



Executive Advisory Panel for Pathways to Independence/Social Care

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ on Tuesday, 20 February 2018.

Present:

David Walsh (Chairman)

Mary Penfold, Beryl Ezzard, Katharine Garcia, Susan Jefferies and Kate Wheller.

Officers Attending: Michael Ford (Service Manager - Policy, Welfare Reform and Income Generation), Paul Leivers (Assistant Director - Early Help and Community Services), Steph Lyons (Commissioning Manager) and Fiona King (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

Apologies for Absence

- 1 Apologies for absence were received from Graham Carr-Jones, Jill Haynes and William Trite.

The Chairman welcomed to Cllr Susan Jefferies to her first meeting of the EAP.

Code of Conduct

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

Notes from Previous Meeting

- 3 The notes of the meeting held on 4 December 2017 were agreed.

Fees and Charges for Non-residential Care 2018-19

- 4 The Service Manager – Policy, Welfare Reform and Income Generation updated members in that the Cabinet had agreed a 5% increase for services including homecare, day-care, assistance with bathing and various types of transport services. Members were reminded that there had not been any increases for the 5 years prior to April 2017. This increase would be effective from April 2018. This increase would only affect a small proportion of service users. Communications about the increase were being put in place and included an article in Your Dorset, information on Dorset for You and letters. One member suggested it would be helpful to highlight that although there was an increase service users were being offered free welfare benefits checks.

Further work on fees and charges would be carried out and officers would provide some benchmarking information from other councils for members' information. Some modelling information from Mosaic, to see the difference made by an increase by percentage, would also be provided.

Following a discussion about financial assessments, officers confirmed it was these assessments that determined the service user's maximum ability to pay. Assessments in the past were sometimes carried out once every three years but work was in progress to ensure everyone received one annually. Ultimately it was a person's right whether to have a financial assessment but if they chose not to have one then it was assumed that they were above the threshold to receive financial support.

In response to a question about the timing of visits, members were advised that 30 minutes was now the shortest chargeable time for a visit. There may be still some 15 minute visits in place but new 15 minute visits are not being commissioned. The most critical factor was that the service was appropriate for the person's need. The Assistant Director undertook to provide members with further information on travel times, in relation to charges for visits, outside of the meeting.

Members discussed the deprivation of assets information and officers advised that all of the County Council's Care Act Policies were available on Dorset For You and there was also further guidance on the Gov.UK website.

Noted

Update on the Partnership for Older People Programme (POPP)

- 5 The Commissioning Manager highlighted the review work that had been undertaken in respect of POPPs and noted that it had been a successful programme for a number of years but it was now felt that the branding had become quite confused and was not really fit for purpose any longer. There had been engagement with a number of providers and it was felt that in order to align with the work of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) notice on the current contract with Help and Care had been given. The new arrangements were looking to retain the work and resource of the community development workers. The new arrangements were more about targeted interventions, shifting roles and striking a balance. Public Health also had an initiative 'Altogether Better' in place.

Following a discussion about Community Development Workers the Commissioning Manager advised that there was still the same number of workers as previously but they now covered a broader range to ensure caseloads were manageable. These workers had been in place since the inception of POPPs but 3 were now geographically based and 3 were theme based. Community Development Workers were encouraged to work with their opposite numbers in the District and Borough Council areas to ensure more joined up working.

Noted

Work Programme

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

The Service Manager – Policy, Welfare Reform and Income Generation highlighted the proposed areas for review and members agreed those areas of focus as listed on the work programme.

Date of Next Meeting

- 7 **Resolved**
That the next meeting of the Panel will be held on Monday 14 May at 2.00pm.

Exempt Business

- 8 **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 9 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 and 3 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 Dorset Self Funder Offer

- 9 The Panel considered an exempt report which set out the proposals for a self-funder offer that met the expectations of the Care Act, addressed local needs and helped to make the self-funders' own resources last longer. The report also summarised the outcomes from the workshop held in December 2017.

It was noted that more work on the detail and costings was still needed and that some investment would also be needed. Members' attention was drawn to Appendix 3, within the exempt report, and following a discussion members' felt that whilst it was helpful for them to be made aware of this service it would not be appropriate for the County Council to endorse it as it was a business. Members supported the work undertaken to date and agreed further work was needed

Resolved

That further work on the detail of the arrangements, indicative costings and training requirements be undertaken and reported back to the Panel at their meeting on 14 May 2018.

Reason for Decision

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

Meeting Duration: 2.00 pm - 3.45 pm