

### Heading Notes for questions to place on agenda for Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 7 June 2018

These questions come from a resident of Surrey who qualifies as being amongst the possibly 20% of the population who are over 75 years old, may live alone, now need some support to be able to live independently in their own home, but who can no longer drive for health reasons, who do not have any equipment or assistance to obtain information and/or advice to remedy these deficiencies, or who do not want to do so by the use of digital methods.

In 2014 Surrey County Council were concerned in preparing for a Social Care Act the Government would not recognise that it is a 2 tier authority, resulting in specific powers, range of duties and thus financial accountability between the County and its District Councils (plus Boroughs) (B/DCs), and called on the Government to do so. They were successful, and it was confirmed that

- The Government had formally recognised the existence of 2 tier authorities
- That from 1 April 2015 it would be mandatory that all means of communication with individuals must be accessible in all formats, in all locations of personal choice etc; as specified in Section 3
- Confirmed that use of digital means of communication alone would not fulfil the duties of the Council under the terms of the Care Act

The Act itself contains a very detailed range of obligations on both parties in partnerships to secure the rights of all individuals – with whatever limitations they may have – including the right to receive – and have access to – all sources of information and advice in all formats

To secure these rights etc., SCC has supported each/all of the 11 B/DCs in the County to establish a presence – either in or adjacent to their main offices, containing both the local Social Services staff and a police presence, using a range of grants and the Better Care Fund to do so.

Unfortunately, although having provided such an excellent basis to operate and implement the Care Act, the opportunity to create the right partnerships was missed. SCC should have accepted this proper role for their support etc. of the 20% of the population whose needs they must provide for – which is being done to national acclaim, while the health needs of the 80% of the population which are the B/DCs role are not being formally recognised, and thus an excellent opportunity missed.

However, spurred by the debates which took place on the excellent item 108 (Item 8) and 118 (Item 9), and the responses in the Minutes of the meeting,

and building on their view that having a partner-led system of the development of STPs in Surrey

including recognition of the importance and

the value of the wider determinants of health and the role the voluntary sector and districts and boroughs have to lead and to deliver this

My question is in 2 parts:-

- What do the Board propose to initiate to update procedures internally within the County Council's area to complete the formation of partnerships at all levels, including financial accountability in compliance with the Care Act 2014, to recognise the leadership status of the B/DCs?
- Call on the STP to recognise the relevant B/DCs as lead partners within each/all of the 3 designated areas for the CCGs and in parallel with Social Services areas.

## RESPONSE:

### Part 1

Surrey County Council has the statutory responsibility to deliver the Care Act (2014). Sections 3, 6, 7, 22, 23, 74 and Schedule 3 of the Care Act 2014 covers integration, cooperation and partnerships, including the cooperation of partner organisations and working with housing authorities. The Care Act 2014 states:

"Local authorities must carry out their care and support responsibilities with the aim of joining-up the services provided or other actions taken with those provided by the NHS and other health-related services (for example, housing or leisure services)...

...This duty applies where the local authority considers that the integration of services will:

- promote the wellbeing of adults with care and support needs or of carers in its area
- contribute to the prevention or delay of the development of needs of people
- improve the quality of care and support in the local authority's area, including the outcomes that are achieved for local people" (Department of Health and Social Care, 2016).

Surrey County Council has an Adults and Lifelong Learning Select Committee responsible for scrutinising all adult services which are governed by the Care Act 2014.

The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is a strategic oversight Board comprised of health and social care commissioners and other bodies, including three members representing the 11 borough and district councils in Surrey. The HWB's role is to set the strategic direction of health and social care delivery in the county and therefore it would not be an appropriate forum to update internal procedures relating to the Care Act 2014 as this is the responsibility of Surrey County Council. The HWB do promote partnership working and borough and district councils are a key partner in all discussions at the Board.

Financial accountability sits within individual organisations, and therefore the HWB is not in a position to update procedures relating to financial accountability. However, the Board members who commission services, share budget plans and commissioning intentions annually and borough and district leaders are an equal partner in these discussions.

Recognising the value of borough and district councils as a key partner in promoting the health and wellbeing of Surrey residents and capitalising on the HWB's role to encourage

partnership working, the HWB has gone beyond its statutory responsibility and done the following:

- Invited three members onto the HWB to represent the 11 borough and district councils in Surrey, where they are involved in discussions setting the strategic direction for improving the health and wellbeing of residents in Surrey
- Shared and discussed the commissioning intentions of all commissioners on the Board, including Borough and District Councils plans, to ensure partner organisations have the opportunity to join up services (last item received December 2017).
- Received and discussed the financial plans for all commissioners on the Board providing an opportunity for Borough and District colleagues to comment and influence how finances are spent (last item received January 2018)
- Recommended that Borough and District representation be identified for the Accommodation with Care and Support Board to ensure borough and district colleagues are part of these discussions (April 2018 HWB meeting)

## **Part 2**

Borough and district councils play a vital role in the health and wellbeing of residents as outlined above. This has also been recognised in various ways by the Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) and Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) in Surrey:

- Borough and district colleagues are members on the Local Joint Commissioning Groups in Surrey
- Borough and district colleagues are increasingly engaged in discussions on the STPs and ICPs locally
- Borough and district colleagues are leading a programme of work relating to the wider determinants of health in Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership. Borough and district leaders have worked with colleagues in public health and wider borough and district stakeholders through the Borough and District Health Leads Group to identify the borough and district role in the wider determinants of health and the impact that they have on the health outcomes of residents. This programme of work has fed into a framework for the wider determinants of health that will be going to Surrey Chief Executives Group for approval.

We will continue to work together to ensure that districts, boroughs and health can work together in a joined up way.

In terms of providing information and advice, The Care Act 2014 is clear that it is the joint responsibility of all health, social care, local authority, voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to provide information and advice about care and support. Surrey County Council (SCC) has a co-ordinating role and duty to understand what the offer is but does not provide all of it and has a duty to improve that local offer. SCC does not have control over channels and access to information.

The HWB knows and acknowledges that we all have a duty to provide information and advice and endorsed the Surrey Information and Advice Strategy in October 2016.

## **References**

Department of Health and Social Care (2016) Care Act Statutory Guidance [Updated February 2018]

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