

SOCIAL CARE AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 6.00 P.M.

Panel Members Present: Councillor T. Oliver (Chair)
Councillor A. Paul (Vice-Chair)
Councillor B. Douglas-Maul
Councillor L. Rattigan
Councillor A. Ditta
Councillor D. Barker

Other Members Present Councillor M. Bird
Councillor C. Towe

Officers Present: Paul Davies, Executive Director, Social Care & Inclusion
Suzanne Joyner, Head of Community Care
Peter Davis, Head of Community Care (Operations)
Lloyd Haynes, Finance Account Manager
Andy Rust, Head of Vulnerable Adults & Joint
Commissioning Unit
Liz Staples, Divisional Manager, Black Country Partnership
Matthew Underhill, Scrutiny Officer

128/11 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received for the duration of the meeting from Councillor D. Turner and Councillor B. McCracken.

129/11 SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

130/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest or party whip identified at this meeting.

131/11 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2011, copies having previously been circulated be approved as a true and accurate record.

132/11 WALSALL LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES

The Divisional Manager introduced the presentation (annexed). The main points of the presentation and subsequent discussion were as follows:

- In August 2011 all Walsall Learning Disability (LD) Specialist NHS services transferred to the new Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, together with Wolverhampton, Dudley and Sandwell;
- Walsall has a pooled learning disability budget of nearly £30m, the value of the NHS Trust Provider Contract that sits in the pooled budget is £6,459,125 and has not been reduced in value;
- A consultation process with carers had been undertaken regarding the changes and reassurance provided that services will be available locally;
- In terms of quality, a peer review assessment had indicated that services in Walsall were 73% compliant. While a recent unannounced CQC inspection visit in July 2011 had not identified any concerns. In addition, Walsall Managers have been appointed as leads in developing services across the Black Country, this includes establishing a set of performance metrics and developing further compliance tools;
- The high level of satisfaction experienced prior to transfer will be retained. Patients will receive services within Walsall or the Black Country and out of area placements will be reduced;
- Following a Panel query, officers explained that reductions in out of area placements represented savings for both the council and the PCT, with funding requirements reduced by a proportional amount as a consequence. The council now had control over 78% of the budget with the PCT responsible for the remaining 22%. The Executive Director also pointed out that those who had previously received out of area placements had not necessarily been receiving a higher level of care, or in a number of instances even the appropriate care. The shift to local provision had also contributed to improved local employment;

- A number of methods are being used to monitor the success of the new arrangements. This includes the analysis of complaints and compliments, inspections, user and advocacy groups and commissioner and contract reviews;
- A number of financial benefits have also been achieved. This includes economies of scale driven out of reductions in the cost of investigations and travel. Together with efficiency savings of 4% per year in each of the first three years of the contract;
- Levels of staff satisfaction and morale had also risen since the transfer, with all staff through the Transfer of Undertakings (TUPE) process now employed by the Trust. In addition, no redundancies had been made;
- Following a Panel query, it was explained that the challenges anticipated over the next six months included staff and clinical teams focussing on returning people to Walsall from out of area placements. In many instances individuals present with complex and challenging needs. It will be necessary to ensure that recruitment meets service user needs.

Resolved

That

- (1) officers will provide the Panel with updates regarding residential and day services post the transfer to Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust;

and

- (2) the report be noted.

133/11 SHADOW HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Executive Director introduced the briefing. The main points of the briefing and subsequent discussion were as follows:

- The establishment of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board was approved by Cabinet on 9 November 2011. Activity has taken place to determine how each of the different bodies and organisations will liaise including Members, Shadow Clinical Commissioning Board, officers, LINK (Health Watch) in seeking to improve the health of people in Walsall. Recent discussions have also taken place to determine how the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board will co-ordinate its activity with the council's scrutiny function;
- It is anticipated that legislation will come into force in April 2013 with strong support offered from central government for the significant progress made in Walsall.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

134/11 BUDGET CONSULTATION FEEDBACK 2012/13

The Finance Account Manager introduced the report. The main points of the briefing and subsequent discussion were as follows:

- The report set out the consultation feedback received in relation to the 2012/13 budget.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

135/11 FINANCIAL PLAN 2012/13 TO 2014/15: SECOND DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION

The Finance Account Manager introduced the report. The main points of the briefing and subsequent discussion were as follows:

- In relation to the provisional revenue cash limits by portfolio for 2011/12 to 2014/15 there had been no further changes by Cabinet to the limits previously agreed by Cabinet;
- The Chair highlighted previously expressed concerns regarding the as yet unknown practical impact on service users of the budget reductions being undertaken. The Leader of the Council highlighted potential significant local pressures should changes to the benefits system result in lower levels of entitlement in Walsall. The Leader had already met with the Executive Director to consider the implications for benefits-based charging for community services.

Resolved

That

- (1) the Panel expressed concern regarding the potential impact on service users as a consequence of the reduction in budgets;

and

- (2) the Panel noted the outline draft budget proposals.

136/11 QUARTER 2 FINANCIAL MONITORING POSITION FOR 2011/12

The Finance Account Manager introduced the report. The main points of the briefing and subsequent discussion were as follows:

- A £25,000 revenue outturn underspend for 2011/12 was currently forecast, while a £365,000 capital outturn underspend for 2011/12 was forecast. In addition, savings of £7.133m have been identified for 2011/12, while the full year effect of previous years' included savings of £1.69m;
- It was explained that a forecast £700,000 reduction in relation to salaries was a consequence of provision being made for potential salary movements to the top of scales. Once the true figure for salaries was known this amount would be revised. A shortfall in income in relation to fees and charges was a consequence of initial delays in the introduction of charging for community alarms. Residents who chose to make use of the scheme pay £12.50 per month and it is anticipated that the scheme will deliver around £1m of income to the council. It was confirmed that no retrospective charging would be made and those who have declined the service are given a period of time in which to reconsider;
- In respect of capital outturn it was explained that in relation to preventative adaptations the identified variance of £365,000 was based on the data available at the time. In fact, a figure of around £63,000 was more accurate.

Resolved

That

- (1) the Panel be provided with guidance regarding take up of the community alarm scheme at its next meeting;

and

- (2) the report be noted.

137/11 PERSONALISATION IN WALSALL

The Head of Community Care introduced the presentation (annexed). The main points of the presentation and subsequent discussion were as follows:

- The council had developed a front end approach to prevention and early intervention, with a focus on community-based support;
- This process had included the development of a Target Operating Model (TOM), service reconfiguration and significant staff training. This has included recent training for 200 social care staff. Further staff, including all social workers, will also participate in this training;
- Following a Panel query, officers explained that support for carers included significant investment in respite facilities for those with learning and physical disabilities at Holybank. Officers had also ensured that facilities at Housing 21 met the required standards. Officers acknowledged that significant improvements need to be made to ensure proper support is provided for those carers who

provide day-to-day support. The Panel agreed that it was important that a focus was placed on the development of a carers strategy. The Executive Director also highlighted the Centre for Independent Living which was set to open at Tesco and which would provide further support for carers;

- In relation to Self-Directed Support, officers explained that following the introduction of the scheme approximately 100 personal assistants had been employed by those using personal budgets. In response to queries regarding the quality of personal assistants being employed, it was explained that a quality initiative was underway which encompassed all services including domiciliary and day services, Holybank residential nursing care services and personal assistants. The initiative sought to establish quality benchmarks, as well as monitor key issues such as safeguarding. This will include feedback from users, carers, families, voluntary and community groups. The Panel agreed that both unplanned and planned visits would be a critical element of maintaining high quality standards;
- Officers explained that the TOM underlined the local approach which focused on preventative and reablement.

Resolved

That

- (1) the Panel receive updates at future Panel meetings regarding the ongoing implementation of Personalisation in Walsall;

and

- (2) the report be noted.

138/11 PERSONALISATION WORKING GROUP INITIATION DOCUMENT

The Panel received the initiation document

Resolved

The Panel noted the initiation document.

139/11 WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12 AND FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered the work programme and Cabinet's Forward Plan.

Resolved

That the work programme and Forward Plan be noted.

140/11 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair informed Members that the date of the next meeting would be 10 January 2012 at 6:00pm.

The meeting terminated at 7.20 p.m.

Chair:

Date: