

Adult Social Care Committee

**Minutes of the Meeting Held on Monday 22 September 2014
10:00am Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich**

Present:

Ms S Whitaker (Chair)

Mr R Bearman

Mr B Borrett

Ms J Brociek –Coulton

Mr D Crawford

Mr T East

Mr T Garrod

Ms D Gihawi

Mrs S Gurney

Mr C Jordan

Miss A Kemp

Mr A Proctor

Mrs A Thomas

Mr B Watkins

Mr W Northam

Mr B Watkins

Also present:

Mr J Joyce

1. Apologies

- 1.1** Apologies for absence were received from Michael Chenery of Horsbrugh, Ms E Morgan (Mr R Bearman substituting), Mrs M Somerville (Mr W Northam substituting) and Mr R Parkinson-Hare.

2. Minutes

- 2.1** The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2014 were approved by the Committee and signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1** Mr East declared an “other interest” in that a member of his family lived at a care home run by Norse.

4 Items of Urgent Business

- 4.1** There were no items of urgent business

5 Local Member Questions

- 5.1** There were no local member questions.

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

6.1 The Chair reported that she had received an email on behalf of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee proposing that a task and finish group be set up consisting of 3 or 4 Members from Adult Social Care Committee and 3 or 4 Members from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to examine the transition of mental health social care from the NSFT to Norfolk County Council and its impact on service users. She said that she would be seeking further clarification from officers on the proposed terms of reference for the group before the matter was considered at the next meeting of this Committee.

6.2 It was pointed out that the Chair of the Independence Matters Enterprise Development Board had yet to be appointed and financial results for the first five months of trading were showing a small profit.

6.3 The projected surplus for NSFT for 2014/15 was £1m and not £5m as stated in the report.

7 Director's Update to Committee

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

7.2 The Director reported on the Better Care Fund which was a national initiative aimed at creating a single pooled budget for health and social care services to work more closely together in local areas, based on a plan agreed between the NHS and local authorities. He said that this initiative would involve the transfer to the County Council of approximately £13m from the Clinical Commissioning Groups.

7.3 It was noted that the County Council was invoicing Care UK for the additional cash costs that were incurred as a result of a service failure. Because of the ongoing contractual commitments and negotiations that surrounded this issue it had been agreed at Cabinet that the detailed costs should not be publicised until the matter was concluded. The detailed costs would be made available to the Committee at the end of the process.

7.4 It was noted that the Mental Health social workers would return to the Council's direct management from 1st October 2014. Alison Simpkin has been appointed as the new Head of Social Care, Adult Mental Health, and was introduced to the Committee.

7.5 The Section 75 Agreement for an integrated management structure with NCHC would come into operation on 10 November 2014. Interviews would be held on 3 October 2014 for the Head of Integrated Care post and further management appointments would follow.

8 Remodelling Home Care for Norfolk

8.1 The annexed report (8) by the Director of Community Services was received.

- 8.2** It was pointed out that the Council had agreed on a set of principles to guide its approach to commissioning home care which stressed the importance that the Council attached to the Unison Ethical Care Charter.
- 8.3** Members asked for the wording of paragraph 1.2 (f) of the report to be amended to explain what was meant by the words “shifting the responsibility” for support planning from social care/ contracted providers to the service user and homecare provider.
- 8.4** Members asked for the scoping options for the future delivery model for homecare to include the additional option of running the service in-house. Members also asked for all the options to give further consideration to ways to support the needs of those working in the sector, and to ways to assist in the development of flexible and sustainable local solutions, and for detailed costs of the commissioning intentions to be brought back to the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

8.5 RESOLVED:

1. To note the proposed overarching principles for the model of Home Support that were set out in the report
2. Note the scoping options, including an in-house option, that would need to be appraised in terms of joint working
3. Note the options to be explored through the role of the Public Services Social Value Act 2012 within the tendering process for new provision
4. Note the engagement and interventions proposed to support change within the market and communities
5. Note the risks and actions identified in section 4 of the report
6. Agree the principle of aligning home care operational blocks within CCG boundaries
7. Note the phased approach to re-commissioning in which existing contract end dates were adjusted.
- 8 The report is to be brought back for further discussion at the next meeting of the Committee on 23 October 2014.

9 Joint Safeguarding Arrangements

- 9.1** The annexed report (9) by the Director of Community Services was received. The report set out how across both Children’s Services and Adult Services all parties could work together to effectively discharge the Council’s safeguarding responsibilities, develop joint approaches to learning and development, and develop a greater awareness of the fact that safeguarding was everyone’s responsibility.
- 9.2** It was suggested that the proposed Member safeguarding forum could be made up of four named Members of Children’s Services Committee and four named members of Adult Social Care Committee. It was further suggested that there should be an opportunity for substitute members to attend the forum. The names of those who were interested in serving on the forum would be sought after the meeting.

9.3 RESOLVED:

1. That Members of both Committees commit to the development of a shared Council wide approach to safeguarding work and to hold on an annual basis a joint member seminar on Council wide safeguarding work
2. To endorse the five priorities set out in the report and to recognise the fundamental shift in collaboration across Children's Services and Adult services that this represents
3. Agree to set up a Member safeguarding forum made up of Members from both Children's Services and Adult Social Care Committees along the lines of the approach suggested in paragraph 9.2 of these minutes.
4. To support the setting up of a whole council officer forum to raise the profile of safeguarding across the Council.

10 Adult Social Care Finance Monitoring Report Period 4 (July) 2014-15

- 10.1** The annexed report (7) by the Director of Community Services was received. This report provided the Committee with financial monitoring information, based on the position at the end of July 2014. It provided a forecast for the full year, analysis of variations from the revised budget, with recovery actions to reduce the overspend and the forecast use of ASC reserves.
- 10.2** It was noted that the Director had placed restrictions on the discretion given to Heads of Social Care when providing social care so as to increase the take up of the Norse Care voids. The use of Norse Care voids were being monitored by senior management.
- 10.3** Members expressed concern at the potential use of reserves to balance the budget. It was suggested that it would be useful to have the Council's Head of Procurement attend a future meeting of the Committee to explain the system wide review of procurement that was being undertaken in the Council in so far as it impacted on adult social services.
- 10.5** It was pointed out that financial pressures in Adult Social Care were being offset to some extent by additional recurring income received from the NHS but that the amount of this income fluctuated from one year to the next and was therefore hard to predict. The main priority for capital spending in Adult Social Care in 2014-15 continued to be the development of Housing With Care and Supported Housing provision.
- 10.6 RESOLVED to note:**
- a) the forecast revenue outturn position for 2014-15 at Period 4 of an overspend of £5.166m
 - b) The recovery actions being taken to reduce the overspend
 - c) The current forecast for use of reserves
 - d) The forecast capital outturn position for the 2014-15 capital programme

11 Budget Discussion Arising from Policy and Resources Committee on 5 September 2014 (Budget 2015/16 to 2017/18)

- 11.1** The Committee was invited to consider and comment upon information contained in a report by the Director of Community Services (circulated to the Committee with a supplementary agenda) that was based on details presented to the Policy and Resources Committee on 5 September 2014 that set out the context of the forecast additional funding shortfall of £17.5m for the County Council overall.
- 11.2** The Committee noted the Policy and Resources Committee had given indicative and not firm targets for budget savings to each service committee.
- 11.3** In order to inform the budget debate Members asked officers to prepare a brief summary of the statutory and non statutory tasks of each part of the Department and the key issues and themes that were consistently raised by residents and stakeholders in previous budget consultations.
- 11.4** Members asked to be informed about the work that the Department was undertaking with Suffolk County Council and the efficiency savings that could result from this.
- 11.5** Members also asked for further information and a presentation from the Head of Procurement (who was undertaking a countywide systems review) about the redesign of care pathways and the efficiency savings that could be achieved from this. Members asked officers to identify areas of service delivery (particularly adult preventative services) where by investing money in the next financial year this could result in savings in the next 8-10 years.
- 11.6** **RESOLVED:**
- That the Committee be provided at its next meeting with the requested information.

12 Resources for Prevention

- 12.1** The annexed report (12) by the Director of Community Services was received.
- 12.2** Members noted the report.

13. Performance Monitoring Report

- 13.1** The annexed report (13) by the Director of Community Services was received.
- 13.2** The report provided performance monitoring and management information to enable the Committee to undertake their key responsibilities, informing Committee Plans and providing contextual information to many of the decisions that were taken.
- 13.3** The Committee asked for future performance monitoring reports to be placed higher up on the agenda and contain more information about the risks that had a “red” rating which should be placed at the start of the report. It was noted that Appendix c to the report contained national indicators.

14 Exclusion of the Public

14.1 The Committee excluded the public from the meeting under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 for consideration of the item below on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

14.2 The Committee was presented with the conclusions of the public interest tests carried out by the report author and resolved to confirm the exclusion.

15 Exemption from Contract Standing Orders for Mental Health block Contracts

15.1 The Committee received a report from the Director of Community Services that explained the work that was being done by mental health commissioners to deliver more supported housing as alternatives to residential care and to make savings. Work to develop step down facilities, and a new pathway to minimise delayed discharges from mental health acute hospitals was expected to deliver better outcomes for service users and enable NSFT to reduce out of county admissions.

15.2 RESOLVED

That the Committee approve as an exemption to Contract Standing Orders under Standing Order 9.14 in respect of the services listed in section 2 of the report to allow an extension to the current block contracts for the periods identified and to give the option of a block contract for one year for a new service development.

The meeting closed at 1.45 pm

CHAIR



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