, and allowed individuals to participate in activities such as work experience, training for greater independence and therapeutic interventions. Going forwards, transport provision needed to be sustainable and resources need to be used in the most efficient way possible, to support the needs of Dorset residents.

The principle of full cost recovery (where service users had been assessed as being able to make a contribution) was agreed by Cabinet in May 2015 and confirmed in a report to Cabinet in March 2017.

Fees and Charges for Non-Residential Care Services in 2018-19

26 The Service Manager – Income, Policy and Welfare reminded members that fees and charges for non-residential care services until this year had not been increased for 5 years. The charges had been held as the County Council was not increasing their payments to contractors. However, since then there had been a number of increases and the Council had applied a 5% increase in April 2017 following an independent use of resources assessment. It was important to recognise that when these charges were raised not everyone would pay.

Officers were now considering the budget for next year and considering an additional 5% increase which would still put the Council 3 – 4% behind where they would have been if increases had been levied annually since April 2012. This additional 5% was estimated to yield £300k for 2017-18.

The Transformation Programme Lead for the Adults and Community Forward Together Programme advised members that this money would offset other cuts that would need to be made and only affected those who could and did pay. There were a number of people who paid the lower end of care charges and not many people paid the full amount.

Following a question about how the Council compared nationally with these charges, officers advised that even with the additional proposed 5% the Council had still not caught up with its comparator councils.

Members felt the increase was appropriate and noted the importance of good communication in this regard. The Financial Support Manager highlighted that people would still only pay up to their maximum amount.

The Transformation Programme Lead advised members that this area would be for the Cabinet to make a decision on in January 2018 along with other budget decisions.

Resolved

That the proposal of a 5% increase was appropriate for the Cabinet to consider along with the inclusion of some examples of the increases in the Cabinet report.

Work Programme

- 27 The Panel noted the suggested work programme and timeline, with the inclusion of items on Mosaic and the Partnership for Older People's Programme (POPPS) for the February 2018 meeting.

Noted**Date of Next Meeting**

- 28 **Resolved**
That the next meeting of the Panel be held on Tuesday 20 February at 2.00pm in Committee Room 5.

Exempt Business

- 29 **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 30 as it was likely that if members of the public were present, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 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.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Care undertook to email all members alerting them to the EAP agendas highlighting that they were confidential.

Extra Care Housing - Draft Policy

- 30 Members considered an exempt report which highlighted that funding constraints had given the opportunity to revisit the model of the provision for extra care housing to ensure that people who used the services, as well as the Council received the best value for money. There were currently 4 Extra Care Housing (ECH) schemes in Dorset with contracts due to end in the summer of 2018 which also provided the opportunity to introduce the revised model.

The Transformation Programme Lead for the Adult and Community Services Forward Together Programme advised members that Dorset had a number of ECH schemes along with a significant number of private developers and this policy provided the opportunity to get the same equity and would be one clear policy for everyone. She highlighted the importance of good, clear communication when the policy was implemented.

One member made reference to a number of complaints she had received in the past where residents had moved into their accommodation aware of the costs and had therefore budgeted accordingly, these costs then changed and had an adverse impact on their lives in respect of isolation and their social needs. She had no issue with changing systems but how this was communicated was paramount. The Transformation Programme Lead highlighted the importance of the right people moving into ECH schemes and the need to be clear that items such as service charges could change. This policy would allow for a consistent approach around existing schemes. It was highlighted that this did not include any sheltered housing or retirement home provision, only in accommodation where care was provided.

Resolved

That members endorsed the revised model for Extra Care Housing and supported further work to understand the impact on each of the existing schemes, allowing meaningful consultation with current service users.

Reason for Decision

To allow future Extra Care Housing services to develop with an agreed revised model.

Meeting Duration: 1.30 pm - 2.45 pm