

Unconfirmed minutes – subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee

Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee

3 October 2012 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Mrs Bennett, Mr Blampied, Mr Bradbury, Mr M Dunn, Mrs Jupp, Mrs Knight, Mrs Richards, Mr Sheldon, Dr Walsh, Mrs Whitehead (Chairman) and Mr Wilkinson (West Sussex County Council), Cllr Mrs Dignum (Chichester District Council), Cllr Mrs Jones (Mid Sussex District Council), Cllr Dr Skipp, (Horsham District Council), Cllr Mrs Turner (Worthing Borough Council) and Miss Smith (Local Involvement Network).

In attendance by invitation: Mr Catchpole (Cabinet Member for Health & Adults' Services), Dr Bloom (Deputy to the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults' Services) and Mr Tyler (Deputy to the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults' Services).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Dunn, Miss Hendon and Mrs Mills (West Sussex County Council), Cllr Mr Burgess (Crawley Borough Council) and Cllr Mr Brown (Arun District Council).

Declarations of Interest

39. In accordance with the Code of Conduct, the following personal interests were declared: -

- Cllr Val Turner in respect of item 5 (Impact of Changes to the Eligibility Threshold for Adult Social Care and the Implementation of Preventative Services) as a registered pharmacist
- Mrs Knight in respect of item 5 (Impact of Changes to the Eligibility Threshold for Adult Social Care and the Implementation of Preventative Services) as a trustee of Carers' Support Service North & Mid Sussex
- Cllr Mary Hamblin in respect of item 5 (Impact of Changes to the Eligibility Threshold for Adult Social Care and the Implementation of Preventative Services) as the parent of a person with learning difficulties who uses the My Network Plus Service
- Cllr Anne Jones in respect of item 5 (Impact of Changes to the Eligibility Threshold for Adult Social Care and the Implementation of Preventative Services) as the Chairman of Neighbourhood Care
- Mr Dunn in respect of item 8 (Community Legal Advice Services Contract) as a member of the West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on the Community Legal Advice Services Contract
- Miss Smith in respect of item 8 (Community Legal Advice Services Contract) as a Citizens Advice Bureau adviser

Minutes

40. The committee agreed that that the first bullet point of minute 29 should be amended to read 'There was a need for the Committee to have relevant financial information for all reports. For the Proactive Care programme, more detail was requested on the resource implications, including:'

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41. Resolved - That the minutes of the Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee meeting held on 4 July, with the above amendment, be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Response to the Mental Health Task Force Recommendations

42. The Committee considered a response to the Mental Health Task Force Recommendations by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and the Joint Commissioning Unit (copy appended to the signed minutes) and was advised by Dr Mike Sadler, Executive Director Health & Social Care, that the Memory Assessment Service across West Sussex was now up and running.

43. Resolved – That the Committee notes the response.

Impact of Changes to the Eligibility Threshold for Adult Social Care and the Implementation of Preventative Services

44. The Committee considered reports by the Local Involvement Network (LINK) and the Director of Adults' Services and Director of Public Health and Wellbeing (copies appended to the signed minutes). The LINK report was introduced by David Liley, Help and Care Regional Manager and Olly Grice, Help and Care. The Adults' Services and Public Health Report was introduced by Amanda Rogers, Director of Adults' Services and Jenny Daniels, Head of Health and Social Care Practice. The Committee also heard evidence from three witnesses; Ray Chandler, Chairman – Adults' Services Customers and Carers Reference Group, Mandy Paine and Vincent Francis, members of the Adults' Services Customers and Carers Reference Group.

45. David Liley highlighted that although people's most basic needs were being met, there were some problems with isolation, lack of purposeful activity and meeting rapidly changing needs. He emphasised the importance of joint working between the Health Service and Adults' Services and the need for more advocacy.

46. Amanda Rogers told the Committee that raising the eligibility threshold was a hard decision for the County Council take. Social workers had supported customers and families through the process. Focus would now be on high quality prevention and intervention services, especially to avoid customers feeling isolated. Future Government policy would be based on an assumption that councils' threshold for eligibility was "substantial and critical", which was now the level in West Sussex. It has never been considered that the threshold would move to critical only in West Sussex.

47. Jenny Daniels reminded the Committee of the number and details of reassessments carried out. She reported that people with moderate needs as well as substantial critical needs still received social care, but with reduced personal budgets.

48. Ray Chandler highlighted three cases and made some general observations:

Case Studies

- The care package of a person with multiple sclerosis was reduced by 70% - the resultant stress meant the person's condition deteriorated leading to increased needs and restoration of budget.

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- The personal budget for help with administrative tasks was removed from a person with learning difficulties, who then got into financial difficulties without realising.
- A person who had been reassessed before Christmas 2011 had asked for written confirmation of the decision not to reduce their personal budget – this had not been done, so the person was concerned that it could happen

General Observations

- People with learning difficulties who had lost their personal budgets were using My Network and My Network Plus services as day centres which would be difficult to sustain financially
- People who had lost part of their personal budgets were losing self-confidence and would rather go back to having their budgets managed by Adults' Services
- The number of appeals might be low as people did not have the confidence or help from advocates to instigate an appeal, or feared they might lose what they did have (although the Customer Carer Reference Group accepted that this fear was unwarranted)
- One person was told that a support plan would be re-written to avoid a reduction in personal budget
- Another person wrote their own support plan, which was then changed by a social worker without consulting the customer
- Many customers now had less choice and less control over how to spend personal budgets
- The Customer Carer Reference Group had concerns over support plans and inconsistent personal budgets and felt that, for people capable of managing their own affairs, monitoring and intrusion by Adults' Services was unwarranted and wasteful.

49. Mandy Paine referred to the stress that service users were under and told the Committee of an 81 year old approaching the end of life who received no care and whose condition was being made worse by the stress this caused. She also referred to the NHS Continuing Healthcare process, and said that the Continuing Care Team needed to respond quicker when needed.

50. Vincent Francis made the following points:

- Not enough account had been taken of people with physical disabilities in the reports or in the websites referenced
- My Network services were not useful to people with physical disabilities
- No advocacy services were available to people over 65
- Reassessments were not detailed/technical enough for those with physical/multiple disabilities
- The number of appeals was low due to the lack of advocacy available
- All practitioners should work together to improve outcomes
- There had been a 'Good Neighbour' scheme that prevented people feeling isolated – this should be reinstated
- The topic should not be the subject of buck-passing between political parties

51. The following points were covered by the Committee in discussion:

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- West Sussex had established prevention and early intervention services for older people and those with learning disabilities, as suggested in the White Paper "Caring For Our Future: Reforming Care and Support, which were more beneficial as more people accessed them; it was in line with national policy; and it avoided unnecessary dependency.
- Family, friends, GPs and the voluntary sector could refer people who were feeling isolated following reassessment via Health & Wellbeing Hubs (hubs) or Prevention Assessment Teams (PATs) to services that would help, such as befriending clubs, education classes and lunch clubs – PATs would continue to support those using these, and additional services would be introduced in January 2013
- There has been a national rise in demand for health services, including rising A&E attendances – the reasons were complicated, but were likely to include the fact that people were living longer with complex needs
- The integrated health and social care programme, Proactive Care, that involved carers, would help identify those needing care and finding appropriate placements by making processes more efficient
- Work was underway to improve continuing health care and advocacy for the elderly and physically disabled
- Hubs were part of a range of universal services and provided information and local support
- PATs helped enable people to stay independent and live in their own homes
- Individuals contributed to their personal budgets by payments being made net of their contribution. People with personal budgets managed by Adults' Services were sent a bill every four weeks – there had been a delay in this method when a new IT system was introduced
- GPs should ensure that people received regular check-ups to make sure they were taking the correct medication in the correct dosage
- Unnecessary calls to the Out Of Hours Service from people with moderate needs had shifted the cost of their care from Adults' Services to the NHS
- Hubs, drop-in centres and IT were not accessible to everyone
- People with learning difficulties had been encouraged to use personal budgets, which might now be at risk
- Care should be taken with regard to conclusions from the LINK report, which was based on a small number of self-selecting respondents – although it was acknowledged that the LINK report did provide useful anecdotal evidence
- The LINK report did not say how its recommendations could be funded
- There were concerns that the changes could cost more in the long-term with people moving from hospital beds to nursing homes with no budget for transition beds
- £1.2m reinvestment came from £950k savings from the change in eligibility criteria and £250k from savings in developing the day activities project, consequently the £5.4m net savings came from the gross saving of £6.4m minus the £950k above, which was rounded-up to £1m leaving £5.4m net
- Staff were not given financial targets to achieve during the reassessment process
- The Committee thanked everyone who had worked on the change in eligibility criteria project, particularly the social care staff involved
- Overall, the Committee
 - had concerns over social isolation and how this could be addressed through the voluntary sector or day activities

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- o stressed the importance of integrated work between the NHS and Adults' Services, especially through Proactive Care
- o emphasised the need for good information and communication so that people knew what services and support was available
- o highlighted the need for advocacy, particularly for the over 65s
- o highlighted the need to understand why there is a rise in emergency admissions to hospital, and the implications of this for both the NHS and Adult Social Care.

ACTION: Judith Wright to provide the Committee with a list of all day activities across the county, and a list of proposed services to be commissioned.

ACTION: Mike Sadler to provide information when available on the outcomes of local work to understand all the factors contributing to the rise in acute admissions.

52. Resolved – That the Committee asks the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults' Services to provide a response to the recommendations in the Local Involvement Network (LINK) report for consideration by its Business Planning Group in early 2013, to identify whether any outstanding issues need to be addressed and subject to further scrutiny by the Committee

The meeting adjourned at 12.32 for ten minutes to allow those who wished to leave to do so.

Total Performance Monitoring Report to 31 July 2012

53. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Finance, Director of Adults' Services, Director of Joint Commissioning and Director of Public Health (copy appended to the signed minutes). The report was introduced by Chris Salt, Resources and Performance, who told the Committee that the budgets for Public Health and Adults' Services were currently forecast to balance but that an underspend was possible depending on the pattern of customer demand during the winter period. He also pointed out that all the performance targets were reporting green.

54. The following points were covered in discussion:

- The ring-fenced Public Health grant that would be paid to Councils for carrying out public health functions would be calculated by using the figure that Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) were spending and a 'fair shares' formula. In West Sussex, the amount spent by West Sussex PCT in 2010/11 was less than it might have been as a number of programmes were held back, this would mean that, based on the PCT's 2010/11 spend, the grant could be insufficient to cover all the commissioning required in 2013/14. Discussions had taken place between the Council and the clinical commissioning groups on the way forward with this in mind. The exact amount of grant would not be known till December. The Committee would discuss public health at its March 2013 meeting.
- The Leader and the Executive Director Finance and Performance were lobbying the Government for a fairer funding formula
- The Committee asked whether in future figures for Adults' Services could be broken down to show how much was being spent on each customer group, and whether this would be useful

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- The Council only had one performance measure for health screening, other screening was monitored by the NHS (it was acknowledged that diabetic screening was below par in the county)

ACTION: Chris Salt to investigate whether breaking down the figures by customer groups was possible without taking too much time

ACTION: Judith Wright to investigate why there was an underperformance in diabetic screening in the county

55. Resolved – That the Committee notes the report.

Community Legal Advice Services Contract

56. The Committee considered a report by the West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced by Task and Finish Group Chairman, Cllr Mrs Apel (Chichester District Council), who told the Committee that the existing contract was due to end in March 2013. As people were going through difficult times due to the recession, it was recommended by the Task and Finish Group that the contract be extended for a further two years.

57. Resolved – That the Committee supports the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group.

Business Planning Group Report

58. The Committee considered a report by the Chairman of the Business Planning Group (copy appended to the signed minutes).

59. During discussion the Chairman agreed to follow up on the situation regarding the new NHS property company at her next liaison meeting with Amanda Fadero (Chief Executive, NHS Sussex)

60. Resolved – That the Committee: -

- I. Endorses the content of the report, particularly the Committee's work programme for 2011/12
- II. Confirms the liaison member appointments

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

61. The Committee considered extracts of the Council's Forward Plan October 2012 – January 2013 (copy appended to the signed minutes).

62. Resolved – That the Committee notes the Forward Plan.

Members' Items

63. Cllr David Skipp raised the issue of health provision in the Horsham area when the expected additional 2,500 homes were built

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ACTION: The Business Planning Group to explore the issue of future health provision in the Horsham area

Date of Next Meeting

64. The next scheduled meeting is on 15 November at 10.30 am at County Hall, Chichester.

The meeting ended at 13.10

Chairman.