

Adult and Community Services Overview Committee

Minutes of a meeting held at
County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester on 24 June 2013

Present:

William Trite (Chairman)

David Walsh (Vice-Chairman)

Michael Bevan, Robin Cook, Fred Drane, Beryl Ezzard, Ros Kayes, Paul Kimber, Kate Wheller and John Wilson

Andrew Cattaway, Peter Finney, Robert Gould, Jill Haynes and Rebecca Knox attended under Standing Order 54(1)

Officers:

Catherine Driscoll (Director for Adult and Community Services), Phil Rook (Group Finance Manager for Adult and Community Services) and Rebecca Thomas (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

For certain items as appropriate:

John Alexander (Policy and Performance Manager), Harry Capron (Head of Commissioning and Improvement), Anne Gray (Principal Consultation and Research Officer), Glen Gocoul (Head of Specialist Adult Services), Derek Hardy (Strategic Commissioning Manager), Mike Hoskin (Arts Development Manager) and Paul Leivers (Head of Community Services)

Chairman's Welcome

71.1 The Chairman welcomed members to the first meeting of the Committee following the elections in May. He asked members to note that Ros Kayes, rather than Barrie Cooper, was a member of the Committee.

71.2 The Chairman advised all parties present that he was happy to allow persons present under Standing Order 54(1) to address the Committee.

Apologies for Absence

72. Apologies for absence were received from Ronald Coatsworth and David Jones.

Code of Conduct

73.1 Mr Fred Drane advised that his wife was blue badge holder. The Chairman confirmed that there were no items relevant to that declaration on the agenda for the meeting.

73.2 There were no additional declarations by members of any disclosable pecuniary interests under the Code of Conduct.

Minutes

74. The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2013 were confirmed and signed.

Terms of Reference

75. Members received the existing Terms of Reference for the Adult and Community Services Overview Committee.

Noted

Transformation Challenge Award

76.1 The Committee considered a report from the Chief Executive which outlined support arrangements from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) through Transformation Challenge Award for radical innovations involving two or more local authorities that wished to combine their operations across all or a major part of their service delivery and back office; whilst maintaining their separate identity and political representation. The total fund was £9m, and single multi-authority awards could be up to £2m, as a contribution to the net transitional costs.

76.2 The Head of Commissioning and Improvement Services introduced the report and explained that the initiative gave the County Council a significant opportunity to share and integrate services in the demanding and challenging area of health and social care. The leadership teams of Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council, the Borough of Poole, the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Dorset HealthCare, Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospital, Poole Hospital and Dorset County Hospital had therefore agreed to submit a joint bid to the DCLG by 14 July 2013 for £1.5m to £2m to support a proposal that was focused on the benefits of joint working and integration of the respective councils' adult social care functions with the health sector.

76.3 He advised that following a number of discussions, support for the bid had been galvanised with all parties, including the two Health and Wellbeing Boards across Dorset and Bournemouth and Poole, the Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS groups. Multi agency support was important for the success of the bid as it demonstrated to the DCLG the commitment to the initiative. As providers often worked across a number of localities and with different local authorities, there was a need to formalise cross working arrangements and this would be explored as part of the bid. To that end, officers were currently working on draft integration models.

76.4 Reference was made to the specific work streams that would lead to the development and submission of the formal bid and to the delivery of key initiatives, as detailed within the report. Emphasis was placed on the improved health and social outcomes for users and greater personalised support for them and their families, whilst delivering cost reductions for all stakeholders.

76.5 In addition to shared “front end” support, there was a commitment to align operating models and ICT systems. Agencies would be much more customer focused and be able to offer a streamline service to users. Longer term initiatives were touched upon and probable cohorts identified.

76.6 In response to a question, officers advised that the governance arrangements were still to be finalised. However, following discussions with the Borough of Poole, officers were keen that this would be done via the three local authorities' overview committees. This interface and the relationship with the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board was to be developed.

76.7 Members responded positively and sought clarification regarding the implementation of employee training arrangements. The Head of Commissioning and Improvement confirmed that the initiative would lead to a significant cultural and training event. Officers acknowledged that the programme was ambitious, but necessary to meet customer needs. Existing workers had a very good skills base and with boundaries removed, huge potential was foreseen. Members noted that should the bid be unsuccessful, the initiative would continue regardless.

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76.8 Some members raised concerns regarding the percentage of any successful bid to be received by Dorset County Council, and assurances were given that funding would be allocated to various improvements and schemes across the three authorities. Funding would not be proportioned to individual councils based on their locations or population.

76.9 The success of each improvement programme would be specifically measured and monitored and include the use of both staff feedback and user feeling surveys. Improving the quality of service to users was the top priority, across all locations, and whilst not the main driver, there would also be long term financial savings.

Recommended

77. That Cabinet be recommended to support and endorse the bid for the DCLG's Transformation Challenge Award, as outlined in the report.

Reasons for Recommendation

78.1 A successful bid would contribute to the efforts of the partner organisations to work together to secure:

- improved health and social outcomes for residents
- an improved and more integrated business model for the delivery of adult care and health in Dorset
- cost reductions for all partners

78.2 It would support the County Council's aims to protect and enrich the health and well being of Dorset's most vulnerable adults and to provide innovative and value for money services.

Reconfiguration of in-house Adult Learning Disability Residential Services

79.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services in relation to the current provision of in-house adult learning disability residential care services by Dorset County Council.

79.2 The Head of Commissioning and Improvement reported that the Council currently provided in-house adult learning disability residential care services at Phoenix House, Blandford, Douglas Jackman House, Dorchester and Alexandra Road, Weymouth. It was then explained that the Cabinet agreed on 16 January 2013 that formal consultation be undertaken regarding the future reconfiguration of the three care homes, to deliver improved accommodation for independent, but supported, living. It was also explained that the savings target had been built into the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

79.3 Members recognised the sensitivity of the comprehensive report and received assurances from officers that any relocations would be done with delicacy and feeling. Staff and parents had been consulted and officers would take forward individual service designs.

79.4 A number of members commented on the level of consultation with workers and sought assurances that this had happened and their concerns recognised. Officers confirmed extensive consultations had taken place, with minutes taken of all meetings. These were available on Dorsetforyou.com. All questions raised had been positively addressed and employees would be protected under TUPE arrangements

79.5 Officers advised that the reconfiguration would enable the Council to catch up with other local authorities and would fit in with the national service plan model. It would allow those who still required some residential accommodation to receive this whilst others could live independently. Assurances were also given that systems would be put into place to safeguard standards of care, such as robust terms of contract and monitoring of provision, as the County Council's duty of care remained.

79.6 In response to a question, clarification was given that units were purpose built in prominent locations within communities. Officers acknowledged the challenge to meet future service demands, but confidence in the staff's experience and the working model was given. The reconfiguration would make way for any necessary changes.

79.7 Members were asked to note that the financial gap in the Meeting Future Challenges savings target remained. Officers had taken a pragmatic view regarding this and they were confident that the levels of assistance would reduce, allowing for a longer term reductions in costs.

79.8 Clarification was then given in regards to the final recommendation within the report. Officers confirmed that new provider(s) were to be selected, rather than those employed at the three relevant locations.

Recommended

80. That the Cabinet be recommended:

- (a) That 21 Alexandra Road, Weymouth and Douglas Jackman House, Dorchester be closed;
- (b) That residents from these two properties move to alternative supported housing, or alternative accommodation according to their individual assessed need;
- (c) That tenders are invited for the conversion of the ground floor at Phoenix House to self-contained flats, that additional rooms are created upstairs to extend the short-breaks facility and the property is leased to a housing provider;
- (d) That the care and support at the alternative supported housing, and for both the long-term and short breaks provision at Phoenix House, is commissioned from an independent sector learning disability framework provider; and
- (e) That all those employees at the three relevant locations, (Douglas Jackman House, Alexander Road, and Phoenix House) transfer under TUPE regulations to the new provider(s), when selected.

Reason for Recommendations

81. The reconfiguration of these services would contribute to the following County Council aims:

- (a) protect and enrich the health and well-being of Dorset's most vulnerable adults.
- (b) provide innovative and value for money services.

Draft Housing and Support Strategy 2013 – 18

82.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services on the Draft Housing and Support Strategy 2013 - 18.

82.2 The Strategic Commissioning Manager outlined the previous consideration of the Strategy by the Committee in September 2012 and he confirmed that consultation had now taken place. Comments had been incorporated into the draft Strategy, or would be addressed through its implementation. He then reported that since the draft Strategy was agreed for consultation new proposals for some services (namely the Home Improvement Agency, floating support and domestic violence) had been developed and added to the draft Strategy.

82.3 In response to a question raised regarding the draft strategy, the Strategic Commissioning Manager advised members that a key aspect concerning its delivery was to meet the necessary savings required under the Meeting Future Challenges Programme. From an initial total of £1.9m, a further £0.5m was to be found.

82.4 One member sought clarification in regards to the provision of new accommodation and conversion of existing properties. Officers advised of the options available for potential accommodation via conversion of existing stock and under Section 106 agreements through planning legislation, including current negotiations as a result of a major housing development at Wimbourne. It was also confirmed that Housing Services were to include all persons, who were able to live independently, on their housing list.

82.5 When looking to relocate vulnerable people, officers would try to meet individual circumstances and manage the person involved through the appropriate schemes. Support would be given.

Recommended

83. That the Cabinet be asked to adopt the revised draft Housing and Support Commissioning Strategy 2013 - 2018.

Reasons for Recommendation

84.1 This Strategy would support the County Council's aim to protect and enrich the health and well-being of Dorset's most vulnerable adults.

84.2 It would provide the County Council with a clear strategic framework through which it could deliver housing-related support services.

The Future of the Arts Service and DepARTure Arts Education Development Agency

85.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services regarding the future of the Arts Service and DepARTure Arts Education Development Agency further to the report presented on 14 January 2013, which resulted in the appointment of consultants to consider the future delivery of the Arts Development Service and the possible transfer of the Little Keep building in Dorchester from the County Council's ownership to the arts organisations currently occupying the building.

85.2 The Head of Community Services introduced the report and explained that the creative industries had been identified as the two priority sectors for economic growth. The arts development service had strengthened the regional and national profile for the quality of its work, establishing the county as a vibrant and creative centre for the arts and culture whilst making a substantive contribution to tourism. Much to the work of the Arts Service and DepARTure Arts Education Development Agency involved facilitating, enabling and encouraging increased investment directly in arts organisations in Dorset rather than bringing money to Dorset County Council. In particular, for the past six years, the arts service had developed the Dorset Loves Art (DLA) collaboration with its partner arts organisation.

85.3 It was recognised that Arts Council England (ACE) had now prioritised collaborative work within their regional plans and were therefore potentially prepared to make substantial investment in the work of DLA over the coming three years. Informal discussions had taken place with ACE about formalising the structure of DLA to receive funding by the formation of a social enterprise and this had received in principle support.

85.4 Members noted that this opportunity coincided with a proposal to create a new trust to administer the Little Keep building in Dorchester, currently owned by the County Council, which housed five arts organisations. Discussions were underway as to the possibility of transferring this building into trust ownership. Commercially the view was that the investment required in the building would not make a return and that cultural use would have a benefit in the overall scheme.

85.5 The Head of Community Services advised that in the future there was a proposal to make DLA a charity and that a final report and costed business plan of the proposals would be presented to the Cabinet meeting on 17 July 2013. Members were asked to note that there was no intention to remove County Council's engagement, but to structure and do things in a different way. If approved, this would also help to achieve Meeting Future Challenges Programme budget savings.

85.6 In response to a question, officers advised the proposals would allow the Council to anticipate further challenges to the services, whilst still being supportive of the arts. The service would need to be self funding next year and officers would build on existing work to encourage mutual work in the arts service. Existing staff were cautiously supportive of the proposals and embraced the need for change. Those who would transfer would be protected by TUPE arrangements while a number of other staff were close to retirement age.

85.7 Several members voiced their support for the arts service, welcomed community work and the need to progress the service. They saw the proposals as a positive way forward. The Cabinet Member for Education and Communications advised members that this approach was already used successfully in Children's Services.

85.8 Members then received clarification that the new Community Interest Company would be a strategic arts development agency with grant aid provided by Dorset County Council. The proposed funding agreement will be on a four year rolling basis in which both parties would seek to maximise efficiencies, reduce costs and generate new income and give the new organisation an appropriate platform to build a sustainable future. In addition, the four organisations currently funded through an annual grant would continue.

Recommended

86.1 That the Cabinet be recommended to support the proposed restructure of the arts development service and DepARTure arts education development agency with rolling four year funding at a level which makes the proposed savings for the service, following consideration of a fully completed business case including full financial projections in due course.

86.2 To support the transfer of a long term lease of the Little Keep building in Dorchester to the new arts development structure, subject to the views of the Asset Management Group.

Reason for Recommendation

87. Arts development contributed to achieving all the County Council's aims which were:

- Help to build strong communities for all;
- Protect and enrich the health and well-being of Dorset's most vulnerable adults;
- Support and encourage Dorset's children and young people to reach their full potential and protect those who are most vulnerable;
- Safeguard and enhance Dorset's unique environment and support our local economy; and
- Provide innovative and value for money services.

Citizens' Panel Survey 29

88.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services as a result of the recent Dorset County Council's Citizens' Panel survey to gather evidence on public opinion to inform policy decisions and service developments.

88.2 The Principal Consultation and Research Officer reported that the Panel now consisted of over 5000 people, with the latest survey receiving 3,043 online and posted responses, representing a response rate of 60%. Evidence gathered covered seven areas of County Council and NHS activity, as detailed within the report. She then highlighted the key results and trends relating to the Adult and Community Services Directorate.

88.3 Members remarked on the inevitability that some constituents would be confused regarding responsibility for services. Emphasis was placed on the need to refer people to appropriate handouts/leaflets and to encourage their attendance at County Council meetings. They commented that the authoritative style of some information booklets could discourage people referring to them and they asked how to make these more engaging.

88.4 The Cabinet Member for Education and Communications remarked that responsibility for a service should have little bearing in comparison with the level of service received. Any complaints should be addressed at the first point of contact and she stressed the need for all to be clear as to the survey's aim, the desired outcomes and its impact on services. The Chairman advised that should any member have an item they wanted to be included in future surveys, they should contact the Research and Information team.

88.5 A member then referred to the 6.4% of respondents who indicated they did not read books. He advised that in his experience more people were reading in libraries, particularly the older generation, as they also used the library as a place to socialise.

88.6 Several members questioned the validity of the survey and whilst it was agreed that 60% was a good response rate, it was noted that these should be treated as a sample rather than definitive public opinion. The need to engage with all constituents was emphasised. Members also highlighted that officers and members alike should take responsibility for any concerns that occurred and resolve these at the first point of contact.

88.7 The Principal Consultation and Research Officer advised that she would take on board members' comments.

Resolved

89. That officers continue to engage with all constituents and consider options for future communications.

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2012/13 including MFC update

90.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Corporate Resources on the revenue budget position for the County Council, with particular reference to the Adult and Community Services Directorate.

90.2 The Adult and Community Services Group Finance Manager reported that corporately the end of the financial year showed an overspend against service budgets of £767,300, which had been predicted to be £4,392,000 as at the end of January 2013. The reduction was mainly due to an improved outturn position for Adult and Community Services, where some one-off sums had been received from the Primary Care Trust in respect of winter pressures funding totalling £820,000 and continuing healthcare cases, together with work done within the directorate to reduce the overspend. All other Service Directorates had also worked hard to reduce the overspend.

90.3 The Directorate's overspend was in relation to Specialist Adult Services (£3,038,000), an overspend on Emergency Planning (£14,100), and overspend in Libraries, Arts and Sports and an overspend in Adult Learning (£809,800) with underspends in other parts of the Directorate.

90.4 Members were asked to note that the Dorset Adult Learning Service had met its 2012/13 Skills Funding Agency targets and exceeded its Education Funding Agency targets. This meant that there would be no claw-back of funding during 2013/14 and it had secured the funding allocation for the next academic year.

90.5 The Group Finance Manager then highlighted the current saving projects within the Adult and Community Services Directorate, 6 of which had an amber status and 1 with a red status (AS-020 Connecting Health and Social Care), for which the amount will be added to the AS-056 Assistive Technology project.

90.6 A member commented on £2m given the year before by central government for Adult Care and he sought clarification regarding the ring-fencing arrangements. The Group Finance Manager advised that money given for health and social care was ring-fenced and the £2M increase was the increase in funding from 2012-13 £4.9m to 2013-14 £6.9m. It was agreed that the member would seek further clarification after the meeting.

90.7 Members asked that congratulations be given to the past and current Director and her staff for significantly reducing the directorate's overspend position.

Resolved

91. That the final budget position for the Adult and Community Services Directorate, and the actions that have been taken to significantly reduce the overspend position, be noted.

Recommended

92. That taking into account the overall financial position of the County Council, the Cabinet be recommended not to carry forward the overspend into 2013/14.

Reason for Recommendation

93. Close monitoring of the budget position was an essential requirement to ensure that money and resources were used efficiently and effectively.

Corporate Performance Monitoring Report, Fourth Quarter 2012-13

94.1 The Committee considered a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director for Adult and Community Services regarding corporate performance monitoring for the fourth quarter of 2012-13 with a specific focus upon those elements managed by the Adult and Community Services Directorate.

94.2 The Policy and Performance Manager advised that in summary, 3/5th of the performance indicators were on target and the year end overspend projected for the authority at the end of quarter 3 had not occurred. At the end of March, there was in fact an underspend of £5.2m.

94.3 For clarification, he advised that the Adult and Community Services Directorate was encapsulated within Aim 1 of the County Council's Budget and Corporate Plan (Help to build strong communities for all) and Aim 2 (Protect and enrich the health and wellbeing of Dorset's most vulnerable adults). At the end of the financial year, 52% of indicators were meeting their target with 77% of actions being either on course or complete and there was a projected underspend of £181k in regards to Aim 1. In regards to Aim 2, 54% of indicators were meeting their target with 64% of actions being either on course or complete and there was a projected overspend of £1.4m.

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94.4 The Policy and Performance Manager then highlighted those performance indicators that were under performing and referred members to the accompanying officers' commentary contained within the report.

94.5 A member sought clarification in regards to performance indicator CM3, in reference to emergency planning. The Head of Community Services emphasised the need to be prepared for all eventualities by means of risk assessments and plan preparation. He advised that following planned exercises, officers held debriefing meetings to discuss the outcomes and future areas for improvement.

94.6 Comments were received on a lack of communication with different health localities in regards to performance indicator AD2 and asked what was being done to combat this. The Head of Specialist Adult Services advised that this was being taken up with Trusts via various forums. Problems with data entry and data sharing were acknowledged and he confirmed that this was also being discussed. Members were asked to note that issues did take time to address and there were other factors to be considered, as joint arrangements impacted on other partners.

Noted

Policy Development Panels

Executive Advisory Panel on the Sustainable Purchasing of Adult Social Care

95.1 The Committee were advised that the Panel would consist of the following members: Robin Cook, Jill Haynes, Ros Kayes, David Walsh and Kate Wheller; and would be supported by the Head of Adult Services, Head of Commissioning and Improvement, Group Finance Manager for Adult and Community Services, Policy and Project Manager and the Commissioning Manager.

95.2 The Panel's first meeting would take place in September 2013 where it would note its Terms of Reference and set a work programme. It was envisaged that this would include the review of sustainable purchasing of adult social care, an assessment of resources required to meet future social care needs, fees payable to providers of social care, quality of service and to work with care providers and other stakeholders to understand the financial and other challenges they faced and anticipated.

95.3 It was noted that as this was an Executive Advisory Panel the notes of the meeting would be submitted to the Cabinet, but that the Overview Committee would be kept informed of its progress.

Noted

Other Policy Development Panels

96.1 The Chairman asked that suggestions for other Policy Development Panels be directed to the Director for Adult and Community Services.

96.2 No other Policy Development Panels were established.

Noted

Adult and Community Services Overview Committee Work Programme

97.1 The Director for Adult and Community Services Committee referred members to the number of standing items upon the work programme and asked members to note that

in addition to those listed for the next meeting of the Committee, the following were to be added:

- Transformation Challenge Award;
- Implications of the new Care and Support Bill;
- Business Cases for the Meeting Future Challenges.

97.2 The Chairman commented that the Committee may look at the indicators used. The Director advised that many of these were set nationally and could not be amended or removed. She agreed to indicate which these were.

97.3 A member of the newly formed Executive Advisory Panel on the Sustainable Purchasing of Adult Social Care suggested that if the Panel were to meet in September 2013, an update could be given to the meeting of the Committee on 7 October 2013.

Noted

Schedule of Member Seminars and Events

98.1 The Committee received a schedule of forthcoming seminars and events arranged for members for 2013. The Director urged members to attend the Safeguarding Adults seminar on 7 October 2013.

98.2 A member asked whether it were possible to receive a weekly calendar to advise them of forthcoming events. The Senior Democratic Services Officer agreed to forward this request to the Democratic Services Manager.

98.3 In response to a member's request, the Director advised that there would be a Directorate Open Day on the afternoon of 30 September 2013 at the Dorset History Centre. Arrangements were yet to be circulated to all members.

Noted

Member Briefings

99.1 The Committee were informed that as yet no additional briefings were proposed but that the 'Fairer Contributions' seminar, previously scheduled for the afternoon of 24 June 2013, would be rescheduled.

99.2 The Chairman urged members to support and attend all seminars and member briefings.

Noted

Questions

100. No questions were asked by members under Standing Order 20(2).

Meeting Duration: 11.15am – 2.05pm