

## **Adult Social Care Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting Held on Monday, 23 January 2017  
at 10:00am in the Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich**

### **Present:**

Mr B Borrett (Chairman)

Mrs J Brociek–Coulton

Mr J Childs

Mr A Dearnley

Mr T Garrod

Mr J Mooney

Ms E Morgan

Mr R Parkinson-Hare

Mr J Perkins

Mr W Richmond

Mr M Sands

Mr E Seward

Mr B Spratt

Mr M Storey

Mrs M Stone

Mr B Watkins

Ms S Whitaker

### **1. Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Mr D Crawford (Mr J Childs substituting) and Mrs S Gurney (Mr B Spratt substituting).

### **2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 07 November 2016**

- 2.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record subject to the following amendments:
- To amend paragraph 3.2 to read that “Mr B Spratt wished to commend services for support given to his Mother-in-Law”;
  - In paragraph 7.2, to amend “Social Services Conference” to read “Annual National Social Services Conference” and to note that ~~Mr~~ Ms Whitaker also attended the meeting and endorsed the Chairman’s comments.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 Mr Seward declared an “other interest” as he had a family member who worked for About With Friends.

### **4. Urgent Business**

- 4.1 There were no items of urgent business.

## 5. Public Question Time

5.1 Four public questions were received and circulated; see Appendix A.

5.2.1 Ms Rutland asked a supplementary question: she queried the response given to question 1 indicating there would be a £4.5m spend; she felt this implied a decision had been made related to homelessness spend and services. The Executive Director of Adult Social Care replied that the Council had not yet made a decision on the budget proposals. He clarified that the Committee would recommend proposals to the full council to make the final decision on the budget.

5.2.2 Ms Smith asked a supplementary question: she queried how Officers felt a 32% cut to crisis accommodation fulfilled the definition of crisis prevention and queried an additional £1m reduction not set out in the proposal. The Chairman replied that this would be answered during the Committee's discussions during the meeting.

5.2.3 Mr Moore asked a supplementary question: he was concerned that if housing services were cut to the extent indicated that this would have a knock on effect on mental health and suicide rates, and queried whether the Council had considered this as part of their assessment of their proposal. The Executive Director of Adult Social Care replied that as part of consultation and Equality Impact Assessment, balance between future spend on lower level issues and targeted services had been considered. Proposals related to prioritising spend to higher level need, for example targeting homelessness and people with mental health problems.

## 6. Local Member Questions / Issues

6.1 No member questions were received.

## 7. Notice of Motions

7.1.1 Mr J Mooney, *seconded by Mr B Borrett* **proposed**: "that this Committee supports the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter, which sets out the care and support that people living with MND and their carers deserve and should expect. I also recommend that full council be asked to consider supporting the above proposal."

7.1.2 Mr Mooney and the Chairman welcomed representatives from the Norwich, Waveney and Wymondham branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Briefing packs were provided to the Committee with information about MND and the Charter, and Mr Mooney noted the statement from Mrs Heal and briefing paper within the pack. Mr Mooney spoke about Sue Heal's story which had persuaded him to bring the proposal to the Committee, and read out an email received from Mrs Franklin in Caister-on-sea supporting the motion.

7.2 After debate the motion was put to a vote and was duly **CARRIED**.

## 8. Chairman's Update

8.1 There was nothing to update.

- 9. Update from Members of the Committee regarding any internal and external bodies that they sit on**
- 9.1.1 ~~Mrs~~ Ms E Morgan discussed her attendance at:
- A learning disabilities partnership board meeting in early December 2017;
  - A Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board meeting in January 2017.
- 9.1.2 Mrs Brociek-Coulton discussed her attendance at:
- A Clinical Commissioning Group meeting discussing plans over the next 6 months; a report was due to come to Adult Social Care Committee on this;
  - A Carers Council meeting;
- 9.1.3 ~~Mrs~~ Ms S Whitaker discussed her attendance at:
- A council of governors meeting for the Mental Health Trust;
  - A meeting of the Mental Health Trust Nominations Committee;
  - A meeting of Age UK Norfolk.
- 9.1.4 Mr B Watkins discussed his attendance at:
- A meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board
    - An informal meeting was held at the John Innes Conference Centre with Local Authorities and the Voluntary sector to look at the STP (Sustainability and Transformation Plan) process, also attended by Mrs M Stone;
    - Presentations were given on the 4 main workstreams: acute care, primary and community care, prevention and wellbeing and mental health, which was a dedicated workstream;
    - The Health and Wellbeing Board had concerns over the integration of health and social care, district council contribution and investment in primary care and communication, and felt a clearer vision and consistent core message was needed
- 9.1.5 Mrs M Stone discussed her attendance at:
- The Norwich and Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG meetings;
  - A visit to an Independence Matters day centre in Dereham;
  - The judging of the Norfolk Care Awards as a Member judge;
  - A Promoting Independence Programme Board meeting;
  - A Norse Liaison Board meeting;
  - A meeting of the Enterprise Development Board
  - A meeting of the Section 75 Care Board
- 9.1.6 Mr J Perkins discussed his attendance at:
- A meeting of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Trust.
- 9.1.7 Mr M Sands discussed his attendance at:
- A meeting of the Norfolk County Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub Panel where issues such as domestic abuse and County Lines were discussed; he recommended that Committee Members read the agenda.
- 9.2 The Chairman reported that achieving a common STP was challenging due to the high number of organisations involved. Mr Watkins confirmed that this was to be discussed at the

*\*these minutes were amended at the meeting of the Adult Social Care Committee of the 6 March 2017. Please view the minutes of that meeting\**

next Health and Wellbeing Board.

## 10. Executive Director's Update

- 10.1 The Executive Director of Adult Social Care reported that Catherine Underwood would focus corporately on ensuring the Council's demands from integration were articulated.
- 10.2 NHS leaders, the Managing Director and Executive Director of Adult Social care had met to take the STP plan forward strategically.
- 10.3 Work continued with colleagues in the GP sector, however it had not been possible to prevent escalation to Opel 4, formerly black alert, despite minimising numbers of delayed transfers of care. Opel stood for "operational escalation". The definition of the black alert had become uneven throughout the Country therefore had been changed to impose consistency across the Country
- 10.4 In the recent threat of flood, action was taken in Great Yarmouth and other coastal areas; luckily the storm surge was not as big as predicted. Evacuation of care-homes and other precautions were taken to ensure safety of residents
- 10.5 Support arrangements and a specialist team were in place to support incoming Syrian refugees; the Executive Director for Adult Social Care **agreed** to find out the dates of the arrival of the second group of Syrian refugees.

## 11. Appointment of Member Representative to the Governor's Council of James Paget University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

- 11.1.1 The Committee received the report asking them to consider a Member representative for the Governor's Council of James Paget University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.
- 11.1.2 The Trust had requested a representative who could commit long term therefore ~~M/s~~ Ms Whitaker **proposed** that this item was deferred until after the elections in May 2017.
- 11.2.1 Mrs Brociek-Coulton **agreed** to remain on the Trust until May 2017 however could not commit to attending every meeting.
- 11.2.2 It was **agreed** that for meetings she was unable to attend, Mrs Brociek-Coulton could arrange for Norfolk County Council members attending as representatives of their constituent areas to provide written feedback for her to bring to the Committee.
- 11.2.3 The Committee **AGREED** that Julie Brociek-Coulton remain as Member representative of the Governor's Council of James Paget University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust until May 2017 and **AGREED** to defer appointment of a replacement representative until the next round of appointments after the elections in May 2017.

## 12. Strategic and Financial planning 2017-18 to 2019-20 and revenue budget 2017-18.

- 12.1.1 The Committee received the report outlining proposals to inform the Council's decisions on council tax and contribute towards setting a legal budget for 2017-18.

*\*these minutes were amended at the meeting of the Adult Social Care Committee of the 6 March 2017. Please view the minutes of that meeting\**

- 12.1.2 The Executive Director of Adult Social Services introduced the report as a reflection of national debate regarding social care and NHS funding. The proposals in the report included £25.872m to support the Adult Social Care budget, with an overall strategy focussed on enabling people to remain independent for as long as possible, but recognising the costs of provision of service and considering prioritising eligible social care need for those with substantial need, over support for the wider population.
- 12.2.1 During discussion the following points were raised:
- 12.2.2 Concerns were raised over the proposed changes to advice and advocacy services, that if generic advice services were provided, people may not receive the right support at the right time and the impact proposed changes may have had on other areas such as homelessness, mental health and admissions to A&E.
- 12.2.3 It was clarified that funding was received directly from the NHS for pursuing NHS complaints advocacy, as indicated on page 116 of the report.
- 12.2.4 Discussion was held over concerns that proposed cuts to “Building Resilient Lives” may increase expenditure long term, and the possible impact this may have had on young people entering adult social care.
- 12.2.5 A suggestion was raised that supplied equipment could be investigated as an avenue for savings through capitalisation; the Finance Business Partner for Adult Social Services clarified that equipment was supplied through a contracted service, therefore Norfolk County Council did not own the assets in order to capitalise them.
- 12.2.6 The Finance Business Partner for Adult Social Services clarified that the spend on day care services through the purchase of care budget was ~ £19m and the Independence Matters contract was ~£13.2m, of which a proportion was for day care services. Proposed savings to day care services would involve reviewing contracts and new ways to offer day services in the community.
- 12.2.7 The Executive Director of Adult Social Care clarified that work on changes to day care services would take up to 2 years through the Promoting Independence Pathway. The shape of savings shown in the report reflected the time it would take to develop savings.
- 12.2.8 In relation to the proposal for building resilient lives, meetings had been held with District Councils and providers, and work was underway with stakeholders to co-produce services.
- 12.2.9 It was suggested that Norse services could be reviewed to look for further budget savings.
- 12.2.10 The Finance Business Partner for Adult Social Services clarified that a recurrent £4.5m investment was proposed to support “building resilient lives”, which was included within the consultation. As previously reported to members, the total reduction in spending included £1m due to the reduction in funding allocated to the Council through the Better Care Fund (BCF) in 2016/17, reflecting a total reduction of £5.5m. The Executive Director for Adult Social Care clarified that savings reported in-year due to changes to BCF had been reflected in the 17-18 budget.
- 12.2.11 Discussion was held on the adjustment to the charging policy regarding the Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) disregard. As part of the financial assessment of service users of non-residential adult social care services, the Council automatically applied a disregard

of £15 per week to allow for DRE for all service users, whether or not they required or incurred those costs. It was estimated that people in receipt of the disregard spent between £5 and £7 per week on additional DRE. It was proposed to reduce the standard disregard to £7.50 and, as now, individuals with higher DRE could evidence additional DRE that should be taken into account.

- 12.2.12 This consultation would commence should the Committee agree the proposals. The proposals had arisen due to the need for the Council to propose further savings following the autumn statement, therefore it had not been possible to include in the autumn budget consultation. The consultation timetable would allow time for review of responses and submission of a report for the 20 February 2017 Council meeting.
- 12.2.13 Regarding the proposal for “building resilient lives”, the Executive Director of Adult Social Care clarified that the consultation and agreement between partners on what should be prioritised going forward were distinct activities. As the proposed expenditure of £4.5m would be targeted at those at highest risk with an eligible social care need, he did not expect to see an increase in financial risk to the service.
- 12.2.14 The Acting Director of Integrated Commissioning clarified that sheltered housing currently supported around 6000 people in Norfolk, of whom 4300 were supported by NCC. The proposals in the report would leave 27 separate accommodation bases, with a £2m continued spend on housing and £1.2m on housing for young people aged 16-24.
- 12.2.15 The Executive Director of Adult Social Care reported that a large amount of the £25.872m investment would cover the cost of care, rather than increasing the spread of care. The investment would address demographic growth, cost of care pressures, increase to the national living wage and existing overspend; the overspend would be met partly through the use of the one-off Adult Social Care support grant, which would impact in next year’s budget 2018/19.
- 12.2.16 It was clarified that from April to June 2016, 3031 people received floating support. Discussion was held over the potential impact of reducing these services.
- 12.2.17 Over 4000 people were receiving warden support; concerns were raised that the proposed cuts may cause people to move into residential care. The Executive Director of Adult Social Care recognised the value of the services, however, that Promoting Independence involved connecting people with their community, family, and personal skills to enable them to be independent for as long as possible; it was important to work alongside district council stakeholders and GPs to ensure the right level of support was in place for people when they needed it.
- 12.2.18 Mr J Childs wished to raise a proposal to charge peppercorn rents for empty Council buildings to support voluntary services to expand and extend their services. The Chairman felt this was an important proposal, however, it was not in the remit of the Adult Social Care Committee. The Executive Director of Adult Social Care agreed to take this proposal to the County Leadership Team to be directed to the correct Committee.
- 12.2.19 The Executive Director of Adult Social Services confirmed that through work with colleagues from Children’s Services on a commissioning level it was felt that the proposed changes would not impact on the number of looked after children.
- 12.2.20 The Acting Director of Integrated Commissioning reported that the role and cost of

wardens varied, ranging from £2.50 / £3 per week for less intensive schemes, such as a weekly phone-call, to £8 per week for more intensive schemes. Discussions would be ongoing with district councils and housing providers to plan the reductions.

- 12.3.1 ~~Mrs~~ Ms S Whitaker felt discussions still needed to be held on how to achieve the proposed savings and that a clear plan should be in place first. Therefore she **PROPOSED**:
- to defer the savings for “Building Resilient Lives” with the proviso that ongoing discussions were held with organisations and partners so that detailed proposals could be brought to Committee with next year’s budget (2018/19), and to find the £2.1m savings elsewhere in the budget.
- 12.3.2 Mr B Watkins seconded this proposal.
- 12.3.3 The Chairman asked if ~~Mrs~~ Ms Whitaker had an alternative savings proposal for the £2.1m of savings. ~~Mrs~~ Ms Whitaker said she did not and the Chairman replied that without an alternative savings proposal he could not support her proposal because it may put the budget at risk.
- 12.4.1 The Chairman moved to a vote on ~~Mrs~~ Ms Whitaker’s proposal:
- 12.4.2 With 8 votes for, 8 votes against and 1 abstention, the Chairman used his casting vote to **REJECT** the proposal.
- 12.5.1 With 9 votes for and 8 against:
- a) The Committee **AGREED** the Committee’s specific budget proposals for 2017-18 to 2019-20, including the findings of public consultation set out in Appendices 2 to 7 in respect of:
    - i. The budget proposals set out in Appendix 1;
    - ii. The new and additional savings proposals to contribute to the supplementary target of £4.000m for the Council as identified to Policy and Resources Committee in November 2016;
    - iii. The scope for a general Council Tax increase of up to 1.99%, within the Council Tax referendum limit of 2% for 2017-18, noting that the Council’s budget planning was based on an increase of 1.8% reflecting the fact that there was no Council Tax Freeze Grant being offered, and that central government’s assumption was that Councils would increase Council Tax by CPI every year. The Council also proposes to raise the Adult Social Care Precept by 3% of Council Tax as recommended by the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services. Bringing forward increased in the Social Care Precept would mean that the 2% increase planned for 2019-20 would not occur.
    - iv. The scope for raising the Adult Social Care Council Tax precept by the maximum amount available (3%) in 2017-18 and in the subsequent year of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, 2018-19, but with no increase in 2019-20, as recommended by the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services
    - v. The use of new one-off Adult Social Care Support Grant totalling £4.197m for Norfolk
- 12.5.2 With 9 votes for, 7 against and 1 abstention:
- b) The Committee **CONSIDERED** the findings of equality and rural assessments, attached at Appendix 8 to this report, and in doing so, **NOTED** the Council’s duty under the Equality Act 2010 to had due regard to the need to:
    - i. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that was prohibited by or under the Act

- ii. Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who did not share it
- iii. Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who did not share it

12.5.3 With 8 votes for, 0 against and 9 abstentions:

c) The Committee **AGREED** any mitigating actions proposed in the equality and rural impact assessments.

12.5.4 With 9 votes for, 8 against and 0 abstentions:

d) The Committee **AGREED** and **RECOMMENDED** the draft Adult Social Care Committee Revenue Budget as set out in Appendix 1 for consideration by Policy and Resources Committee on 6 February 2017, to enable Policy and Resources Committee to recommend a sound, whole-Council budget to Full Council on 20 February 2017 including all of the savings for 2017-18 to 2019-20 as set out;

12.5.5 With 8 votes for, 0 against and 9 abstentions:

e) The Committee **AGREED** and **RECOMMENDED** the Capital Programmes and schemes relevant to this Committee as set out in Appendix 9 to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration on 6 February 2017, to enable Policy and Resources Committee.

12.5.6 The Recommendations were duly **AGREED**.

The Committee took a break from 11:53am until 12:02pm

### **13. Adult Social Care Finance Monitoring Report Period 8 (November) 2016-17**

13.1 The Committee received the report giving financial monitoring information, based on information to the end of November 2016 and an analysis of variations from the budget and the actions being taken by the service to reduce the overspend.

13.2.1 During discussion the following points were raised:

13.2.2 The Finance Business Partner for Adult Social Services clarified that the Norse Joint Liaison Board would identify actions to reduce the contract value with Norse Care working within the Promoting Independence strategy; updates would be brought to the Committee.

13.2.3 It was clarified that the increased overspend in the older people's budget had been looked at in detail with locality teams; a number of different factors involved had been identified and a strategy was in place to address the overspend.

13.2.4 The Finance Business Partner for Adult Social Services confirmed that over half of the increase seen in relation to spending on older people was related to cost of care and National Living Wage implementation.

13.2.5 It was reported that maintenance of social care funding from NHS covered aspects of reablement and there would be no funding from Health towards 'Swifts'; it was proposed that NCC would continue to pick up this cost in 2017/18 while looking into ways to increase efficiency of the service. It was **agreed** that an update on the work of the 'Swifts' and 'Nightowls' and impact of their work would be brought to the Committee.



- 13.2.6 A discussion was held over reablement and enabling people to stay in their own home if possible. There were currently many models in place which may conflict with each other; a **report** would be brought to the Committee on the approach to reablement and prevention.
- 13.2.7 An overspend of ~£10m in the learning disabilities budget was noted; the Executive Director for Adult Social Care reported a strategy and plan would be in place to address this.
- 13.2.8 The delayed discharge at the James Paget Hospital in Lowestoft of 2.5 years was noted, and highlighted as an opportunity for lessons to be learned.
- 13.3 The Committee **NOTED**:
- a) The forecast outturn position at Period 8 for the 2016-17 Revenue Budget of an overspend of £11.982m;
  - b) The planned actions being taken by the service to reduce the overspend
  - c) The planned use of reserves and to propose to Policy and Resources Committee that County Council approve the use of additional reserves of £0.948m in 2016-17 as set out in Section 2.11, which would reduce the overspend to £11.034m;
  - d) The forecast outturn position at Period 8 for the 2016-17 Capital Programme;

#### **14. Fee levels for adult social care providers 2017/18.**

- 14.1 The Committee received the report providing background on the Care Act and purchase of adult social care services by Norfolk County Council, and setting out a recommended approach for setting and maintaining appropriate fee levels for 2017/18.
- 14.2.1 It was queried whether increasing the charges would help sustainability of the market. The Acting Director of Integrated Commissioning for Adult Social Services reported that the proposed fee levels were based on analysis of the cost of providing residential and home based care for over 65s, therefore would ensure providers were as well supported as possible. Analysis carried out with home support providers on spot contracts indicated their costs were higher than the National UK Home Care Association indicated.
- 14.2.2 The Finance Business Partner for Adult Social Services clarified that the £16.60 per hour paid to providers at that time included carer's wages, travel, overheads and other business costs.
- 14.2.3 The Finance Business Partner for Adult Social Services **agreed** to clarify and circulate figures to Committee regarding the recent trend in number and proportion of self-funders.
- 14.3.1 ~~Mr~~ Ms Whitaker proposed that the Committee accept the recommendations, which was duly **AGREED**.
- 14.3.2 The Committee **AGREED** the approach to fee uplifts for the 2017/18 financial year as set out below:
- a) In respect of contracts where an inflation index or indices were referenced an uplift was implemented to match any changes in the relevant index or indices;
  - b) In respect of contracts where there was a fixed price for the duration of the contract, no additional uplift in contract prices takes place
  - c) In other contracts, where the Council had discretion in relation to inflationary uplifts, that uplifts were considered in line with those set out in this report;
  - d) In the case of residential and nursing care any final uplift including other adjustments

was subject to formal consultation with implementation being through the use of Chief Officer delegated powers following that process.

## 15. Risk Management

- 15.1.1 The Committee received the report outlining the review to the format of the Adults Risk Register, update to the register since the last update in October 2016, and a new national risk which had been added.
- 15.2.1 The new national risk “rm487” would be added to the risk register. The Business and Development Manager for Adult Social Services clarified that this risk related to adult social services not providing adequate safeguarding controls which would be mitigated through actions including providing regular safeguarding updates to Adult Social Care Committee and ensuring adequate multi agency safeguarding procedures were in place.
- 15.2.2 The Business and Development Manager recommended that Risk 14149 (Impact of the Care Act) was removed from the risk register; the Executive Director of Adult Social Services reported that the Government intended to implement the second part of the Care Act, with guidance expected this year, 2017. ~~Mrs~~ Ms S Whitaker was concerned about the risk related to the Care Act being removed from the risk register.
- 15.3 After discussion Mrs Whitaker’s suggestion that risk 14149 was not removed from the risk register was put to a vote and duly **AGREED**.
- 15.4 The Risk rm13931 related to risks in hospital admissions; the integration programme was at phase 2 and to mitigate the risks involved, new approaches were being developed to reduce delays and prevent admissions.
- 15.5 The Committee:
- a) **NOTED** the new format of the combined risk register;
  - b) **NOTED** the merging of risks RM14079 and RM020a and RM0207 and RM020b;
  - c) **NOTED** the progress updates on the risks as detailed at 2.4.1;
  - d) **AGREED** to the removal of risk RM14259;
  - e) **NOTED** the new risk RM4287.

## 16. Safeguarding Children and Adults with care and support needs: Summary of roles and responsibilities within the Council.

- 16.1.1 The Committee received the report outlining the roles and responsibilities for safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs.
- 16.2.1 As the Member responsible for safeguarding for Adult Social Services, ~~Mrs~~ Ms Morgan **suggested** that support was given in future for the Member taking on this role. The Chairman agreed and felt the Member should be given a briefing on their remit.
- 16.2.2 Concern was raised regarding paragraph 5.7, related to increasing figures of multi-agencies. The Chairman **agreed** to take this to Children’s Services.
- 16.2.3 At the April 2017 meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board, a range of issues related to health and equality would be discussed including safeguarding.

*\*these minutes were amended at the meeting of the Adult Social Care Committee of the 6 March 2017. Please view the minutes of that meeting\**

- 16.2.4 It was highlighted that new councillors in May 2017, and Members on other committees than Childrens Services Committee and Adult Social Services Committee may be less aware of their responsibilities as councillors with respect to safeguarding, and **suggested** that Resources worked with Members to raise awareness and understanding of their responsibilities; the Executive Director of Adult Social Care suggested this could be incorporated into the Members' induction.
- 16.2.5 Attendance at safeguarding board meetings was queried, regarding who organised them and periodic briefings being brought to the Committee. ~~Mrs~~ Ms Morgan agreed to take this up with the Adult Safeguarding Lead Manager.
- 16.3 The Committee:
- **ACKNOWLEDGED** and **SUPPORTED** the roles and responsibilities set out in this report;
  - **APPROVED** the Council Corporate Safeguarding Policy and statement for the public around the Council's commitment to safeguarding.

## 17. Transport Update

- 17.1.1 The Committee received the report providing an update regarding the work being carried out to deliver savings from Adult Social Services transport, including the review.
- 17.2.1 Concerns were raised over the length of time being taken to identify savings in this area, and that the report was not as in depth as expected.
- 17.2.2 The Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention for Adult Social Services clarified that Norse Care provided a lot of transport services however approximately 50% was provided by other transport providers.
- 17.2.3 It was clarified that the transport costs had not doubled in a year, however the savings had not been met which was why a significant overspend was indicated compared to the budget.
- 17.2.4 The Chairman was concerned that the proposal to identify ways to deliver transport savings had originally been reported as part of a budget proposal at least 2 years before; if savings could not in fact be met he requested that this be reported to the Committee. The Executive Director of Adult Social Care felt that with the reductions in the cost of care, the cost of transport should also decrease in line with this.
- 17.2.5 The Chairman proposed that an item regarding this was brought to each Adult Social Services Committee meeting until a conclusion was reached
- 17.2.6 Discussion was held on the progress of refurbishment of a building in Thetford for day service provision; the Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention clarified that an update on this was included at paragraph 5.1.1 of the report.

17.3.1 The Committee:

- **DID NOT AGREE** that the department look at the current policies of other local authorities and brings to Adult Social Care Committee a proposed transport policy that meets the minimum legal requirements regarding transport and could help social care staff work with service users to reduce the funding required for transport;

17.3.2 but instead:

- **AGREED** that a transport update was brought to each Adult Social Services Committee meeting until a conclusion was reached.

The meeting finished at 13:03 PM

**CHAIR**



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## **PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2017**

### **1a. Question Alison Thorpe, Orwell Housing.**

“In light of the extensive feedback about the reduction in funding to Housing Related Support Services, does the council accept the detrimental impact this will cause our most vulnerable citizens, and therefore is it acceptable to proceed with these reductions?”

### **1b. Response from Chairman**

The feedback we have had as a result of the consultation and engagement has helped shape where we will propose to spend the £4.5 million of housing related support going forward. We have listened, and the proposals for changing how that money is now spent going forward continues to support the most vulnerable groups - crisis housing for young people and those who are homeless, an outreach service for older people and those at risk of homelessness.

We would, of course, prefer not to have to make any reductions, but the demands and pressure on adults social services mean we have to make changes. With a reduced amount of funding available, our considered view is that a move away from generic, and broader support, towards targeted interventions will protect the most vulnerable and make the biggest difference to quality of life.

### **2a. Question from Kayleigh Rutland, Home Group**

The Gunning Principles (1985) 84 LGR 168 at 169, (i) state consultation must take place when a proposal is still at formative stage and the product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account. The point of Gunning principle (i) is that the decision-maker cannot consult on a decision that it has already made. Otherwise, the consultation unfair. Has NCC has breached the Gunning Principles by agreeing to the funding cut on 10th October 2016 before the consultation commenced?

### **2b. Response from Chairman**

No we have not breached the Gunning principles. In October, adult social services committee proposed the change but was clear we were going out to consult – no final decisions has been made by members. Adult Social Care will take account of the consultation findings, amongst other things, in discussions at today’s meeting (Monday January 23rd) whilst deciding what recommendations they will make. Ultimately the final decisions is taken by all members at Full Council on 20 February. At this stage members could reject the proposal if they so wished.

**3a. Question from Darryl Smith, Operations Manager, YMCA**

Ref: ASC016/19

The Equality Assessment (p123) states that 30% of those housed in 16-24 accommodation are 16/17s, many of whom will be Care Leavers or enabled to stay out of the care system through the support afforded by the funding under threat.

In the context of a 5% increase in LAC numbers in the last 4 months, what does the Committee expect to be the increased cost of additional Care placements for 16/17s as a result of the funding cuts and is this higher than the value of the cuts proposed today?

**3b. Response from Chairman**

We are clear that there won't be an increase in care placement for 16/17 year olds because we are prioritising and protecting crisis accommodation for young people and homeless people and we are working closely with children's services to ensure that they are not impacted.

**4a. Question from Jonathan Moore, Chair of Trustees Equal Lives**

With regard to homelessness have the Council considered the effect of cutting services on the people who have become homeless as a result of substance misuse and mental health issues?'

**4b. Response from Chairman**

We have considered the effect on people with mental health and substance misuse problems. NCC will continue to prioritise investment in accommodation services for homeless people. NCC is also proposing to invest an outreach service that would include this client group.