

# Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday 20 July 2010

## PRESENT:

Councillor Ricketts, in the Chair.

Councillor Coker, Vice Chair.

Councillors Bowie, Delbridge, Gordon, Mrs Nicholson, Dr. Salter and Viney.

Co-opted Representatives: Margaret Schwarz, (NHS Plymouth Hospitals Trust).

Also in attendance: Councillor Monahan (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care), Carole Burgoyne (Director of Community Services), Pam Marsden (Assistant Director for Adult Social Care), Debbie Butcher (Commissioning Manager), Jo Yelland (Putting People First Project Lead), Giles Perritt (Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships), Lisa Woodman (Business Support Officer).

Apologies for absence: Councillors Dr. Mahony, Chris Boote (LINK)

The meeting started at 3 pm and finished at 5.05 pm.

*Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.*

## 19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Minute No. and Subject	Reason	Interest
Councillor Gordon	26 Fairer Contributions Policy	Disabled former serviceman	Personal

## 20. MINUTES

Agreed that the minutes of the 9 June and 21 June 2010 be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment 11 (2) where the acronym HOSP would better reflect the title of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

## CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

## 21. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET

The Chair introduced recommendations from the Cabinet meeting of the 13 July 2010 relating to agenda items six, seven and eight. The recommendations were considered under the respective agenda items.

22. **HEALTH WHITE PAPER**

The Chair highlighted the recent Health White Paper published on the 12 July 2010. It was reported that:-

- a. proposals within the white paper were designed to radically overhaul the National Health Service, including the abolition of the Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities;
- b. the paper suggested significant additional responsibilities for local authorities including a duty for Public Health;
- c. proposals included the replacement of the statutory functions with regard to Health Scrutiny and the establishment of a local 'Health and Wellbeing Board';
- d. there would be further detail in publications expected from the Department of Health by the end of July, panel members would continue to be kept up to date with publications and briefings.

23. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

Agreed that the tracking resolutions are noted by the panel.

24. **CARERS STRATEGY**

The panel considered the final draft of the Carers Strategy. It was reported that:-

- a. the document was a refreshed Carers Strategy which had been in operation for three years;
- b. the strategy reflected the 'Putting People First Agenda' which introduced a more sustainable and "person centred" system for social care;
- c. the Carers Strategy priorities were based on 'The Carers Compass' (Kings fund, 1998) which set out a framework based on research which reflected the priorities expressed by carers;
- d. the Carers Strategic Partnership and Planning Group had developed the strategy;
- e. there had been a twelve week consultation period for the Carers Strategy and feedback had been received from a wide range of bodies from the community and voluntary sector along with some individual responses;
- f. the Carers Strategic Partnership Board would monitor the implementation of the Strategy.

In response to questions from members of the panel it was reported that:-

- g. there were carers in the city as young as six years old;
- h. concern was expressed that there was a large number of young carers in the city that were not known to the authority. Along with Children's Services a joint approach was being developed to find them. This would include working with schools to identify possible young carers and the reasons why they were caring for others;
- i. a new carers handbook was currently in draft form and being circulated to carers for comment. It was hoped that the handbook would be updated annually;
- j. the service would be working with doctor's surgeries, libraries and other universal services such as leisure services to increase the dissemination of information on services for carers. The Health Service used a different service provider for their carers contract and discussions are taking place to join up commissioning arrangements for carers;
- k. the Carers Champion contract provides emotional advice, outreach and a point of contact for crisis and benefits information. The service commissioned St. John Ambulance to provide carers training. The service supported 2000 carers, provided a newsletter and administered a hardship fund.

Agreed that:-

- (1) a copy of the action plan implementing recommendations in appendix one and the 'What we aim to do' sections of the strategy is considered by the panel following the initial meeting of the Carer's Strategic Partnership Board in September;
- (2) the information and advice strategy is distributed to members of the panel;
- (3) the panel would continue to monitor the action plan and work with the Carers Strategic Partnership Board to ensure that plans are sufficient for the needs identified.

25. **RESIDENTIAL CARE UPDATE ON MODERNISATION OF OLDER PEOPLES SERVICES**

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Health and Social Care outlined the content of the report. It was reported that:-

- a. the purpose of the report was to outline a period of consultation with users and carers on the alternative provision of services currently

available at Frank Cowl House, Stirling House and Lakeside;

- b. those residents who wished to move from Frank Cowl House into the new unit with the same level of care and support would be able to do so;
- c. no long term resident would be forced to move as a result of the proposals.

The Commissioning Manager reported that:-

- d. there would be a 12 week consultation process on the proposals;
- e. a number of consultation events were proposed for the area, there would also be an online questionnaire for consultation response and residents would receive one to one support from independent advocates. There would be an independent overview of the entire consultation process;
- f. residents of Frank Cowl House would receive first choice of the extra care accommodation in Devonport.

In response to questions from members of the panel it was reported that although Frank Cowl House was very important to the people of Devonport and formed a part of the community the users of the service came from across the city and a city wide consultation was appropriate.

Agreed that:-

- (1) Cabinet recommendations 26 (5, 8) of the 13 July 2010 are accepted and a Project Initiation Document on the Modernisation of Adult Social Care is prepared for forwarding to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board;
- (2) consultation events in Devonport are publicised in the Devonport Regeneration Community Partnership office.

26. **FAIRER CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY, CHARGING WITH A PERSONALISED SYSTEM**

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Health and Social Care outlined the content of the report. The Programme Lead for Putting People First and Integration reported that:-

- a. the paper was a response to new guidance from the Department of Health that required a new way of charging to be implemented;
- b. changes must be made although there would be discretionary elements which would be the basis of the statutory consultation period;

- c. as recommended in the report, key questions would be whether disability related benefits should be removed from assessable income, whether the maximum contribution should be set at 100% of the personal budget, whether transitional support be put in place to help those whose contributions could change and how best to inform people of a new charging policy;
- d. a comprehensive consultation process would take place, every person who was charged for a service would receive a letter explaining the proposed changes and have the opportunity to complete and return a questionnaire, there would be an office hours telephone line available to deal with queries and an online calculator to assess how changes might affect them. Consultation packs would be provided to community and voluntary groups and workshops were planned for early September.

In response to questions from members of the panel it was reported that:-

- e. the decision to include Disability Living Allowance and Disability Mobility Allowance as income was made in 2006;
- f. the proposal could lead to a loss of income in the region of £320,000, the figure was the result of a desktop exercise based on a small sample of service users. There were, however, likely to be efficiency savings from improved processes relating to charging a more detailed analysis would be provided at the end of the consultation process.

Agreed that:-

(1) Cabinet recommendations 27(1) of the 13 July 2010 are accepted and the proposal is added to the Project Initiation Document on Modernisation of Adult Social care being prepared for forwarding to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board;

(2) a list of charities consulted would be made available to the panel.

27. **MODERNISATION OF SHORT BREAK SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY**

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Health and Social Care outlined the content of the report. The Commissioning Manager reported that:-

- a. there would be a 12 week consultation process on the proposals;
- b. a number of consultation events were proposed for the area, there would also be an online questionnaire for consultation responses. There would be an independent overview over the entire consultation process;
- c. a theatre company had been commissioned to conduct consultation

events for service users.

In response to questions from members of the panel it was reported that:-

- d. recommendation six allowed for future consideration of who was best placed to deliver a specialist service. It was possible in the future that the local authority may consider commissioning an outside provider;
- e. the standard of care in the service was very high, the proposals were not a reflection on the quality of care given but rather a response to the sub standard buildings and facilities at Welby.

Agreed that Cabinet recommendation 25 (5) of the 13 July 2010 is accepted and the proposal is added to the Project Initiation Document on Modernisation of Adult Social care being prepared for forwarding to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

## 28. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The panel considered its work programme, it was commented by members of the panel that the Dementia Strategy had been removed from the work programme. It was reported by the Chair that several items had to be cut from the work programme in order to consider items arising from modernisation in Adult Social Care and the new Health White paper. The work programme was subject to change with the panel's approval and was likely to change once further information on the reform of the NHS became available.

Agreed that:-

- (1) a date for an update on the Dementia Strategy would be identified following consultation on the Lead Officer for the dementia strategy;
- (2) the panels revised work programme was approved.

## 29. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Agreed to recommend the panel's new terms of reference to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.