

Adult and Community Services Overview Committee

Minutes of a meeting held at
County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester on 20 January 2016.

Present:

William Trite (Chairman)

Michael Bevan, Fred Drane, Beryl Ezzard, Ros Kayes, Paul Kimber and Kate Wheller

Jill Haynes (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care) attended under Standing Order 54(1).

Officers:

Catherine Driscoll (Director for Adult and Community Services), Michael Ford (Acting Group Finance Manager for Adult and Community Services) and Fiona King (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

For certain items, as appropriate:

John Alexander (Performance and Policy Manager), Diana Balsom (Joint Commissioning Manager), Harry Capron (Head of Adult Care), Ruth Davis (Hospital Service Development Manager), Ivan Hancock (Trading Standards Service Manager), Derek Hardy (Senior Commissioning Manager), Paul Leivers (Head of Early Help and Community Services), Tracy Long (Library Service Manager), Miriam Maddison (Better Together Programme Director), David Trotter (Policy and Performance Officer), Ali Waller (Head of Partnerships and Performance) and Sue Warr (Early Help Service Manager).

(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 to be held on **14 March 2016**).

Apology for Absence

1. Apologies for absence were received from Steve Butler, Ronald Coatsworth, Spencer Flower, David Jones and David Walsh.

Code of Conduct

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

2.2 Ros Kayes declared a general interest as she was involved with a mental health group that had received funding from the County Council. Fred Drane also declared a general interest in that his wife was disabled and in receipt of a disability benefit.

Minutes

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2015 were confirmed and signed.

Public Participation

Public Speaking

4.1 There were no public questions received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(1).

4.2 There were no public statements received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(2).

Petitions

5. There were no petitions received in accordance with the County Council's petition scheme.

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2016/17

6.1 The Committee considered a joint report by the Director for Adult and Community Services and the Chief Financial Officer which set out a summary of the key issues within the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and the impact of the settlement on the budget strategy for Dorset County Council including the implications for the Adult and Community Services Directorate.

6.2 The Group Finance Manager made reference to the additional budget gap of £7.2m which was provisional until the final settlement was announced on 3 February 2016. If there was no improvement in the settlement there were a number of one-off actions that would be proposed across the council to close the gap. Tricuro would be expected to bear their own national insurance increases and all directorates would have to bear the cost of incremental progressions.

6.3 The Director made reference to the Better Care Fund, £2.75m in the current year, and noted that any reduction in this would be significant for the authority. This fund was money that came through a pooled budget; local authorities and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) agreed how it should be spent.

6.4 Following a question from a member about what would happen if no further money came forward, the Director advised that taking money out of demand-led budgets was always challenging and officers had been thoughtful in the proposals that had been put forward and were looking at a range of actions as there was a legal requirement to set a balanced budget.

6.5 Following a question regarding the proposed savings to be found in mental health, pooled budget reductions and supporting people, the Head of Partnerships and Performance advised that specific savings had not yet been identified, but they would come from a look at the overall commitment to mental health, from reviewing services that were being commissioned, and from officers looking at more targeted early help and prevention. Pooled budgets were being explored with health partners and details of individual packages of care were also being looked at. In relation to supporting people, there was now an opportunity to review services which maybe the authority shouldn't be supporting. The aim was to redesign services to improve the quality for service users. It was confirmed that outreach and domestic violence services were not being considered with a view to reductions.

6.6 Councillor Wheller, a member of Tricuro's Executive Shareholder Group, expressed concern about the potential increase for Tricuro in respect of National Insurance payments and felt that the company would be constantly having to change the way it worked to accommodate the changes.

6.7 In response to a question about an operating model and strategy for the libraries, the Head of Early Help and Community Services advised there was ongoing work with the libraries and discussions with Bournemouth and Poole to explore any opportunities for joint working. There was also work in progress across directorates to look for any opportunities for the integration of services e.g. a children's centre moving into a library. In due course a strategy and operating model would be formed,

6.8 In relation to the timeliness of a new Library Management System the Head of Early Help and Community Services advised that following legal advice the legal contract could not be extended and there was procurement legislation officers needed to comply with. The savings proposed would be as a result of likely staff restructuring.

6.9 Following a question from a member about surplus properties that were up for sale, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care advised that these savings were in relation to a revenue shortfall and not capital. However, there were some properties that could

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possibly see a change of use, not to necessarily sell, but most of these had been moved into the Tricuro portfolio.

6.10 Members discussed the attendance allowance and the complex forms that needed to be completed to apply for it. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care felt it might be helpful for elected members to be trained in how these forms needed to be completed to help their constituents.

6.11 In response to a comment regarding consultations in respect of sheltered housing, one member felt that more care was needed with communications in this regard. The Senior Commissioning Manager felt that some residents in certain areas hadn't completely understood what was happening to them but officers were looking to find a solution that was workable. It was noted that extra care schemes were completely separate issues.

6.12 Councillor Kayes moved a recommendation that the County Council should seek to meet the savings from elsewhere in the Council's budget, not least the corporate building programme, and not from the Adult and Community Services budget, as further savings would severely impact the service offered to vulnerable people. This was seconded by Councillor Ezzard but the recommendation was not carried.

6.13 The Chairman closed the discussion by saying that all members were profoundly concerned and shocked at the additional financial imposition that was being placed upon the authority by Central Government.

Noted

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16

7.1 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer which showed a forecast overspend against service budgets for the County Council of £5,051k. Officers reported there was still continued pressure on demand led budgets and that rising demand was a continuing risk.

7.2 The Group Finance Manager informed members that the forecast overspend had reduced since October 2015 as a result of the success of work to review packages of care in order for them to meet people's outcomes in a more cost-effective way. The total Directorate overspend was now forecast to be £1,775k which was 1.5% of the budget.

7.3 The Chairman and members felt the Director and her team should be congratulated on bringing the overspend down.

Noted

The Care Act – Progress with Implementation

8.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services which outlined further progress that has been made in the last quarter implementing the Care Act and also provided members with an update on the change programme.

8.2 The Head of Adult Care updated members on the ACCoRD review which had achieved nearly £400k in savings. This had been a tough review for staff working on developing a new culture and he was pleased to report that no compulsory redundancies had been made as a result of it.

8.3 Following a question from a member about how people without access to a computer gained the information and advice that was available especially in the light of the change to the benefits programmes, the Head of Adult Care advised that the second part of the review was changing how the Adult Access Team worked. Access to good information was vital for people to remain independent and in a position to make good decisions.

In relation to the benefits programme it would be important to ensure that the Welfare Officers were briefed so they were in a position to answer any queries.

8.4 The Head of Partnerships and Performance added that a lot of work had been undertaken refocusing on service users' financial affairs and officers were finding a significant increase in the number of people coming forward. Reference was also made to the My Life My Care publications being made available and it was becoming apparent that children, neighbours and carers were helping people accessing this information. Members felt it would be helpful for factsheets to be circulated to all elected members to ensure they were widely circulated.

8.5 Following a discussion about social workers keeping their training up to date, the Head of Adult Care confirmed that the training was supported but the registration costs were the individual's responsibility. This was standard practice across all professions.

Noted

Early Help

9.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services which set out the current position of work on early help and its contribution to the Pathways to Independence Programme.

9.2 The Head of Early Help and Community Services explained the report was for members to have early sight of the thoughts and proposals for the future in order to help them focus on the proposed changes.

9.3 One member felt that in the past there had been a lack of joined up thinking with the Districts and Boroughs in relation to council owned properties but was pleased to see this was now being addressed.

Resolved

10. That further development of the approach within the Council and with other organisations and groups be supported.

Delayed Transfers of Care

11.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services which advised members that Dorset County Council was in the bottom quartile of the league table of local authorities' performance, with delays above the targets set and an increasing number of days delayed.

11.2 The Head of Adult Care advised members that this was a very challenging area of work for the authority and the latest figures for performance in November showed a rise to 21.74 per 100,000 population, 8.9 of which was Dorset's share which was not good. He drew members' attention to the internal improvement plan, contained within the report, and highlighted the discharge to assess model. There was potential for information hubs to be created in all hospitals to help people to navigate their way through the system.

11.3 Following a question from a member about what work was being done with other partners e.g. care homes to try and speed up the process of discharging someone from hospital, the Head of Partnerships and Performance advised that there was a CQC requirement for the care home to make an assessment prior to the person leaving hospital but it didn't necessarily have to be the Manager. Officers highlighted a pilot due to start using Face time/Skype to enable care homes and hospital staff to make these assessments.

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11.4 The Head of Adult Care highlighted the real challenge for Dorset in relation to its ageing population and that the people being admitted to hospital have been increasingly frail but more understanding of the data about what was causing admissions generally was needed.

Noted

Developing the Market to Improve Care and Support

12.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services which brought together a number of significant commissioning and market development workstreams in order to seek to shift the overall commissioning approach to a local market for care and support. Members' attention was also drawn to areas of significant financial pressure as providers faced additional supply costs.

12.2 Following a comment about accountability, the Head of Partnerships and Performance advised that safeguarding duties in relation to the Care Act now also included well-being and whilst direct payments released some control it was the County Council's duty to promote safe services.

12.3 One member expressed concern at the idea of a single fee rate structure across Dorset when Bournemouth and Poole paid more, which could disadvantage the County Council. The Head of Partnerships and Performance advised that whilst trying to stabilise the market to stop authorities negotiating against each other officers were trying to look more strategically and focus on the cost of the care but added that market forces would always prevail; it was acknowledged that costs of care would increase overall with national minimum wage and employers pension contributions. Such increases would help to address capacity issues across the sector.

12.4 In relation to the range of rates being applied in the market, the Head of Partnerships and Performance noted that £65 was the higher dementia rate paid and added that work was ongoing to complete an analysis of rates paid across homes pan-Dorset by each commissioning organisation.

Resolved

13. That the approach as set out in the Director's report and the consideration of the social care precept, which would help the County Council to address a number of pressures arising from a marked increase in the cost of care, and would lead to an improved and sustainable market, be supported.

Better Together Programme – Progress update

14.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services which explained that the programme continued to make steady progress in most of its areas of work and was within budget.

14.2 The Programme Director noted that whilst there had been some slippage around the achievement of the new Dorset Care Record, this had now recovered and was making progress. The procurement exercise was well under way.

Noted

The Better Care Fund 2015/16

15.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services which summarised the progress on the Better Care Fund to date. Progress in delivering changes across the schemes was mixed but some were delivering in line with the plan.

15.2 The Programme Director explained that the risk sharing element in the budget, whilst diminishing, was still there. Members were advised that the disabled facilities

grant had increased from just over £200m to £394m nationally and it was thought this could be linked to delayed transfers of care. Officers confirmed there was no bidding process for this grant; it would be an allocation through the Better Care Fund.

Noted

Corporate Performance Monitoring Report: Second Quarter 2015/16

16.1 The Committee considered a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director for Adult and Community Services which contained analysis of the Council's progress against its corporate aims and presented the results of the monitoring of the County Council's Corporate Balanced Scorecard for the second quarter of 2015/16. Whilst the Scorecard summarised performance monitoring analysis across the whole Authority, there was a specific focus on those elements of the plan which were managed by the Adult and Community Services Directorate.

16.2 The Performance and Policy Manager highlighted the key headline issues and noted that targets were mostly being met. He noted the slight dip in self-directed support but advised that work was ongoing to improve this.

16.3 Members were advised of the revised approach to the reporting of performance their attention was drawn to Appendix 2 of the report. The aim was to provide members with clearer and a more outcomes focussed report.

Noted

Development of a Pooled Budget for ex NHS Campus Residents

17.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services which proposed the creation of a pooled budget for those people with a learning disability who had moved from an institutional setting into more of a community environment. Members were advised that the proposal would be jointly funded and there would be no additional administration costs and that the Borough of Poole had agreed to act as the host.

17.2 It was noted that by virtue of the ageing demographics of this cohort it was anticipated that costs would reduce over time.

Recommended

18. That the Cabinet be recommended to approve the development of a pan-Dorset pooled budget for 26 ex-NHS campus residents from 1 April 2016 along with further work to design the terms of the underpinning Section 75 document.

Reason for Recommendation

19. Align the Council's approach with national and corporate strategy.

Revised Model for Housing Related Support for Socially Excluded Adults

20.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services which advised members that the current accommodation provision was inadequate to meet the needs of this group of socially excluded adults, which had resulted in poor outcomes, not just for service users but also for the public purse.

20.2 The Director noted that this project was a good example of joined-up working across all the partners.

20.3 Following a question from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care regarding whether this group of people would be expected to move away from areas where they felt safe and comfortable, the Commissioning Manager advised that this model looked to work with people to determine where they wanted to be. Whilst officers did not have access to bricks and mortar they would be working closely with District and Borough colleagues in this regard.

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20.4 In response to a question about the rate of success of this type of work, the Commissioning Manager advised that part of this pilot would be establishing the evidence base and at present officers could only go on past data compared with a type of support service.

Resolved

21. That the new model of service delivery for socially excluded adults in need of housing related support to start from April 2016 be supported.

Policy Development Panels

22.1 The Committee received the final report by the Director for Adult and Community Services which summarised the work undertaken by the Trading Standards Service Policy Development Panel (PDP) and the options that had been considered by them for future service delivery. The Trading Standards Service Manager undertook to update members on the review of trading standards nationally when it was released.

22.2 Councillor Kimber, as the Vice Chairman of the PDP, commended the work of trading standards and confirmed that he remained convinced that the service needed to stay in-house. He advised that several members of the PDP had attended the Trading Standards conference which had been very well received by the organisers and useful to the members and he felt that this might be something the Member Champion for Trading Standards would find helpful to attend.

22.3 The Head of Partnerships and Performance advised members that the first meeting of the PDP on the Registration Service was scheduled for 29 January 2015 and that preparatory papers had now been written and would be circulated shortly.

Recommended

23. That the Cabinet be asked to agree the recommendations of the Policy Development Panel as detailed in section 10 of the Director's report.

Reason for recommendation

24. The Trading Standards Service has been reviewed and the contribution made by enabling economic growth by supporting a fair and safe trading and promoting wellbeing through services to consumers.

Adult and Community Services Overview Committee Work Programme

25.1 The Committee noted its Work Programme for 2016.

25.2 Councillor Bevan, as Member Champion for Mental Health, expressed disappointment that there was no mention of any Tricuro activity on the work programme and asked that in future the Committee received progress reports along with the minutes from meetings of the Executive Shareholder Group (ESG). The Director felt it would be reasonable to add a progress report to future agendas for this Committee and also advised members that minutes from the meetings of the ESG would in future be presented to the Cabinet. The outstanding issue of scrutiny was being looked at under the wider issue of scrutiny across the organisation.

Noted

Schedule of Councillors' Seminars and Events 2015

26. The Committee's attention was drawn to the Schedule of Councillors' Seminars and Events over the following few months of 2016.

Noted

Member Briefings

27. The Committee were provided with the opportunity to identify topics for future member briefings but decided that there was no need for any to be held at the present time.

Noted**Outside Bodies and Member Champions**

28. The Committee noted the opportunity for submissions by Members serving on Outside Bodies and from the Directorate's relevant Member Champions and received an update from Councillor Kimber as Member Champion on Through Life Education

Noted**Questions from County Councillors**

29. No questions were asked by Members under Standing Order 20(2).

Exclusion of the Public**Resolved**

30. That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified in minutes 31 to 33 because it was likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing that information.

Future of the School Library Service (Paragraph 4)

31.1 The Committee considered a joint exempt report by the Director for Children's Services and the Director for Adult and Community Services which pointed out that the School Library Service had declined over the years and was now only used by 26% of schools, and that expenditure was now exceeding the amount of income received, such that the service was therefore no longer financially viable.

31.2 Following a question from a member regarding timescales, the Library Service Manager advised that the proposal was to continue with the service until the end of the school summer term and that alternative services were being proposed.

Recommended

32.1 That the Cabinet be asked to approve that the library service to schools delivered by the Dorset School Library Service (SLS) be decommissioned.

32.2 That a detailed decommissioning plan by the library service be developed which includes consultation with representatives from schools about the most appropriate use of the physical resources for the long term benefit of children and young people. There would also be the need for communication with all schools in Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole, the staff affected and other key stakeholders. It would also include signposting schools to alternative School Library Services and consultants.

Reason for recommendations

33. Based on the long term trend and current income projection, the SLS was no longer financially sustainable as the income generated did not meet the expenditure required. The service would be operating at a deficit which could not be managed and had the potential to have a detrimental impact on the overall library service budget.