

# Adult and Community Services Overview Committee

Minutes of a meeting held at  
County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester on 2 December 2013.

## **Present:**

David Walsh (Vice-Chairman)

Ronald Coatsworth, Robin Cook, Beryl Ezzard, David Jones, Ros Kayes, Paul Kimber, Kate Wheller and John Wilson.

Toni Coombs, Spencer Flower, Robert Gould, Peter Finney and Jill Haynes 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 Fiona King (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

## For certain items as appropriate:

Harry Capron (Programme Director for Integrated Health and Care) and Paul Leivers (Head of Community Services).

(Note: These minutes have been prepared by officers as a record of the meeting and of any decisions reached. They are to be considered and confirmed at the next meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview Committee on **22 January 2014.**)

## **Apologies for Absence**

138. Apologies for absence were received from Michael Bevan, Fred Drane and William Trite (Chairman). In the Chairman's absence the Vice-Chairman took the chair.

## **Code of Conduct**

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

## **Minutes**

140. The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2013 were confirmed and signed.

## **Pathways to Independence – Redesign of Adult Social Care to meet the financial challenge for Adult and Community Services Directorate**

141.1 The Committee considered a joint report from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and the Cabinet Member for Community and Public Health which set out how the County Council planned to redesign the way it delivered Adult Social Care Services in Dorset.

141.2 The Pathways to Independence programme would be the overarching change programme in Adult Social Care over the next three to five years whilst still meeting the requirements of the Care Bill and other national legislation and the delivery of high quality services.

141.3 The Director for Adult and Community Services presented the report to members and updated members on the national and local issues that were affecting the Directorate as well as the performance so far this year. She advised members that staying the same was not an option the council could not afford to deliver the current services within the available budget. The Director highlighted that the County Council would not be the first

authority to adopt such changes and many authorities would be moving in a similar way. This approach had been implemented elsewhere and had been successful.

141.4 The Director noted the huge cultural shift needed behind the proposals and highlighted that the report developed further the great work started by the Partnership for Older People's Projects (POPPs) to enable a reduction on people accessing long term services.

141.5 In response to a question from a member about any changes to the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) criteria, the Director advised that there was no proposal to alter the FACS and that the Care Bill would introduce a national eligibility criteria for adult social care services.

141.6 Following a question from a member about what would happen if there was a crisis in the next few years e.g. severe winter weather, the Director advised that there were pressures on the system all year round, the challenge would be that the current social care system was not nimble enough to cope with a rapid response. Winter pressure money had been available in previous years, however the challenge now was to work across the health and social care system to enable a more effective and efficient way to deal with pressures.

141.7 One member expressed concern that the Directorate was having to make savings across the board, as were other Directorates, but for Adult and Community Services there was an increasing need for assistance. She was also alarmed at the phrase marketisation unless the authority set the criteria for the care home market. The Group Finance Manager for Adult and Community Services advised that the resource allocation model took account of demographics and inflation which was added to the budget. The County Council provided for pay awards and increments to staff. There was a need to review the packages of care, and how we deliver services as Government funding had significantly reduced.

141.8 In response to a member's question about the need to make genuine efficiency savings, the Director agreed it would be a significant challenge. There was a scope to do things differently which would be challenging for staff and for the people in the community. The Director explained that the vision for the programme was 'to support people to live independently for as long as possible, to reduce demand for health and adult social care and to promote health and well-being'. In respect of residential care the Director noted that the Local Authority had very good quality care homes but they were very traditional and there were now other options for consideration e.g. supported housing.

141.9 The Director highlighted the issue of social isolation which was a big issue for Dorset but confirmed that it was not the role of the social care budget to fund services to stop people feeling lonely. There was a need for the County Council to think about their role as the community leader, working with communities, building on the POPPs programme more effectively and to explore the likely benefits of extending the approach to people aged under 50 years old. The Cabinet member for Adult Social Care highlighted the need to look at the re-branding of POPPS to make it accessible for everyone. It was also intended to put more money into the programme.

141.10 The 'care navigator' role was highlighted which would assist service users to put together innovative care packages, drawing on community assets and making the best use of their money.

141.11 The Director drew members' attention to the future model of care that had been designed to meet the programme's outcomes.

141.12 One member recognised that the programme was starting from a difficult position and felt that a what can we do 'with' people approach instead of 'for' people was

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appropriate. He expressed concern that telephone assessments were not always the right approach and it would be necessary to recognise that one size did not fit all. He felt that the model would be flexible enough to promote people to live independently for as long as possible.

141.13 In response to a question from a member about the main barriers in the programme, the Director advised that the big challenge would be in terms of people's expectations. Communities and staff would find change difficult and challenging.

141.14 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care commented that it would be important for people, especially elected members, to let officers know what was happening in the communities e.g. lunch clubs, and for this information to be kept up to date.

141.15 Following a comment from a member about the vision looking a bit 'woolly' at the present time, the Director advised that it was about giving people choice control. People with personal budgets had the choice of their care or type of activity they wished to have. This was in line with the personalisation agenda (putting people first).

141.16 In response to a question from a member about the work of the shared lives panel, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care responded that shared lives was still fairly new and the more people that knew about it and kept interested in it would be really important. The scheme had the potential to grow and gave tax benefits to the shared lives provider.

141.17 The Director added that in respect of loneliness it would be helpful to encourage POPPs more in this area of work, to include them making regular visits to people. It was also felt that POPPs should be provided for all adults, not just for adults over 50 years old.

141.18 Following a comment from a member about the limit increases in older people's residential and nursing care placements below 1% per year by use of community alternatives, the Director advised it was important not to confuse hospital beds with residential beds, but undertook to look again at the wording of that section in the report.

141.19 The Chairman of the County Council asked for consideration of the use of the term 'universal services' to be revisited. The Director noted that this was a well used Department of Health term but would look to find an alternative.

141.20 One member commented that family income and pensions needed to be considered as people were living longer their pension was having to last longer.

141.21 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care advised members that she had received an email from a member of the Committee who had not been able to attend the meeting but wished members to be aware of his concerns. His worry was to ensure that no section of the community, that could not fend for themselves, should be disadvantaged by the implementation of the Pathways to Independence programme.

141.22 The Cabinet Member then emphasised the importance of the role of carers to this model and noted the need to support them as much as possible. In respect of mental health there was a need for a more reactive service to ensure that it could be accessed quickly.

141.23 The Committee welcomed the opportunity to discuss and comment on this new way of working. The Cabinet Member for Community and Public Health noted that it was helpful to see everyone working together to achieve a common aim.

**Recommended**

142.1 That the Cabinet be recommended to support the development of the Pathways to Independence programme along with the financial implications as set out in the Cabinet Member's report.

142.2 That the Cabinet be recommended to support the development of a full business case to establish the financial viability of a Local Authority Trading Company (LATC).

**Reason for Recommendations**

143. To enable work to continue on refining and managing the County Council's budget plan for 2014/15 to 2016/17 and beyond.

**Questions**

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

Meeting Duration: 2.15pm – 4.10pm