

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	Tuesday, 24 April 2018
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors W. Johnson (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, G. Carr, Clements, Ennis, Frost, Hampson, Hayward, Lofts, Makinson, Mitchell, Pourali, Sheard, Tattersall, Williams and Wilson, together with co-opted member Mr J. Winter

68 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

Apologies for absence were received from Ms K. Morritt in accordance with Regulation 7(6) of the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.

69 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Councillor G. Carr declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Item 73 as a trustee of Disability Information Advice Line (DIAL).

Councillor G. Carr, Tattersall and Wilson declared non-pecuniary interests in Item 75 as Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Councillor Lofts declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 75 as a Member of the Adoption Panel.

70 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th March were approved as a true and accurate record.

The Chair reported that Councillor Joe Hayward had agreed to serve as the Committee's representative on the Oral Health Improvement Action Group.

71 Adult Social Care Local Account 2016/16

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting, for this item and the following two items:

- Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director - People
- Lennie Sahota, Service Director - Adult Social Care & Health
- Sharon Graham, Head of Service - Joint Commissioning
- Jane Wood, Head of Service - Assessment & Care Management
- Claire Edgar, Head of Service - Mental Health & Disability
- Councillor Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding)

The report was introduced by the Service Director, Adult Social Care & Health, who informed the Committee that the report provided information of the performance of

Adult Social Care during 2016/17, including comparisons of performance against national averages and statistical neighbours. The Executive Director (People) commented that the report highlighted that there were many areas of good performance for the service, although there were still areas for improvement. The Committee discussed the report and the following issues were raised:

- The proposed budget savings for 2017/18 of £1.2m had been achieved. While the specific saving in relation to double-handed care had not been delivered, over-achievement of savings in other areas had compensated for this.
- Addressing social isolation was a key issue. Assessment of this was included as part of the annual review of service users and as part of all assessments in line with the Care Act 2014. It was noted that Area Councils and Ward Alliances had done good work in this area, which should continue to be supported. The Committee commented that best practice delivered by Area Councils and Ward Alliances should be shared across the Borough. The Committee also enquired what the Council did to share and discover best practice across the region, and was informed that the Yorkshire and Humber Adult Social Care Directors Group was proactive in sharing best practice in the region. The Committee also noted that the Live Well Barnsley website was an excellent resource to help to reduce social isolation.
- The KPI regarding the proportion of older people who received reablement or rehabilitation services after discharge from hospital was rated as red in the report, below the average nationally and for statistical neighbours. It was explained that part of the reason for this was that the data collection currently only captured the performance of Council-run reablement or rehabilitation services; further work needed to be completed to allow the full picture in relation to this to be reported in future. Members noted that the KPI for older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into these reablement or rehabilitee services was above the national and statistical neighbour averages, so it appeared that the work being done in this area was of good quality.
- Further information was provided regarding the proposals to develop extra care housing schemes as an alternative to residential care, and supporting adults with learning disabilities and mental health conditions into paid employment. In relation to the latter, the Committee was informed that additional investment had been agreed by SMT earlier in the week. The Committee requested information regarding the Council's performance in terms of employing adults with learning disabilities or mental health conditions and was advised that this information was not available at the meeting, but could be provided following the meeting.
- The Committee was assured that there was an adequate amount of care provision within the Borough, a position which had been improved following the completion of a recent procurement exercise which had delivered an additional provider for adults with mental health conditions.
- An all-Member briefing had been arranged for 24th May 2018 to allow Members to discuss the Accountable Care System and the Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group in relation to this.

- The Committee was informed of the recent work which had been completed to quantify the average cost of care home provision in the Borough, as part of the fee proposals for the next three years. Work had also been completed to strengthen the contract monitoring of care homes, which had assisted with work with homes to increase the quality of provision.

RESOLVED – That:

- i) the witnesses be thanked for their contribution;
- ii) the report be noted; and
- iii) information be provided to Members regarding the Council’s performance in employing people with learning disabilities or mental health conditions.

72 Support to Live at Home (STLAH) and Adult Community Support & Enablement Service (ACSES)

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the current arrangements for the delivery of care and support services to service users living in their own home. Members asked a number of questions regarding the report and the following issues were raised:

- The Committee suggested that it would be beneficial for a Frequently Asked Questions booklet to be provided for service users and/or their families, including information of services available. The Committee suggested that this would be useful as, while this information was available online, service users weren’t always computer literate. The Committee was informed that this would be considered, but relevant information was provided to individuals as part of their care plan. In addition, contact details for the customer access team were provided to all service users. This team was able to signpost service users to relevant services.
- The thresholds for the provisions of social care support to individuals had not changed as part of the recent procurement exercise, as this was governed by eligibility criteria set out in the Care Act. However, the process for assessing the required level of support (standard, complex or specialist) had been made clearer.
- To the protection of service users who were unable to manage their own finances, the Council operated a supported managed account system, whereby the service users could make the decisions about the care which they wanted (with the help of a personal co-ordinator), but payment for that care was made through the supported managed account.
- A significant amount of support had been provided by the Commissioning, Contracts and Brokerage Teams to frontline social workers where changes to care packages were required as a result of provider changes. This had enabled social workers to continue to focus on direct contact with service users in the community and had ensured an appropriate caseload and workload.
- The Committee noted that the Keresforth Day Centre had recently been closed and service users, some of whom were profoundly disabled, now needed to travel

to other areas to receive services. It was explained that SWYFT, who had previously operated the majority of services at the site, had decided that the site was not required for their purposes. That had left only the Day Centre at the site, which had not been viable to operate in those circumstances, particularly due to issues relating to the safety of the building. However, it was intended to use other available buildings within the Borough to continue providing services for people with profound disabilities similar to those which had been provided at Keresforth. Further information regarding this would be provided to the Committee.

RESOLVED – That:

- i) the witnesses be thanked;
- ii) the report be noted;
- iii) further information be provided to the Committee regarding day service provision in Barnsley for people with profound disabilities.

73 Financial Contributions Policy for Adult Social Care

The Committee considered a report which provided information in relation to recent changes to the Council's Financial Contributions Policy (previously known as the Fairer Charging Policy) for Adult Social Care Services. Members asked questions regarding the report and the following issues were raised:

- Although the exact cost of the maximum brokerage fee for people not eligible for financial support was not available at the meeting, it was thought to be in the region of £120 for the standard service or £200 for the complex service. The exact cost could be provided to Members following the meeting. This fee allowed for a support broker to work with the individual in question to arrange a provider, arrange a personal care plan, review their care plan and deal with any queries.
- The removal of the cap had previously been estimated to affect c.95 service users, but was now thought to affect c.135 service users. It was explained that this was solely due to the changing circumstances of service users, rather than any change in the application of the policy which had previously been discussed by the Committee. The Committee was informed that the efficiency saving target of £400k had been achieved and the new policy was fairer than the former policy.
- The research project with Disability Information Advice Line (DIAL) to evaluate the impact of budget reductions and service redesign on disabled people in Barnsley was still ongoing. The project would also evaluate the extent to which the impact could have been predicted.

RESOLVED – That:

- i) the witnesses be thanked for their attendance;
- ii) the report be noted; and
- iii) the Committee be provided with further information regarding the maximum brokerage fees.

At the conclusion of this item, the Chair noted that this was John Winter's last meeting as a Co-opted Member of the Committee. The Chair extended the Committee's thanks to Mr Winter for his work with the Committee.

74 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as described by the specific paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as follows:

<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Type of information likely to be disclosed</u>
75	Paragraph 2

75 Children's Social Care Reports

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

- Mel John-Ross, Service Director, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding
- Councillor Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding)

An introduction was given to the report circulated, which provided information for performance in March 2018 and for the full year for 2017-18. Ms John-Ross noted that performance for the year had been extremely positive, with improvement in nearly every area. Members asked questions regarding the following issues:

- The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation and in education, employment or training, and how these percentages changed as care leavers aged from 18 to 21.
- The resourcing impact of the Children Social Work Act, which required local authorities to be in contact with care leavers until they were 25 (rather than 21) without significant additional funding being provided. Information of how this funding had been calculated could be provided to the Committee.
- The performance and work being done to make improvements against the following KPIs:
 - the number of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan
 - the rate of referrals per 10,000 people aged under 18.
- The challenges presented due to the number of children placed into private care within Barnsley from outside the Borough.

RESOLVED That:

- i) the witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution;
- ii) the report be noted; and

- iii) information be provided to the Committee regarding how the additional funding had been calculated for the new duty for authorities to remain in contact with care leavers up to the age of 25.