

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 17 September 2014

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
17 September 2014

PRESENT:

PANEL MEMBERS: Councillor David d'Orton-Gibson - Chairman, Councillor Lynda Price - Vice-Chairman; Councillors Beryl Baxter, Rod Cooper, Malcolm Davies, Cheryl Johnson, Rae Stollard, Michael Weinhonig and John Wilson.

ALSO PRESENT FOR CERTAIN ITEMS AS APPROPRIATE: Councillor Blair Crawford - Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care.

ALSO ATTENDING:

From Bournemouth Borough Council:

Jane Portman	Executive Director for Adults and Children
Neil Goddard	Service Director for Community Learning and Commissioning
Andy Sharp	Service Director for Adult Social Care
Elizabeth Elwick	Performance and Information Manager
Brian Langridge	Business and Operational Support Manager

From Healthwatch Dorset:

Louise Bate	Volunteer Officer
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The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm.

Note: To see a copy of the public reports that were considered by the Panel at this meeting please visit:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocracy/Councillors/BoardsPanels/Health-and-Adult-Social-Care-Overview-Scrutiny-Panel.aspx>

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 17 September 2014

SECTION I - BUSINESS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

No items

SECTION II - BUSINESS DECIDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests made by Members in relation to the business before the meeting.

24. SIGNING OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2014 were confirmed and signed.

25. PUBLIC ITEMS

There were no public questions, deputation requests or petitions received for this meeting of the Panel.

26. CORE SERVICE TRANSFORMATION - LOCAL AUTHORITY TRADING COMPANY PROPOSALS

The Panel received a verbal update from the Service Director for Adult Social Care on the Council's proposals to establish a trading company to deliver adult social care services.

The Service Director for Adult Social Care, reported that two business case options had been prepared in respect of a Bournemouth only company, and a Pan Dorset company. The Cabinet would make a decision in respect of both options, in order for a Bournemouth trading company to go ahead, should the Pan Dorset model be rejected.

The Panel were informed that additional efficiency savings would be achieved through the trading company approach, however this was not the main driver for change. The Council would not be outsourcing a failing service, but a high quality, successful one. The proposals also provided an opportunity for income generation for Council services.

In response to concerns made by the Panel in relation to alternative options considered, the Service Director for Adult Social Care highlighted a range of

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 17 September 2014

options, including not for profit and private company approaches. The strength of the Local Authority Trading Company model enabled a Public Sector approach, but allowed for trading to take place and profit to be made. The company would be solely owned by Bournemouth Borough Council in the case of the Bournemouth only model.

The Panel discussed further expansion opportunities for the trading company, should the initial venture be successful.

DECISION MADE:

That the update be noted.

27. ADULT SOCIAL CARE LOCAL ACCOUNT 2013/14

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Joint Commissioning and Partnerships, circulated at '7', on the draft Adult Social Care Local Account for 2013/14. The Panel were asked to comment on the content of the draft Local Account, at appendix 1.

The Service Director for Community Learning and Commissioning, introduced the report and highlighted the current draft of the Local Account at appendix 1. The Panel acknowledged that the Local Account was no longer a statutory document the Council was required to produce. Despite this, the Local Account was considered a best practice document and was still resourced despite ongoing financial pressures.

In response to one Member's questions in relation to the Care Act and Better Together, officers highlighted that the few lines contained within the Local Account were designed to highlight awareness of the upcoming pressures, changes and target driven approach associated with the Care Act and the Better Together Programme.

The Vice-Chairman spoke briefly on the work of the Care Act Project Board, and stressed the significant work that was ongoing to interpret and implement the required changes.

Officers highlighted that although the Local Account may not change significantly in the next few years, as the performance, target driven focus would remain, the implications of the Care Act may increase interest in the Local Account and engagement with carers had already determined the inclusion of summary pages within the Local Account to deal with some of the relevant performance indicators.

In response to Members' suggestions, officers confirmed that evidence measures within the report could be quantified with numbers in addition to

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 17 September 2014

percentages. In connection with this, a number of textual and formatting changes were suggested by the Panel.

DECISION MADE:

- a. That the comments and amendments made by the Panel be taken into consideration for the publication of the final Local Account for 2013/14.
- b. That any further suggestions be forwarded to the Service Director for Community Learning and Commissioning.

28. MANAGING QUALITY OF CARE CONTRACTORS

The Panel considered a report by the Business and Operational Support Manager, circulated at '8', which provided a performance update on the governance arrangements and contract management for residential care homes and homecare agencies.

The Business and Operational Support Manager, introduced the report and outlined the arrangements for monitoring the 240 residential care homes, alongside the 45 homecare agencies under the Council's remit.

The Panel discussed the powers available to the Council to terminate, suspend and enforce conditions upon contracts. In connection with this, the Chairman raised the issue of ownership changes in relation to poor performance. The view of the Care Quality Commission was that turbulent ownership of care homes had led to some of the problems associated with poor performance. Officers confirmed that ownership changes were problematic, alongside changes to management which can result in poor training continuity.

Members were reassured that staff whistle blowing was encouraged and did take place. The Panel expressed their concerns in relation to staff turnover and questioned whether more focused data in this area could be collected to allow for management and training issues to be picked up at the earliest opportunity.

DECISION MADE:

- a. That the comments made by the Panel be taken into consideration by the Business and Operational Support Manager, to encourage continued effective governance in respect of residential care homes and homecare agencies.
- b. That the full results from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework survey for 2013/14 be considered at a future Panel meeting, to be determined.

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 17 September 2014

29. BETTER TOGETHER PROGRAMME AND BETTER CARE FUND - UPDATE

The Panel considered a report by the Executive Director, Adults and Children, circulated at '9', which provided an update on the key areas of change in respect of the Better Care Fund requirements, and an opportunity for the Panel to scrutinise the progress made on implementing the Better Together Programme.

The Executive Director, Adults and Children, introduced the report and set the context of the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board, which the Panel had previously determined to scrutinise in the form of the progress made on implementing the six major change programmes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Panel had identified major change programme 6, 'Better Together' as the current priority for scrutiny.

Officers reported on the launch of 'My Life, My Care', a jointly commissioned directory website which would hold information and advice on care services across the County of Dorset. The launch event for the new website would take place on 1 October 2014 at the Old School House, Gladstone Mews, Boscombe. The Panel welcomed this piece of work as an excellent example of integrated working across multi disciplinary organisations.

The Panel were informed of the various integrated commissioning projects driven by 'Better Together'. In connection with this, it was stressed that the desired outcomes for major change programme 6 were far reaching and long term. Improvements to information sharing, managing electronic records more efficiently and planning appropriately offered the opportunity to lay solid foundations for improved outcomes in the future.

In response to one member's questions, the Executive Director, Adults and Children, explained that the transformational change leadership programme offered the opportunity for multi disciplinary professionals to engage and understand other disciplines as part of integrated working. Pilot work had been identified for Bridport, Poole and Purbeck cohorts.

The Panel were reminded of the invitation to the 'Better Together' engagement event scheduled for 8 October 2014 at the Civic Centre, Poole.

The Executive Director, Adults and Children, went on to provide an update for the Panel on the current status of the Better Care Fund. The Government had made a number of significant changes following the initial submission of the business plan for the Better Care Fund. These changes had resulted in the pay for the performance element of the fund being linked solely to the reduction of total emergency admissions to hospitals in 2015/16. The revised deadline for the submission of business plans to the Department of Health was 19 September 2014. A significant amount of

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 17 September 2014

work had gone into revising the business plan and was still ongoing with 48 hours remaining until the business case submission deadline.

The Panel raised concerns that the Council had little influence over the reduction of emergency admissions to hospitals and any adverse impact upon Adult Social Care services which were already under significant budgetary pressures, was wholly unacceptable. Subsequently, the Panel discussed the availability and access to GPs in the Borough. This topic would be the subject of a more detailed item to be considered by the Panel in December 2014.

The Volunteer Officer, Healthwatch Dorset, highlighted that preventative, home based work with older people could potentially reduce unnecessary hospital admissions where an individual has not been eating or caring for themselves sufficiently. Similarly, the Panel discussed a range of voluntary and community based services which could lead to long term improvements in this area.

DECISION MADE:

- a. That the comments made by the Panel in relation to the progress made on implementing the Better Together Programme be considered by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and the Executive Director, Adults and Children as Members of the Bournemouth and Poole Health and Wellbeing Board.
- b. That the Panel note the recent national changes to the Better Care Fund guidance and the implications for the local Better Care Fund plan implementation.
- c. That the Panel consider a further report on the Better Care Fund plan implementation following the final decision of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

30. THE FRANCIS INQUIRY - ACTION PLAN

The Panel considered the Francis Inquiry Action Plan, circulated at '10'. At the meeting of 6 November 2013, the Panel agreed to monitor the Action Plan each meeting, to track progress in line with the agreed recommendations.

The Democratic and Overview and Scrutiny Officer, reported that the installation of audio recording of future meetings would provide an additional record to supplement the full, discursive minutes produced for each meeting.

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 17 September 2014

DECISION MADE:

That the update be noted.

31. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATE PRIORITY OUTCOMES

The Panel considered a report by the Corporate Performance Management Officers, circulated at '11'.

The Chairman introduced the report and welcomed comments from the Panel. The Service Director for Adult Social Care drew the Panel's attention to the cumulative total of Safeguarding alerts for the year at L13. The report outlined a request to remove this indicator from the report due to the duplication of information presented elsewhere at L11 and L12.

DECISION MADE:

That indicator L13 be removed from future performance monitoring reports considered by the Panel.

32. WORK PROGRAMME AND TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATES

a. TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATE - PUBLIC HEALTH

The Panel received a brief update from Councillor Baxter on the work of the Task and Finish Group and the interviews undertaken during August with relevant stakeholders.

Councillor Baxter confirmed the final report would be ready for submission to the Panel in December once a suitable set of recommendations had been drawn together.

DECISION MADE:

That the update from the Task and Finish Group be noted.

b. TASK AND FINISH GROUP PROPOSAL - PANEL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The Executive Director, Adults and Children, proposed a Task and Finish Group opportunity to look at future training requirements for Panel Members, inclusive of the planning for the Member induction programme following the Borough election in May 2015.

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 17 September 2014

DECISION MADE:

That the Democratic and Overview and Scrutiny Officer email Panel Members seeking expressions of interests for the Task and Finish Group.

c. WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

The Panel considered the draft work programme for 2014/15, based upon the discussions at the Panel's annual workshop held in July 2014.



DECISION MADE:

That the Work Programme be updated to reflect the discussions held throughout the meeting.

Councillor Michael Weinhonig left the meeting at 6.40 pm.

Councillor Rod Cooper left the meeting at 7.53 pm.

The meeting finished at 8.24 pm.

Contact: Matthew Wisdom, Democratic and Overview and Scrutiny Officer
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Please note that the next quarterly meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel will take place at the Town Hall at 6.00 pm on Thursday 4 December 2014.