



Adult and Community Services Overview Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ on Monday, 14 March 2016.

Present:

William Trite (Chairman)

David Walsh, Michael Bevan, Steve Butler, Ronald Coatsworth, Fred Drane, Beryl Ezzard, David Jones, Ros Kayes, Paul Kimber, Spencer Flower and Kate Wheller.

Members Attending:

Robert Gould, Leader of the County Council

Colin Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth

Officers Attending:

Catherine Driscoll (Director for Adult and Community Services), Harry Capron (Head of Adult Care), Paul Leivers (Head of Early Help and Community Services), Steve Hedges (Group Finance Manager), John Alexander (Performance and Policy Manager), Tracy Long (Library Service Manager), Miriam Maddison (Better Together Programme Director) and Fiona King (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

(Notes: 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 **Tuesday, 14 June 2016.**)

Apologies for Absence

23 There were no apologies for absence received.

Code of Conduct

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

David Jones declared a general interest in that his wife was disabled, had private carer arrangement in place and was a blue badge holder.

Fred Drane also declared a general interest in that his wife was disabled and in receipt of a disability benefit.

Members of the Committee noted that they were all members of the Dorset County Library Service.

Minutes

25 The minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2016 were confirmed and signed.

Matter Arising

Minute 17 – Work Programme

Following a comment from Michael Bevan concerning the minutes from meetings of Tricuro's Executive Shareholder Group (ESG), the Director for Adult and Community Services confirmed that minutes from the ESG meeting held on 29 January 2016 would be presented to Cabinet at their meeting on 16 March 2016.

Ros Kayes mentioned that she had recently spoken with the Cabinet Member for

Adult Social Care about the Dorset members of the ESG feeding back to members of this Committee in a more informal way.

The Director for Adult and Community Services advised members that the Managing Director of Tricuro had been due to attend this meeting to update members but had unfortunately been taken ill.

Public Participation

26 Public Speaking

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

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

Petitions

There were no petitions received at the meeting in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16

27 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer which showed a forecast overspend against service budgets for the County Council of £4,444k.

The Group Finance Manager reported that most of the services in the directorate had shown an improvement from the last quarter and as at the end of February 2016 the overspend for Adult and Community Services was £1.3m.

The Chairman was pleased to note that the direction of travel appeared to be positive.

One member drew attention to the £50k underspend in the library budget and asked for clarification. The Head of Early Years and Community Services advised that the Library Service was trying to save money and this was part of their contribution to managing the Directorate's and County Council's overall budget position.

Following a question from a member about a contract with blocked beds, the Director for Adult and Community Services advised this was not to do with bed blocking but referred to a long standing 35 year residential care contract. A lot of work had been undertaken to reduce vacancies in this area and although the position now was better than it was there was still cause for concern.

In response to a member's concern about ambiguous letters to residents regarding their care packages, the Director for Adult and Community Services undertook to engage an independent advocate to oversee such letters.

Noted

Tricuro - update

28 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services which summarised the progress Tricuro had made and the ongoing focus to identify opportunities for service improvements and redesign whilst ensuring services were sustainable and represented value for money.

The Director for Adult and Community Services advised members that the creation of Tricuro had so far realised £2m worth of savings but with the County Council's changed financial position a lot of work would need to take place in order for Tricuro to achieve a balanced budget for next year.

Reference was made to a detailed piece of work in respect of the reablement service

with the aim of delivering a more responsive service to people in acute hospital beds. This service needed to be prioritised for people leaving hospitals. There were pressure points in relation to packages of care but work was ongoing with partners to improve this position.

The Director added that the reablement service that was with the County Council before it transferred to Tricuro was meant to respond to people within 48 hours, this was now not fit for the current situation. Tricuro did not at present provide any long term domiciliary care but this could be a development for them in the future.

Following a concern from Cllr Ros Kayes regarding Sydney Gale House, as the Local Member, the Director advised that the replacement would offer more beds than was currently available. She also noted that as a local member she had not been kept informed which she found disappointing. The Director advised that the County Council was leading on this work which was different from Tricuro having a plan but she would alert Tricuro to the need to engage with local members.

In response to a comment from Cllr Michael Bevan, as the Chairman of the Shared Lives Panel about a recent issue he had experienced in respect of the number of people in Dorset wanting to be cared for, which was due to be addressed at the next meeting of the Executive Shareholder Group (ESG) on 21 March 2016, the Director undertook to report back to him following this meeting.

It was noted that Shared Lives carers were particular carers who wished to register for this and were different to other carers that were providing care and support to family and friends.

The Chairman commented that Tricuro was very conscious of the need to ensure services were as good as they were before and a recent CQC inspection had found the quality of care and support to be good and in one area one point off excellent.

Following a lengthy discussion in respect of accountability and assurance, the Director advised that arrangements were in place for the AGM to give all elected members the opportunity to see the progress for themselves.

Following a discussion about the senior management structure, the Director advised that Tricuro had restructured its senior staff and that was now delivering savings.

The Chairman undertook to invite members of the senior management team from Tricuro to a meeting of this Committee for a detailed discussion.

Cllr Ros Kayes, a member of the ESG, was unaware of the Independent Company Board and felt that the balance was not yet right between the private and public mix of information and that members definitely needed an overview of how Tricuro was progressing. The Director highlighted that it was disappointing that there had only been one meeting where all five Dorset members had been able to attend a meeting of the ESG.

It was suggested that the Dorset ESG members should report back to members of this committee to help members understand how things were progressing.

In response to a question from a member about inspecting care homes to see the progress for themselves, the Director advised that the CQC was responsible for inspecting care and residential homes and elected members could not take on this statutory responsibility. Members could perhaps arrange a planned visit to a particular home but needed to be aware that these were elderly people's homes.

Resolved

That following members comments on Tricuro's progress it was agreed that regular presentations, by Tricuro would be invited. All members of the County Council would be invited to attend any presentations.

Reason for Decision

To help achieve the County Council's vision of 'Working together for a strong and successful Dorset'.

Dorset Library Service - collaboration with Bournemouth and Poole

29 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services which provided members with an update on the progress on the possible collaboration between Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council and the Borough of Poole in respect of library services.

One member drew attention to the Read-Easy Group on Portland who were struggling to recruit volunteers in this area. The Head of Early Years and Community Services undertook to advise the member outside of the meeting.

Following a concern from a member that one size might not fit all, the Head of Early Years and Community Services advised that officers had been clear in their discussions that a link to ongoing services needed to continue and in relation to current shared services the convening of a Trust could be a consideration.

In response to a comment from a member concerning the inclusion of the mobile library service in this work, the Head of Early Years and Community Services advised that access to services and the discharging of responsibilities under the Equalities Act was vital and noted that more detailed proposals would need to be brought forward.

One member highlighted the recommendation in the report 'to deliver a cost efficient and effective library service for Dorset within the resources available', and noted there was only a finite amount of money available and a balance needed to be found. He thought it would be helpful for members to focus on the tangible outcome of what this service was trying to achieve.

Following discussion, the Head of Early Years and Community Services noted members' concerns in relation to accountability and reporting and advised that any substantive proposals would be presented to members at a later date.

Noted

Mobile Library Services

30 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services which considered the impact of change on members of the public and how the County Council could maximise access to services through the combination of library buildings, mobile libraries, online access and work with partners and local communities.

The Head of Early Years and Community Services highlighted to members the difference between the mobile library service and the home library service which the County Council commissioned the Royal Voluntary Service to provide a service for individuals who were housebound and unable to access conventional library services. This successful service was greatly valued and officers were looking to expand it.

The proposed consultation would be available in both hard copy on the library vehicles, as the drivers knew who their customers were, and also on Dorset for you electronically. It would also be circulated to Parish Councils.

In response to a member's concern about those hard to reach groups, the Head of

Early Years and Community Services confirmed there were no plans to do anything that would contravene the Equalities Act. The view was that savings needed to be achieved as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Members felt it was important to ensure that everyone was fully aware of the consultation and suggested copies of it be given to Residents' Associations and doctors surgeries. They also felt it would be helpful for all elected members to have a presentation on how the mobile library service would look following the review. The Head of Early Years and Community Services advised members that a seminar had been arranged to follow the meeting of the County Council meeting on 21 April 2016 which would provide members with further information on Living and Learning Centres.

The Vice-Chairman felt it was important to have a true consultation and was pleased to hear that questionnaires would be sent out with the library vans, his concern was the potential number of responses that could be received from people who had never used the service.

One member sought reassurance on the effectiveness of the service with one less vehicle, as a result of the previous route review, and expressed concern about the impact on rural areas, but accepted there was every reason to review it. The Head of Early Years and Community Services noted that an additional saving was required from the mobile library service over and above that from previous reviews.

Resolved

That the proposed consultation on the mobile library service be supported.

Reason for Decision

To inform changes in service and to meet the council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

Corporate Performance Monitoring Report - Third Quarter 2015/16 and Draft Corporate Plan Refresh 2016-17

- 31 The Committee considered a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director for Adult and Community Services which presented the results of the monitoring of the Corporate Balanced Scorecard, including the Corporate Plan, for the third quarter of 2015-16 and the draft refresh of the County Council's corporate plan 2016-17, including a revised outcomes framework.

The Policy and Performance Manager highlighted that whilst there were not many concerns for this Directorate this quarter, there were clear actions in place in respect of direct payments.

Noted

Better Care Fund

- 32 The Committee considered a report from the Director for Adult and Community Services which summarised performance for the current year to date and provided an update on the Better Care Fund (BCF) planning for 2016/17.

Member's were advised that since the report had been drafted further detail had been received and the first draft submission had now been made and that arrangements were in place for the sign off of the second one.

Following a comment from a member about ring fenced revenue funding from the CCG's for NHS out of hospital commissioned service/risk share, the programme Director advised that this arose before national technical guidance had been received and that this particular issue had now been resolved.

In response to a question about emergency admissions, the Programme Director advised this related to all age admissions and highlighted the big growth in admissions of adults of working age. It was more than just a funding issue it was also about how people accessed the services.

The Head of Adult Care added that the key point was not just those people presenting at hospital but the actual number of people who were admitted. The biggest challenge for officers were the general packages of care, especially for those patients in rural areas. The Delayed Transfers of Care improvement plan was not just for the County Council but for all partners who were trying to support the flow of people being discharged from Community Hospitals. It was also noted that the new ways of integrated working could help to impact some of the issues in relation to the elderly and frail population in and out of hospital.

Noted

Policy Development Panels

33 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services which provided members with the progress made in respect of the Policy Development Panel on Registration (births, deaths and marriages).

The Head of Early Help and Community Services advised members that the Panel had now met twice and to date no conclusions had been reached.

Members also received the notes of the first meeting of the Policy Development Panel on Registration.

Noted

Work Programme

34 The Director for Adult and Community Services highlighted that the current work programme was an outline programme if this Committee was to continue. In the light of the new committee structure work was in progress to take this forward with the new arrangements.

Ros Kayes expressed concern that with the new arrangements meetings would need to be held over a whole day in order for members to exercise a proper scrutiny function.

The Chairman drew members' attention to the fact that this would be the last meeting for the current Director for Adult and Community Services before she left the authority at the end of May. On behalf of the Committee he thanked her for all her help and expertise in serving this committee, and wished her well for the future.

Noted

Schedule of Member Seminars and Events 2016

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

Members were advised that there would be a seminar following the County Council meeting on 21 April 2016 on Living and Learning Centres.

Noted

Member Briefings

36 The Committee were provided with the opportunity to identify topics for future member briefings. The Director for Adult and Community Services advised that in the light of

the work with the Better Care Fund it would be useful to hold a Health and Social Care Integration Workshop when further details were received from NHS England.

Noted

Outside Bodies and Member Champions

37 The Committee noted the opportunity for submissions by Members serving on Outside Bodies and from the Directorate's relevant Member Champions.

Beryl Ezzard, as Member Champion for Participation: children, young people, families, parents and carers, highlighted the need for her to be included in any consultations that were circulated.

Paul Kimber, as Member Champion for Promotion of Learning through Life, expressed concern that there were not enough volunteer readers for the Portland area and asked for advice from officers in this regard.

Noted

Questions from Members of the Council

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

Meeting Duration: 10.00 am - 1.00 pm