

SOCIAL CARE AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

TUESDAY 10 JANUARY 2012 AT 6.00 P.M.

Panel Members Present: Councillor T. Oliver (Chair)
Councillor A. Paul (Vice-Chair)
Councillor D. Coughlan
Councillor M. Burley
Councillor A. Ditta
Councillor D. Barker

Officers Present: Paul Davies, Executive Director, Social Care & Inclusion
Peter Davis, Head of Community Care (Operations)
Lloyd Haynes, Finance Account Manager
Andy Rust, Head of Vulnerable Adults & Joint
Commissioning Unit
Ian Staples, Joint Strategic Commissioning Manager –
Disabilities
Anne Doyle, Commissioning Manager
Michael Hicklin, Service Manager – Provider Services
John Fell, Head of Strategic Development
Nigel Marsh, Strategic Lead Officer

141/12 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received for the duration of the meeting from Councillor D. Turner, Councillor B. McCracken, Councillor M. Bird, Councillor C. Towe, Councillor L. Rattigan and Suzanne Joyner.

142/12 SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

143/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

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

144/12 MINUTES

The attendance of Councillor R. Burley and Councillor D. Coughlan at the previous meeting was noted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2011, as amended, copies having previously been circulated be approved as a true and accurate record.

145/12 BUDGET CONSULTATION FEEDBACK 2012/13

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

- It was highlighted that the report contained the feedback regarding local views expressed in the online budget simulator. This included a preference for the funding allocation to SCI to be reduced. However, this was possibly a consequence of the majority of local residents not requiring access to these services;
- The report also included the previous response of the Panel to the budget proposals.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

146/12 FINANCIAL PLAN 2012/13 TO 2014/15: THIRD DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION

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

- The report indicated that as at the end of October 2011, the corporate budget position was an anticipated underspend of £156k, with an anticipated underspend for the Social Care and Inclusion Directorate of £26k;
- It was explained that the budget proposals remained unchanged from those reviewed by the Panel previously, with key areas of future development including preventative adaptations and funding for the support of independent living.

Resolved

That: the report be noted.

147/12 ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT 2010/11

The Chair explained that the report was to be deferred until the next meeting.

148/12 **THINK LOCAL, ACT PERSONAL**

The Commissioning Manager introduced the presentation. The main points of the presentation and subsequent discussion were as follows:

- It was explained Think Local, Act Personal (TLAP) reinforced the council's direction of travel, incorporating both the People First programme and the Government's agenda on adult social care;
- In summary TLAP seeks to make the connection between personalised care and community-based preventative approaches. While the vision for TLAP is to ensure as many people as possible are enabled to sustain good health within their communities;
- It was also explained that there would be a focus on partnership, co-production and engagement as part of a community-led approach, together with more integrated ways of working;
- As part of efforts to sustain good health there will also be a focus on seeking to develop a capability assessment similar to a needs assessment;
- TLAP forms part of the council's prioritisation of a community based-approach, with key support provided by the community-social work teams;
- Next steps include the development of a tool kit which will support the outcome-based approach and the delivery of choice, control and efficiency;
- The Executive Director explained that TLAP formed part of the transformation of social care being undertaken in Walsall. This was a community-based approach, with a focus on choice, control and prevention, with telecare a key component;
- TLAP was the national expression of what the council is seeking to achieve in Walsall. There had already been significant local progress made in the seven domains set out by TLAP, including in relation to access to information and community contact. This development work incorporated the establishment of a number of community-hubs, including the Goscote Centre;
- In response to a Panel query, the Executive Director explained that funding the development of community-hubs and other key activity had been achieved through savings made following the introduction of Benefits-Based Charging as well as significant reductions in the number of out-of-borough placements. It was emphasised that there had been no loss of front line services and, in the case of previous out-of-borough placements, individuals were now receiving significantly improved levels of care within the borough. It was acknowledged that the shift from expensive institutional based forms of care to community-based support had proved a difficult transition for some. However, while some residents had expressed concerns, there had also been strong support from local residents for the changes made;
- The Head of Vulnerable Adults & Joint Commissioning Unit also explained that the location of community-hubs was based on a number of criteria, including determining how to work most effectively with local communities;
- Following further Panel queries it was explained that support for carers included access to a fund for direct support. This process involved an assessment, with successful applicants able to fund sit-in carers which in turn enabled them to make use of services including acupuncture. Officers acknowledged the vital

work undertaken by carers and the importance of ensuring they were effectively supported by the council;

- Officers also explained that a range of transport options were available to those wishing to access community-hubs. This included community transport and the council's minibus service, while the council still retained a contract with local taxi hire firms. It was highlighted that an individual's transport formed part of their assessment.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

149/12 UPDATE ON DAY OPPORTUNITIES, PARTNERSHIP BOARD AND RESPITE FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

The Joint Strategic Commissioning Manager – Disabilities introduced the report (annexed). The main points of the report and subsequent discussion were as follows:

- It was explained that a key element of day opportunities was the development of services that enabled people to engage with their local communities, with a focus on Personalisation and assisting people in purchasing services. It was apparent that it had proved to be a difficult transition for some from the previous model of the provision of large day centres. However, it was clear that there was a strong recognition emerging that the new model offered significant opportunities for individuals, while avoiding a return to the previous dependency culture;
- It was also explained that the community hub, or satellite, model is aligned with the Area Management model. While key work includes the development of services to meet complex needs within the community, including the establishment of a new autism development post;
- It was also explained that Links to Work has focused on developing enterprises that have strong economic value. This will assist in enabling local people to recognise the value of this activity within their communities. Recent developments include partnership agreements with Remploy and Laundau for training and development of 120 individuals, with the significant proportion of costs being met by the Government;
- Respite care includes the option for individuals to purchase care from their personal budgets, this might be accommodation but could also be support in the community or at home. Hollybank House has also witnessed recent investment to support the incorporation of a respite service. While a re-provision project is underway at Fallings Heath to consider moving long-term residents to a community-supported environment with individual budgets;
- A joint –chair appointment has been made to the Partnership Board of two adults, each with a learning disability. It was explained that a key area of focus was housing and enabling individuals to be able to reside in Walsall, this included adapting existing housing stock and a range of mortgage options;

- The Executive Director highlighted the importance of a community-based approach to the provision of services, decisively moving away from the ineffectual, institutional-type approach of large day centres that had previously existed. The Chair agreed but also emphasised the importance of being able to illustrate the success of the approach, as well as provide assurances that need was being met.

Resolved

That

- (1) the Panel continue to review the ongoing implementation of the community-based model of social care provision

and

- (2) the report be noted.

150/12 COMMUNITY ALARMS

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

- It was explained that 5,283 bills have been issued to date, with 2,671 payments received;
- It was also explained that approximately 15% of residents with community alarms had requested their removal. However, a rigorous process of assessment took place to ensure that the removal of the system would not result in these individuals becoming vulnerable. In many instances, individuals ultimately accepted the value of the service and chose to retain it;
- It was emphasised that those who could not afford to pay for the system, i.e. it would push them below the level of the minimum income guarantee, would not be required to pay. It was also explained that those who could afford to pay would pay, although how the council recovered the cost varied;
- Officers acknowledged that a number of issues remained regarding community alarms within WHG properties, with the deactivation of a number of systems still awaited. It was also explained that there were around 1,000 residents within Registered Social Landlord (RSL) properties who were not charged directly for the community alarm service as it was deemed that they were already paying a service charge to their landlord. However, it was intended to seek to charge RSLs for the provision of the out-of-hours service.

Resolved

That

(1) the Panel receive an update in six months;

and

(2) the report be noted.

151/12 WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12 AND FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered the work programme and Cabinet's Forward Plan. It was explained that the title of the item referenced as 62/11 on the Forward Plan was to be re-worded as the report did not relate to eligibility for social care funding.

Resolved

That the work programme and Forward Plan be noted.

152/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair thanked the staff at the Goscote Centre for their efforts in organising and supporting the meeting. He informed Members that the date of the next meeting would be 21 February 2012 at 6:00pm.

The meeting terminated at 7:50 pm

Chair:

Date:

