

MINUTES of the meeting of the **ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE** held at 10.00 am on 20 June 2013 at Ashcombe Suite, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its meeting on Thursday, 5 September 2013.

Elected Members:

- * Mr Keith Witham (Chairman)
- * Mrs Margaret Hicks (Vice-Chairman)
- Mrs Liz Bowes
- * Mr Graham Ellwood
- * Mr Mike Goodman
- * Mr Saj Hussain
- * Mr Daniel Jenkins
- * Mr Colin Kemp
- * Mr Ernest Mallett MBE
- * Ms Barbara Thomson
- * Mrs Fiona White
- * Mr Richard Walsh

Ex officio Members:

Mr David Munro, Chairman of the County Council
Mrs Sally Ann B Marks, Vice Chairman of the County Council

In attendance

Mr Steve Cosser, Cabinet Associate for Adult Social Care
Mr Mel Few, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

23/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Liz Bowes. The Committee also noted apologies from Sarah Mitchell, Strategic Director for Adult Social Care.

24/13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 11 APRIL 2013 [Item 2]

These were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

25/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were no declarations of interest.

26/13 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 4]

There were no questions or petitions.

27/13 RESPONSES FROM THE CABINET TO ISSUES REFERRED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE [Item 5]

There were no issues referred to Cabinet at the last meeting, so there were no responses to receive.

28/13 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE [Item 6]

Declarations of interest: None.

Witnesses:

Anne Butler, Assistant Director for Commissioning
Liz Uliasz, Senior Manager, Personal Care and Support

Mel Few, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Committee was informed that the Strategic Director for Adult Social Care had been meeting with staff in workshops to update them on the refreshed priorities for 2013-17 and the requirements of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). Officers noted an encouraging response from practitioners. The Committee asked if there had been feedback on the kind of support that staff felt they may require, in particular whether there were appropriate ICT resources for remote working. It was confirmed that there was a program of work undertaken jointly with Human Resources to assist staff in identifying their support needs. Officers agreed to share the feedback from the workshops with the Committee once it had been collated.
2. It was outlined that there were two Rapid Improvement Events (RIEs) planned: social care debt and hospital discharges. It was asked whether Members had the opportunity to input into the RIE process. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care explained that Members were advised of the RIEs taking place, and that they were encouraged to attend at the beginning of the RIE to understand and agree the briefing with officers. Once this was agreed they were then able to

attend at the end of the RIE to be advised of the outcomes. It was agreed that details of the RIEs would be circulated to the Committee.

3. The Committee was informed that a review had been undertaken on out-of-county placements for users with learning disabilities. It was outlined that 535 placements were out of county, and that the reviews had now been conducted for all of them. The majority, with the exception of one, had been undertaken in person with the user in question. The feedback had been positive and the Committee was told that there had been no major safeguarding concerns.
4. Officers confirmed that the intention was now to complete a similar review process with out-of-county placements for users with physical disabilities. Members questioned whether there had been individuals identified that could be moved to placements within County. It was confirmed that a number had been identified and that the commissioning team would be working to meet those wishes.
5. The Committee asked why the Service was required to fund out-of-county placements when a user had opted to move voluntarily. It was clarified that there are funding responsibilities relating to out-of-county placements particularly for people in registered care. Officers asked the Committee to note that the arrangements between local authorities and the funding of out-of-county placements in general 'balance out,' as people from other local authorities also made use of services in Surrey.
6. The Committee noted that the Strategic Director for Adult Social Care is the Sponsor of the Surrey Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy and will examine the changing demographic pressures on Adult Social Care and how the workforce could be developed to meet this in the future.

Recommendations:

None.

Actions/further information to be provided:

- The Committee to receive details regarding the Rapid Improvement Events.
- The Committee to receive feedback from the Adult Social Care staff workshops.

Committee Next Steps:

None.

29/13 AGEING WELL IN SURREY [Item 7]

Declarations of interest: None.

Witnesses:

Anne Butler, Assistant Director, Commissioning

Jean Boddy, Senior Manager, Commissioning

Kirsty Malak, Assistant Senior Manager, Commissioning

Lisa Andrews, Public Health

Michael Gosling, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Health & Wellbeing Board

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. Officers outlined the Ageing Well Commitment, which was in the process of being shared at a District & Borough level. It was felt that the response had been positive and a number of initiatives were being developed to support the work. Amongst these was an older people's festival, older people champions and a range of volunteering opportunities.
2. Members queried whether the Ageing Well Commitment was being extended to local employers, in particular how it could be linked to retirement courses. It was clarified that this was part of the staged implementation, with District & Boroughs and voluntary sector organisations signing up before it was shared with private sector employers.
3. The Committee asked for clarification about what measurable outcomes lay behind the Ageing Well Commitment. Officers explained that there were a number of qualitative and quantitative outcomes being developed. The Committee was informed that one of these measurable outcomes would be how many organisations signed up to the Ageing Well Commitment. Officers commented that they would be happy to share these measurements with the Committee once they had been finalised.
4. Members expressed concern that there had been no explicit mention of how poverty can impact on older people within the report. Officers commented that the commitment to support people in accessing clear advice and resources was intended to include support for those who may be experiencing poverty.
5. It was highlighted that Local Committees would be an effective resource in communicating the Ageing Well Commitment on a District & Borough level, and that this would also allow a sharing of local knowledge and detail between officers and Members. Officers were in agreement with this.
6. The Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing gave a brief outline of the work being undertaken by the Health & Wellbeing Board and how this linked to the Ageing Well Commitment. The Committee was informed that part of this work was adopting a preventative approach around

older people's mental health concerns, and that this was a priority for commissioners of services.

7. The Committee thanked Officers for the work undertaken so far, and agreed to collectively endorse the Ageing Well Commitment.

Recommendations:

- a) That the report is taken to each Local Committee.

Action by: Senior Manager, Commissioning

- b) That the Committee form a Task and Finish group to aid the implementation of this strategy and ensure that Members are involved in its success.

Action by: Chairman/Scrutiny Officer

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee Next Steps:

A task group scoping document will be shared with Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee to approve at its meeting on 12 September 2013.

30/13 BUDGET UPDATE [Item 8]

Declarations of interest: None.

Witnesses:

Paul Carey-Kent, Senior Finance Manager, Change & Efficiency
Anne Butler, Assistant Director, Commissioning

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. Officers gave an outline of the savings that are required for Adult Social Care in 2013/14. The Committee raised a question about the £15 million savings target connected to the use of social capital, and expressed concerns that this was over-reliant on external organisations, such as the voluntary sector, being able to meet the demand. Officers commented that there had been no reduction in the support the Council offers to these organisations, and that the Personalisation, Prevention and Partnership (PPP) fund would also strengthen this.
2. The Committee asked for further detail on the nature of the one-off savings indicated in the budget. Officers clarified that these were made as result of unanticipated scenarios, such as staff vacancies and direct payments that were unspent. It was noted that, while these were not unusual, it was not the case that the directorate could rely on such savings being made on a regular basis.

3. The Committee queried how the directorate worked with external providers to identify the appropriate level of funding they required. Officers commented that they worked closely with those providers to identify savings and where costs had increased to ensure that levels of funding were adequate. Members commented that a greater number of “open book” contracts would help support the Directorate in this work.
4. Members asked whether there was a way of reducing the number of out-of-county placements in order to make savings. The Committee was informed that the review work around out-of-county placements would help identify possible savings. However, it was clarified by officers that those placed out-of-county are never done so on cost grounds, but on the basis that their individual needs cannot be met within the county.

Recommendations:

- a) That the Cabinet examine and evaluate the realistic potential for savings via “social capital.”

Action by: Cabinet

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee Next Steps:

None.

31/13 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT [Item 9]

[Ernest Mallett and Graham Ellwood left the meeting at 12 noon]

Declarations of interest: None.

Witnesses:

Action for Carers – Karen Holdsworth-Cannon, Chair

Citizens Advice Bureaux – Norma Corkish, Chair, Helen Drake, Anne Haigh

Surrey Disabled People’s Partnership – Clive Wood, Chief Executive

Surrey Coalition of Disabled People – Carol Pearson, Chief Executive

Surrey Care Association – Richard Williams, Chairman

Surrey Independent Living Council – Lorna Marsh, Independent Living Advisor

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Chairman welcomed the stakeholders and asked each to give a brief presentation on their respective organisations. A summary of each follows:

Action for Carers is an organisation of 40 staff based across two offices in Surrey. The aim of the organisation is providing unpaid carers with a voice. This is achieved in part through a GP recognition service that aims to assist GPs in identifying carers. Action for Carers is also the parent organisation of Surrey Young Carers, which was founded in 1998 to support young carers. They work closely with both with Adult Social Care and Children's Services to raise the awareness and aspirations of young carers, as well as offering a range of services to support them.

Citizens' Advice Bureaux (CAB) gave an outline of their work, and the aims and principles of the charity. It was highlighted that volunteering formed an important cornerstone to their work. The Committee was informed that the organisation's key challenge was mitigating the impact caused by welfare reform. It was also noted that CAB had seen an increase in demand since the announcements concerning welfare reform last year.

Surrey Disabled People's Partnership is a user-led organisation that delivers a range of services across Surrey. This includes an advocacy service that is jointly funded by Surrey County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). It also provides advice around transitions, choices around social care and housing. The Partnership offers a foot-care and hand-care service for those who may require it. The organisation had been provided with a grant by the Council to provide welfare benefits advice across Surrey.

Surrey Coalition of Disabled People was set up in 2007, it had been previously known as the Surrey User's Network (SUN). It is user-led and receives funding from Surrey County Council. Its principle role is around engagement for disabled people in Surrey, as well as helping co-design services with the Council and other providers. It works in close partnership with other organisations such as Action for Carers. It is currently setting up a user-led organisations project with a number of hubs opening. Four of these are already in operation in Epsom, Woking, Redhill and Addlestone, with four more to open September 2013. The Coalition also operates a number of county-wide forum and empowerment boards for specific disabilities.

Surrey Care Association (SCA) works to support all Adult Social Care providers in Surrey. It receives its core funding from the Council. It holds regular provider meetings with representatives from all services to discuss areas of interest and concern which are then communicated through the SCA. The organisation also holds regular conferences and training sessions for care providers as well as supporting them in funding workforce development.

The Surrey Independent Living Council (SILC) supports a number of people in finding employment, as well as providing advice on direct payments and personal finances. In some instances SILC can support

those on direct payments by agreeing to hold an account on an individual's behalf, therefore increasing their confidence in using direct payments. The organisation also operates a personal assistant finder service where it can act as an intermediary to assist people in finding a personal assistant.

[Margaret Hicks left the meeting at 12.35pm]

2. The Committee asked those in attendance to identify any areas where the Council could improve. It was highlighted that there were some concerns about how mental health issues were identified and supported. However, it was noted that this was a developing area and showing signs of improvement. The Committee was also informed that the Council could make more use of the current volunteer network within the County. Action for Carers commented that the consultation process could be improved in some instances, particularly in relation to engaging with the wider community. It was noted that there had been an important and positive shift within Adult Social Care, away from improving people's care and towards improving people's lives.

3. The Committee thanked those in attendance for their contributions.

Recommendations:

None.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee Next Steps:

None.

**32/13 RECOMMENDATION TRACKER AND FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
[Item 10]**

Declarations of interest: None.

Witnesses: None.

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Committee noted its forward work programme and recommendation tracker. There was no further comments.

Recommendations:

None.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee Next Steps:

None.

33/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 11]

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be on 5 September 2013 at 10am.

Meeting ended at: 12.57 pm

Chairman