

Adult Social Care Committee
Minutes of the Meeting Held on Monday 16 June 2014
10:00am Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich

Present:

Ms S Whitaker (Chair)

Mr B Borrett

Ms J Brociek –Coulton

Mr M Chenery

Mr D Crawford

Mrs S Gurney

Mr C Jordan

Miss A Kemp

Ms E Morgan

Mr R Parkinson- Hare

Mr A Proctor

Mr B Watkins

Substitute Members Present:

Mr T Garrod for Mrs A Thomas

Mr D Collis for Ms D Gihawi

Mr E Seward for Mr T East

Mr T FitzPatrick for Mr N Shaw

Mrs M Dewsbury for Mrs M Somerville

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr T East, Ms D Gihawi, Mrs A Thomas, Mr N Shaw and Mrs M Somerville.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Mr R Parkinson-Hare declared a non-pecuniary interest in the meeting as his daughter received social care from Norfolk County Council.

3. Items of Urgent Business

3.1 There were no items of urgent business

4. Local Member Issues

4.1 The Committee received the following local member question from Miss Kemp:

“Funding for the Counselling Service delivered by the Well Being Service run at St Augustines for West Norfolk comes to an end on 30 June leaving a gap and a break in a successful new service in a district traditionally underfunded for mental health. I understand that the cost for 3 years' continuation of the service is 60k including

management and supervision of volunteers.

What alternative forms of funding might be found so as not to lose the established infrastructure and the benefits it delivers across West Norfolk while being accessible in an area of key deprivation?”

- 4.2 The Chair of the Adult Social Care Committee responded that the commissioning of psychological therapies was the responsibility of the NHS and was not strictly the responsibility of this committee. However the Director of Community Services would ask the Integrated Commissioning Service for Mental Health to provide reassurance that there would be sufficient access to psychological therapies or counselling services in West Norfolk once this service had ceased functioning.
- 4.3 The Committee received the following local member question from Mrs Gurney:
- “Recently Norfolk County Council promoted the Dementia Awareness week, and many members including myself attended a training session. Special emphasis was placed upon the value of Community Dementia cafés and the establishment of more of these facilities within the County of Norfolk. With this in mind would the committee consider asking the Director of ASS and the Head of Finance to look at whether there is the opportunity to establish a small grant fund to enable local communities to bid for financial support to kick start such projects.”
- 4.4 The Committee noted the following response from the Director of Community Services to Mrs Gurney’s question:
- “The events during Dementia Awareness week were successful in raising the profile of dementia in Norfolk and building support for Norfolk becoming the first dementia friendly county. In order to facilitate this the Acting Director of Public Health and the Director of Community Services are making a one off sum of £44,000 available for the dementia friendly communities. It is expected that 11 market towns in Norfolk will have about £4,000 to use for dementia friendly activities.”
- 4.5 As a supplementary question Mrs Gurney noted that £44,000 was a lot of money to be distributed to communities in eleven market towns however she considered that the money might also be better spent in smaller parishes.
- 4.6 In response the Director of Community Services said that the Dementia Alliance had requested funding for those communities that wanted to be Dementia Friendly. There was scope in the proposal to include the issues raised by Mrs Gurney and for smaller communities not to be excluded from receiving the funding available.
- 4.7 Having discussed the role of member questions in the Committee it was agreed that there would continue to be fifteen minutes for members to raise issues of concern. It was noted that the Director of Community Services was happy to discuss any local member issues outside the meetings if members wished.

5 **Adult Social Care Plan**

- 5.1 The annexed report (5) by the Director of Community Services was received.

5.2 The report provided the Committee with core-information to inform decision making on adult social care in Norfolk, such as the Committee's focus, overview of services, current departmental priorities, details of key plans and strategies driving the Committee's work, risks, challenges, anticipated business and overview of performance.

5.3 The Committee agreed to include the following issues onto the Adult Social Care Plan for future consideration:

- Implications of the Care Act 2014
- Rural Challenge
- Social Enterprise
- Income generation
- Carers
- Focus on challenges

5.4 It was agreed that a workshop would be held in order for members to give consideration to the issues that they wished to focus on within their forward work plan.

5.5 **RESOLVED**

That the Committee:

1. Agrees to include the issues raised in 5.3 above onto the Adult Social Care Plan
2. Notes that at the end of each financial year, the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, will provide an overview of the Committee's progress in achieving key priorities for adult social care in Norfolk. This information will assist the Policy and Resources Committee to monitor overall progress against the Council's key priorities and targets for adult social care in Norfolk.

6. **Internal and External Appointments**

6.1 The annexed report (6) by the Acting Managing Director was received.

6.2 The Head of Democratic Services agreed to circulate a full list of outside appointments to members of the Committee following the meeting.

6.3 It was agreed that members on internal and external bodies should report back to the Committee.

6.4 The Committee discussed the merits of continuing with the Homecare scrutiny working group. It was agreed that the group had undertaken some important work and there was a lot of enthusiasm from members for that work to continue. The Committee agreed to re-establish the working group to review and monitor the work that had been undertaken in six months' time.

6.5 The Committee agreed that the Chair and Mrs Gurney be appointed to the Independence Matters Enterprise Development Board.

6.6 **RESOLVED-**

That the Committee:

- Notes that the existing appointments to external and internal bodies will continue pending a review to the September Committee cycle and that Member Champion appointments would remain in force until the November review.
- Agrees that the Homecare scrutiny working group be re-established in six months' time to review and monitor the work being undertaken.
- Agrees that where there is an urgent need to make appointments to internal and outside bodies that this authority be delegated to the Acting Managing Director, following consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman (and Group Spokespersons where appropriate)

7. **Adult Safeguarding Peer Review**

7.1 The annexed report (7) by the Director of Community Services was received.

7.2 The report set out the recommendations made by the Local Government Association (LGA) of the Peer Review of Norfolk County Council's Adult Safeguarding arrangements.

7.3 In the course of the discussion the following points were made:

7.4 The Committee discussed the importance of member involvement on the Safeguarding Board and noted that Ms Corlett was currently the County Council's member representative. It was noted that other bodies represented on the Board included the Police, Voluntary Sector and the NHS.

7.5 It was suggested that the action plan outlined within the report could be considered in conjunction with the Committee plan in order to monitor improvement against the priorities. The Committee subsequently agreed that the priorities outlined in the action plan should be brought back to the September meeting of the Committee.

7.6 The Committee agreed that the Chair of the Safeguarding Board be invited to a future meeting to discuss progress made against the action plan.

7.7 It was noted that the terms of reference for the Safeguarding Member Group would also be taken to the Children's Services Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee:

- Endorses the findings of the Peer Review and agrees the action plan.
- Agrees that a report be brought to the September meeting updating members on progress against the action plan.
- Agrees that the Chair of the Safeguarding Board be invited to a future meeting to discuss progress made against the action plan.
- Requests that the Director of Community Services brings proposals for a joint Member group on Safeguarding with Children's Services to the next Adult Social Care Committee.

It was agreed to consider Item 9 on the agenda as the next item of business.

8 Care Act – Adult Social Care

8.1 The annexed report (9) by the Director of Community Services was received.

8.2 The Care Act consolidates existing legislation for adult social care in England into a single framework and introduces reforms to the way care and support will be accessed and funded in future. The Committee considered the report which outlined the actions being taken to prepare for the Care Act.

8.3 In the course of the discussion the following points were made:

8.4 The Committee noted that a local government briefing would be held in Newmarket on 10th July to update members on the Care Act. The Chair, Vice Chair and four Group Spokespersons would attend the event. The remaining two places would be allocated to the Conservative Group.

8.5 The Committee discussed the importance of members being updated on the implementation of the Care Act and agreed that there should be regular updates to the Committee.

8.6 RESOLVED

8.7 The Committee noted the actions being taken to prepare for the implementation of the Care Act and agreed that there be regular updates to the Committee.

9. Winterbourne Investigation – Actions Taken in Response

9.1 The annexed report (10) by the Director of Community Services was received.

9.2 The Committee received the report which updated members on the progress that

has been made in responding to the recommendations of the National Winterbourne View Enquiry Report into abuse in a private sector assessment and treatment facility for adults with a learning disability.

9.3 The Committee agreed that they wished to receive an update report on the progress made in responding to the report on an annual basis.

9.4 **RESOLVED**

The Committee noted the report and agreed to receive an update on progress on an annual basis.

10. **Dementia Friends Awareness Session**

The Committee attended a dementia awareness session provided by Public Health.

The meeting closed at 12.20 pm

CHAIR



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