

## **Adult Social Care Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting Held on Monday, 04 March 2019  
at 10:00am in the Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich**

**Present:**

Mr B Borrett (Chairman)

Mrs P Carpenter

Miss K Clipsham

Mr E Connolly

Mr S Dark

Mr J Fisher

Mrs S Gurney (Vice-Chair)

Mr D Harrison

Mrs B Jones

Mr G Peck

Mr M Sands

Mr T Smith

Mr B Watkins

**1. Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Mr H Thirtle (Mr J Fisher substituting) and Mrs S Young (Mr S Dark substituting)

**2. Minutes**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman

**3. Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 Mr T Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest as he had a grandparent in receipt of care from Norfolk County Council

**4. Urgent Business**

- 4.1 There were no items of urgent business discussed.

**5. Public Question Time**

- 5.1 No public questions were received.

**6. Local Member Questions / Issues**

- 6.1 No local member questions were received.

**7. Executive Director's Update**

- 7.1 The Executive Director of Adult Social Services updated Members on:
- The Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP): Officers were working with the 20 primary care networks in Norfolk and Waveney to implement integrated social care and occupational therapy with GPs in partnership with Public Health; a paper would be taken to Policy and Resources Committee in March 2019 and a link to the report

would be sent to Committee Members once published

- The NHS plan, which had implications for integrated work between health and social care; it included new challenges and proposals including the 2-hour urgent and 2-day reablement response proposals, work on population health management and enhancing care in care homes which would work well alongside the Adult Social Care integrated approach
- The green paper for Adult Social Care which was still being awaited; NHS providers 'Health for Care' were launching a campaign for more funding for social care
- The Director of Commissioning role, which was now being advertised
- Preparations to mitigate risks posed by Brexit; there was an Officer responsible for coordinating business risks which may arise
- The Norfolk Care awards; the Executive Director thanked the carers who took part and Norfolk County Council who had funded a bursary for the winning care team
- His attendance at ADAS meetings in preparation to take up the Vice President Role
- The National Social Care Recruitment Campaign which was launched in Norfolk; this raised 10,000 vacancies in East Anglia, 1500 of which were in Norfolk
- This being the last meeting of Adult Social Care Committee, the Executive Director thanked Members for making decisions and holding plans to account
- In response to a query, the Executive Director reported that since the meeting in January 2019, Officers had continued to co-produce the Autism Strategy with the Autistic Community and Commissioners; they planned for the Strategy to be signed off with the Autistic Community and All-Age Partnership Board and agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board in time to be released for Autism Week in April 2019
- The issue of adults waiting up to 4 years for an autism diagnosis had been taken forward to the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee; the Executive Director reported that the All Age Partnership Board had also considered this issue and noted there was an issue in defining diagnosis as this took place over a period of time

## **8. Chairman's Update**

### **8.1 The Chairman:**

- Invited Members to view the displays after the Meeting which were set up to show projects invested in by the Committee which were key to Adult Social Care strategies
- Discussed the National Care Recruitment Campaign, launched in Norfolk, focussed on careers in care and educating employers on what carers wanted from their job
- Had visited an Association of Clinical Commissioning Groups and Local Government Association conference in London focussed on better working between Local Government and the NHS. The NHS was interested in changing its focus towards prevention; this could be promoted through the STP by having the Head of Public Health and the Executive Director of Adult Social Care on the Board
- Discussed the possible Green Paper from the NHS on Health and Social Care
- The Chairman was keen to take the message about prevention from Adult Social Care Committee forward with the Health and Wellbeing Board and other partners if the Committee was in support with it

## **9. Update from Members of the Committee regarding any internal and external bodies that they sit on**

### **9.1 Members of the Committee gave the following updates:**

- The Vice Chair had:
  - Attended the national social care recruitment launch event
  - Attended the Norfolk Care Awards evening with Councillors and Officers
  - Presented the team award at the Norfolk Care Awards which came with a bursary

- from Norfolk County Council for the winning team, Chiswick House, to purchase
  - training or information for their care home
  - Attended the Harold Bodmer awards which were won by a privately-run care home in Sheringham
  - Visited Netherwood green which had been converted to assisted living flats
  - Met with Matt Hancock, the Minister for Health and Social Care
- Mr G Peck gave feedback from his role as Member representative on the Norfolk safeguarding adults board:
  - A documentary had been shown on Channel 5 on 25 February 2019 about domestic abuse which included the experiences of 2 victims from Norfolk
  - A video campaign consisting of 6 videos had been launched by Norfolk called “things need to change”; the videos covered a range of abuse behaviours including coercive control and financial control. Information and the videos could be found at the following link: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/news/2019/02/powerful-new-domestic-abuse-films-released-in-norfolk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/news/2019/02/powerful-new-domestic-abuse-films-released-in-norfolk)
  - The Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board were planning 3 seminars on Domestic Abuse and coercive control with Luke and Ryan Hart who would tell their story of growing up in a non-physically abusive household; the seminars would be held in Norwich in the afternoon of the 15 April 2019, Kings Lynn on the morning of the 17 May 2019, and Great Yarmouth in the morning and afternoon of the 21 May 2019
  - Booking information would be circulated to Members by Mr Peck
- Mrs P Carpenter had attended her first meeting of the James Paget Hospital Trust
- Mr S Dark had attended a young carers’ event. Children’s Services were looking at how to support the young carers; as this would have an impact on the adults being cared for by the young carers, he would feed information in to the Chairman from this piece of work
- Mr T Smith had attended Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust meetings where results of the NHS staff survey were discussed; some progress had been made but further work was needed. The trust was working with East London Trust to learn from good practice
- Mrs B Jones, the Member Champion for physical disability and sensory impairment:
  - Had attended a meeting of the Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind Trust, and had attended safeguarding training with the organisation
  - Had attended meetings of the making it real group
  - As local member for Lakenham was pleased about the development of provision at Netherwood Green
- Mr M Sands had attended the Norfolk care awards which he felt were a good way to give recognition of a career in care and to raise the profile of care and carers
- A written report from Cllr Brociek-Coulton was circulated see appendix A

## **10. Adult Social Care Finance Monitoring Report Period 10 (January) 2018-19**

- 10.1 The Committee received the report detailing financial monitoring information based on information to the end of January 2019, variations from the budget, progress against planned savings and a summary of the use of the improved better care fund.
- 10.2 The following points were discussed and noted
- The Finance Business Partner (Adult Social Services) highlighted that delivery of savings in section D of the Executive Summary should read £22.769m
  - The lack of overspend in the budget was queried; the Executive Director of Adult Social Services clarified that most work to balance the budget came from investment in reablement and prevention initiatives, leading to less spend on care packages

- Concern was raised about the decreased use of reserves and that this could have been used to support vulnerable people in Norfolk; the Chairman pointed out that use of reserves was not a long-term funding solution for the Committee, and highlighted the increased investment in prevention services
- Eligibility for services remained the same despite changes to budget as this was a national eligibility
- The Finance Business Partner (Adult Social Services) reported that since the budget was set, changes to reported variance in assumptions around sleep-in legislation, approved better care fund and announcement of the winter fund had supported increase in demand against the budget
- The Finance Business Partner (Adult Social Services) clarified that income towards care costs had increased partly due to work with NHS partners to look at shared care arrangements for people with complex needs, increasing income from the NHS
- The Finance Business Partner (Adult Social Services) confirmed hired transport costs were reviewed regularly through reports, work with colleagues in Community and Environmental Services, review of routes to maximise efficiency and at service users' annual reviews
- The Finance Business Partner (Adult Social Services) confirmed that through ongoing conversations with the NHS a resolution on outstanding debts was close and some of the funds had been returned
- A member raised concerns about people turning down care packages which they could not afford following changes to minimum income guarantee; the Executive Director of Adult Social Services requested that service users unable to have their needs met due to reduction in minimum income guarantee contact Adult Social Care
- The department was not on track to meet the original target for purchase of care giving a variation in savings despite a reduction in service users achieved through prevention work
- Evidence was being gathered to look at outcomes for people who had gone through reablement and home based reablement services
- The Executive Director of Adult Social Services reported on work to develop the Preparing for Adult Life service; this was a joint approach with Children's Services as part of their Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) strategy to support young people in care from the ages of 14 and their families and prepare them for independent life after transition to adult social care; care leavers would be included in discussions
- A Member asked how many people had taken the Council to the Ombudsman regarding financial assessments and the cost to the Council; the Executive Director of Adult Social Services **agreed** to respond in writing after the meeting
- A breakdown of expenditure of improved Better Care Funding (iBCF) was requested; the Executive Director of Adult Social Services clarified that funding could only be spent in the iBCF plan areas agreed by Committee in October 2018 which had been agreed with the NHS. There may be variations from the reported spend when the speed of projects had been altered to achieve the intended outcomes more quickly
- Monthly monitoring of the iBCF would be circulated to members after the meeting; the Chairman signposted members to view Health and Wellbeing Board minutes and reports; monitoring of iBCF was regularly reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board

10.3 With 8 votes for and 5 against, the Committee **AGREED**:

- a) The forecast outturn position at Period 10 for the 2018-19 Revenue Budget of a balance position
- b) The planned use of reserves totalling £1.688m, which is below the original level agreed

## 11. Risk Management

- 11.1 The Committee discussed the report providing the latest on the existing corporate and departmental risks reported by exception for Adult Social Services.
- 11.2 The following points were discussed and noted
- The Head of Business and Technology (Adult Social Services) reported that all risks would be reviewed prior to the 2019-20 financial year
  - Members queried the risk around Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC); following significant work to address this the James Paget now had excellent DToC results however challenges remained at the other two acute hospitals in Norfolk
  - DToC figures provided by the NHS were different to those understood by the council
  - The replacement for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (DoLS), the Mental Capacity Reform Bill, was going through the House of Lords and was intended to reduce bureaucracy; the Assistant Director of Integrated Operations (Mental Health and Learning Disabilities) reported that through iBCF investment in Trusted Best Interest Assessors, high priority cases on the waiting list had reduced from 222 in 2016 to 157
  - The Executive Director of Adult Social Services clarified that the demand management approach was developed and adapted to meet demands of national policy and stay ahead of Government policy; robust plans were needed to mitigate risks at the end of 2019-20 related to loss of Government funding
  - A Member queried the leadership to ensure promoting independence was delivered in full; the Chairman noted this was the responsibility of the whole Committee
  - A Member felt there was not adequate ability to have full debate on items at Committee meetings; the Chairman said he gave Members full opportunity to speak on items and noted that he had always invited all Members to speak; he invited the Member to bring forward proposals for consideration if she had any
  - The Chairman had spoken with Government and written to Ministers; he **agreed** to circulate these letters to Members of the Committee
  - The Assistant Director of Integrated Operations (Mental Health and Learning Disabilities) clarified that the Cheshire West Ruling in 2014 increased the number of assessments which needed to be carried out for all Councils
- 11.3 With 8 votes for and 5 against, the Committee:
- a) **NOTED** the current risks reported by exception in Appendix A
  - b) **CONSIDERED** that no further action is required

## 12. Prevention

- 12.1.1 The Committee considered the report outlining Adult Social Services' approach and contribution to Early Help and Prevention
- 12.1.2 The Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention (Adult Social Services) introduced the report to Members:
- Early Help and Prevention was a key risk for 2020 if loss of funding from Government was not resolved
  - The James Paget Hospital had carried out a review which showed an increase in people going through home based reablement was leading to a decrease in people needing long term care packages
- 12.2 The following points were discussed and noted
- The Officer clarified that Optimising Health Care was about ensuring the right health care was available at the right time; "Right Care" was an initiative to look at health outcomes in an area and implement health initiatives to adjust them to optimum levels

- Evaluation of social prescribing was queried; the Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention (Adult Social Services) reported that a common evaluation framework was in place to gather data which would be analysed to identify the outcomes of social prescribing
- Anecdotal evidence was positive, and evidence from elsewhere in the country showed that social prescribing lead to reductions in GP visits
- Assurance was requested that there was equity in social prescribing across the County; it was clarified that County Council and Public Health funding was allocated equitably across the County however social prescribing models were different in different areas as existing initiatives were built on; evaluation of social prescribing would take this into account and consistency would be provided through the common assessment framework
- Concerns were raised that some people would not be able to access socially prescribed services, and about the impact of closure of Sure Start Centres; Mr S Dark clarified that the new Children and Families service would provide support for children and families in a different way and more widely across the County; prevention was an approach being taken nationally in Adults' and Children's services as it was seen to give best outcomes for the service user
- The Assistant Director of Early Help and Prevention (Adult Social Services) confirmed that the Early Help and Prevention service worked with faith groups
- A discussion was held about targeting less obvious groups when targeting loneliness and isolation; the Assistant Director of Early Help and Prevention (Adult Social Services) discussed how community assets and widely promoting the message were key; the "pub is the hub" scheme was available to make pubs in rural areas an accessible community facility
- Concern was raised about the speed at which the preventative approach would be implemented; the Executive Director of Adult Social Services reported that there was a Senior Officer devoted to prevention; a risk would arise if issues related to loss of funding in 2020 from Government were not addressed
- Mr S Dark clarified in response to comments that the 50% cut in the Children's Services budget related to the Childrens Centre budget line only; the Children's Services Budget was set at £210m for 2019-20, an increase from £180m in 2018-19; £9m had been invested in prevention work and £120m in schools for children with send and specialist resource bases
- Work to tackle loneliness among veterans was discussed; through the Armed Forces Covenant Officers were linking up with service providers to target work with veterans
- Mr M Sands, seconded by the Chairman, **proposed** that "the Committee, through local MPs, send a strongly worded letter to Government discussing that the committee very strongly feels that the green paper for future funding of adult social care should be brought forward". The Committee **AGREED** the proposal unanimously

- 12.3 With 8 votes for, 3 against and 2 abstentions, the Committee
- a) **ENDORSED** Adult Social Services approach to Early Help and Prevention
  - b) **AGREED** that they did not want further detail or reports on any specific aspect of Early Help and Prevention included in the report or specific prevention approaches

### 13. Annual review of progress against priorities

- 13.1 The Committee considered the report outlining progress against the priorities for Promoting Independence and priorities for the coming year 2019/20
- 13.2 The following points were discussed and noted

- The Vice Chair thanked the Assistant Director of Strategy & Transformation for her support
- A Member of the Committee felt there was not a full enough assessment of data on some priorities against which to review progress
- Concern about the scale and pace of some of the cuts to the budget was raised by a Member; the Chairman did not feel there was an issue in this area, and referred to the investment in prevention and increased joint working with the NHS
- Concern was raised that risks had been increasing over the past 2 years; the Chairman replied that this reflected increased risks for central Government and the lack of clear message from Westminster about Adult Social Care

13.3 With 8 votes for and 5 against, the Committee  
 a) **DISCUSSED** and **NOTED** progress against the 2018/19 priorities  
 b) **AGREED** the priorities for Adult Social Care for 2019/20

13.3 The Chairman thanked Members of the Committee for the time and care put into serving on the Committee; he had found it a privilege to work with the Committee over the years and thanked Officers and the Executive Director who he had been proud to work with.

The meeting finished at 12:00

**Mr Bill Borrett, Chairman,  
 Adult Social Care Committee**

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**Cllr Brociek-Coulton – Carers Champion to the Adult Social Services.**

At the Making it Real meeting we had a visit from the living well team and they are asking working with the Making it real board to try and get the right way to get in touch with people with disabilities A good example of how to try and help people with disabilities was what if a disabled people cannot talk or type on a computer how will they engage. This is all based on the three conversations, one of the making it real board did express that the phone call they had had was exceptional with lots of good informative questions being asked. The group are pushing for more easy read papers to be put in for the group, It is amazing having easy read minutes an agenda and is so much easier for people who are struggling to read minutes and agendas.

Also, on the Making it real board we have lent out some Echo Dots I managed to get one for one of our residents in my ward and they were so happy to trial it.

Was good to see the Carers Charter put through in full council, lots of good work has been going towards this. Will be good for it to be pushed forward and not left to just gain dust. Hopefully this will come back to the group in six months' time to see what has been achieved.

Julie Brociek-Coulton  
Carers Champion for Norfolk County Council.