

**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
 22 JANUARY 2016**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C E H MARFLEET (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors R C Kirk (Vice-Chairman), W J Aron, S R Dodds, B W Keimach, Mrs H N J Powell, Mrs A E Reynolds, Mrs N J Smith, M A Whittington and Mrs S M Wray.

Councillors: C R Oxby (Executive Support Councillor for Adults Services) attended the meeting as an observer.

Officers in attendance:-

Katrina Cope (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Simon Evans (Health Scrutiny Officer), Glen Garrod (Director of Adult Care), Justin Hackney (Joint Commissioning Specialist Services), Lyndsey Hannam (Communications), and David Laws (Adult Care Strategic Financial Adviser).

Nicola Tallent (Officer for Engagement and Enter and View, Healthwatch Lincolnshire) was also in attendance at the meeting.

45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J R Marriott.

46 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of Councillors' interests were received at this stage of the proceedings.

47 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2015

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Adults Scrutiny Committee held on 9 December 2015, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

48 HEALTHWATCH LINCOLNSHIRE: ADULT CARE IN LINCOLNSHIRE

Consideration was given to a report from Nicola Tallent, Officer for Engagement and Enter and View, Healthwatch Lincolnshire, which provided the Scrutiny Committee with an update on Adult Care activity.

In guiding the Committee through the report, particular reference was made to:-

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- Care Act Work;
- Seldom Heard Voices;
- Mental Health;
- Current Work;
- Future Plans;
- Themes or Trends Relating to Adult Care; and
- Engagement Work for 2016.

During discussion, the Scrutiny Committee made reference to the following:-

- That signposting was very important, but it was very important that information signposted to was kept up to date and refreshed frequently. It was agreed that this could not be done by one method alone. The Committee was advised that the Council was currently working on a web facility which was due to be completed by the summer. It was also felt that any web based system needed to be developed in partnership across the community. It was also noted that communication by organisations such as Seldom Voice was also a very good way to get messages across. A copy of the Seldom Heard Voice report was attached at Appendix A to the report presented. Members welcomed the report;
- The health and care of prisoners or veterans. The Committee was advised that some specialist work was being done to consider health and care services in prisons; and work was also currently going on within North Sea Camp; and Lincoln to develop prison champions to support feedback mechanisms. In addition, further work was being done looking at the capacity of Formal Prison Visitors.

It was reported that Community Links were currently looking at a piece of work with veterans;

- What could be done to improve mental health services. It was noted that Healthwatch were waiting for the outcome of the CQC report, on Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, which was due to be released shortly. Healthwatch had however, produced two reports, and were concerned about the level of services available impacting on patient care and safety. It was highlighted that there was continued dialogue with South West Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), who were the lead CCG responsible for mental health in Lincolnshire. The challenges around mental health were recognised; and there was recognition that there was work to be done. The Committee was advised that the NHS had commissioned a mental health specialist to work at each A & E point; and that the Government had introduced a Parity of Esteem Policy, and that additional funding had been made available to the NHS to ensure that mental health services would improve. It was highlighted that the outcome of the CQC report in February/March might be something the Committee might want to consider at a future meeting;

- Some members felt that the sample for the Enter and View was too small; and could not be representative across the County. The Committee was advised that a report was due to be published on, or around the 20 January 2016, which looked at how residents spend their days. It was highlighted that a lot of visits to nursing homes were planned as Healthwatch had to maintain good working relationships within the community;
- Rural isolation and the increased suicide rate within the farming community. The Committee was advised that 'Shine' were doing a piece of work to look into the issues. Members were reminded that volunteers were not trained in this area. There was however planned work for 2016 to work with farming families and people living in rural isolation to help them access health and care, as a result of Healthwatch Lincolnshire Seldom Heard Voices work;
- The Committee was advised that Healthwatch had planned engagement work for 2016; details relating to planned work was detailed on page 18 of the report presented;
- New volunteers were used in mystery shopping activity to access services;
- Domiciliary Care - The Committee was advised that there would be a review of care at home, and that further work was planned to work with, and shadow providers in their activities, with a follow-up dialogue with the person receiving care. The Committee was advised that there had been a number of complaints during the transitional period, but levels were now back to where they were prior to the re-procurement of home care, but the level of complaints would continue to be monitored;
- Healthwatch volunteers – The Committee was advised that there were 33 engaged volunteers for the whole of Lincolnshire; and that work was currently ongoing to get a recognised kite mark for Healthwatch volunteers in the form of a "Investing in Volunteers Award";
- Reaction of agencies with regard to services changes – It was noted that some agencies provided Healthwatch with vast amounts of detailed information; and most acknowledged problems and were keen to find solutions. The Committee noted further that the relationship between Healthwatch and Lincolnshire County Council was a good one, which had over the last twelve months resulted in more joint working arrangements;
- Voluntary Car Scheme – It was commented that there were different prices around the County and whether there was anything that could be done to make the prices more consistent. The Committee was advised that there was a local charge of 55p per mile. It was noted that there were other services available that people could draw on, which were not promoted as well as they might be, but it was acknowledged that there was not a consistent approach across the County. One member advised that if the user was in receipt of pension credit, or the journey was for a young child, then there was provision to claim the fare back;
- Services for the migrant population – The Committee noted that certain services were provided which included translation for housing benefit and housing services. However, some residents in migrant communities were providing services which reflected the needs within their communities. Another issue highlighted within the migrant population was modern day slavery; and the problems that had been encountered in Lincolnshire with a

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number of gang masters, who had been successfully prosecuted, as there had been safeguarding issues;

- Page 33 – Homeless People - It was highlighted that some homeless people had multiple needs and therefore various agencies would have to be involved. The report had identified that overall the view of homeless people accessing health and care service was broadly positive. There was however, room for improvement as all district councils had different resources, and there was not a consistent approach across the County;
- Transport Issues – The Committee noted that representation had been made to the government with regard to transport issues, as Lincolnshire's funding allocation was one of the lowest in the Country. However, work was being done by Adult Care to review all transport provision to make sure that the Council was only paying for legitimate fares; and
- Page 43 Cross Theme Recommendations – The report highlighted that there were four key themes, they were communication, training, emotional and mental health support; and better use of the wider community. Particular reference was made for the need to get more people involved in voluntary work within communities, and a question was asked whether more needed to be done. Some members felt that a report concerning volunteering should be presented to a future meeting.

RESOLVED

1. The report presented by Healthwatch Lincolnshire on Adult Care in Lincolnshire be noted.
2. That a report concerning volunteering be presented to a future meeting of the Adult Scrutiny Committee.

49 ADULT CARE BUDGET 2016/17

Consideration was given to a report from David Laws (Adult Care Strategy Financial Advisor), which provided the Committee with the Adult Care revenue and capital budget for 2016/17. The Committee were invited to comment on the budget proposals, prior to them being discussed at the Executive at its meeting on 2 February 2016.

Glen Garrod (Director of Adult Social Services) introduced the report and advised the Committee that there had been 8,000 responses to the budget consultation; also some people had been donating money anonymously to help with the impending budget cuts.

The Adult Care Strategy Financial Advisor guided the Committee through the report presented, making particular reference to the fact that the Executive was currently consulting on a one year financial plan for revenue and capital budgets. It was noted that this was the second year running that the Council had only been able to set a one year budget, as a result of continued reductions in government funding, along

with growing cost pressures from demand services such as Adult Care, Children's Services and the implementation of the National Living Wage.

It was reported that the Adult Care budget had been set bearing in mind the increasing demographic pressure and cost pressures. This had resulted in a pressure of £3.946m in 2016/17, in addition to the funded pressure already identified of £4.951m arising from demographic growth.

In November 2015, Adult Care had identified savings of £3.370m from the Fundamental Budget Review to be delivered in 2016/17. In the autumn further additional savings needed were identified to help close the Council's funding gap, the proposed budget therefore identified a revised savings requirement of £5.332m in 2016/17, an increase of £1.962m.

As a result of the implications of the Care Act that came in for April 2015 on Adult Care, £6.4m had been received. It was noted that £400,000 had been given-back to the Council to help with the overall budgetary pressures along with the 2014/15 Adult Care underspend of £1.1m.

The Spending review in November 2015 had also announced the creation of a social care precept of 2% to give local authorities with responsibility for social care the ability to raise new funding to spend on adult social care. It was highlighted that this was estimated to be £4.745m in 2016/17 if implemented. Also, the Spending Review announced that £1.5bn would be added to the national ring-fenced Better Care Fund progressively from 2017/18 reaching £1.5bn in 2019/20.

It was reported that negotiations were currently ongoing with regard to the Lincolnshire County Councils BCF allocation for 2016/17. The final submission would have to be agreed between the four CCGs and the Executive for April 2016.

Details of the Adult Care budget proposals were detailed on pages 55 to 57 of the report presented.

The Committee were advised that Adult Care had revised its Capital Strategy and Investment Plan for 2015/16 onwards, as part of a renewal of its commitment to infrastructure developments. The report detailed plans totalling £11,300,000 over six areas of investment for the remaining life of the strategy. Full details of the six areas were on pages 57 to 59 of the report presented.

In conclusion, the Committee were advised that the proposed Adult Care Net Budget for 2016/17 was £154.585m, an increase of £8.949m (6.14%) over and above the 2016/16 budget of £145.636m. The budget had been set taking into consideration the increasing demographic pressure and cost pressures related to service provider fee increases. The Committee were reminded that due to the significant reductions in government funding and service pressures the Council had been unable to set a budget beyond the next twelve months, and therefore a one year budget was going to be set.

During discussion, the Committee raised the following issues:-

- That for Adult Care it was in fact a good news story, as Adult Care had had another year of underspend. The Director felt that Adult Care was in a good position, and hoped for a further underspend, but was mindful of the overall corporate responsibility;
- The raising of a social care precept of 2% to give local authorities with responsibility for social care the ability to raise new funding to spend on adult social care. Some members enquired as to how this would appear on Council Tax bills. It was thought that it would appear separately on the bill. The Committee felt that the precept should be shown separately on the Council Tax bill;
- That there was a need to ensure that risks on adult care services of reductions in other services area were minimised, as such reductions could lead to increased demand on the services provided by Adult Care;
- The BCF delay – The Committee was advised that the Better Care Fund had provided £20m support to Adult Care in 2015/16. The Committee was advised further that the detailed BCF guidance had not yet been issued by NHS England for 2016/17, however, there was an expectation that the level of national funding allocated to protect adult social care would continue in the coming year – in Lincolnshire this would equate to a minimum of £15.4m. The preparation of BCF proposals for 2016/17 involved the four CCGs and Lincolnshire County Council and the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board, who would be considering an item at its next meeting on 22 March 2016;
- Some clarification was sought with regard to in-house day services and whether that was catered for in the budget presented. The Committee noted that the proposals for In-House day Services were cost neutral in relation to the revenue budget, but £500,000 had been included in the proposed capital programme. Paragraph 4.2 on page 57, identified capital money for Day Care modernisation and Extra Care housing;
- Some concern was expressed as to the sustainability of provision, should funding be reduced or stopped, or proposed devolution plans changed the way local government was provided in Lincolnshire going forward. The Committee were reminded that the Council was only able to set a budget for 2016/17. It was a known fact that some councils within East Midlands area were finding it extremely difficult to set a budget for 2016/17;
- The longstanding National Policy was to encourage people to live at home with the necessary care and support rather than being resident in a care home. The Committee was advised that this policy had been implemented locally and was in line with what people wanted. It was reported that in order to achieve a savings target of £0.5 million, the Council would be considering a proposal to support service users to a level of the least costly option of either home care or residential care; and
- The need to see information regarding the link between the level of adult care activity and the level of expenditure. A request was made for a report to be presented to the February meeting so that the topic could be explored further by the Committee.

In conclusion, the Committee offered their support to the Adult Care budget proposals for 2016/17, and welcomed the increased expenditure for Adult Care, which equated to 6.1%.

The Committee agreed to highlight two particular issues to the Executive:-

- There was a need to minimise the risks on adult care services of reductions in other services area, as such reductions could lead to increased demand on the services provided by Adult Care; and
- The Committee acknowledged that there were likely to be national requirements on how the social care precept of 2% would be presented on Council Tax bills. If the precept was adopted by the County Council, the Committee requested that this be clearly indicated on Council Tax bills, so that it was clear to all Council Tax payers what the precept would be used for.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee offered their support to the Adult Care budget proposals for 2016/17, and welcomed the increased expenditure for Adult Care, which equated to 6.1%.
2. That the Committee wished to highlight to the Executive two particular issues: -
 - There was a need to minimise the risks on adult care services of reductions in other services area, as such reductions could lead to increased demand on the services provided by Adult Care;
 - The Committee acknowledged that there was likely to be national requirements on how the social care precept of 2% would be presented on Council Tax bills. If the precept was adopted by the County Council, the Committee requested that this should be clearly indicated on Council Tax bills, so that it was clear to all Council Tax payers what the precept would be used for.
3. That a report identifying the link between the level of adult care activity and the level of expenditure be presented to the Committee at its February meeting.

50 REVIEW OF IN-HOUSE DAY SERVICES

The Committee gave consideration to a report from Justin Hackney (Assistant Director, Specialist Adult Services), which provided an update on the review of in-house day services.

It was reported that following a thorough process of due diligence and risk assessment it had been concluded that it would be more beneficial to retain the services in-house. As a result, a review of the building stock was carried out, and

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also a review of the quality and sustainability of the service to ensure that the service moving forward would be fit for purpose.

The Assistant Director, Specialist Adult Services drew the Committees attention to page 62 of the report, which provided a summary of the recommendations contained within Appendix A to the report presented.

It was highlighted that not all buildings were suitable and as a result alternative venues were being sought in Louth, Market Rasen and Grantham. Full details were contained within Appendix A to the report presented.

During consideration, the Committee highlighted the following issues:-

- Support was expressed for proposals detailed. It was felt that once work was completed the facilities needed to be communicated to the community. The provision was a service that could potentially be built on. The Committee was reassured that the purpose for the buildings was to be a community asset; and work would be done to identify facilities and potential usage;
- That modernisation works would be completed over the next few months with a view to completion towards the end April;
- Frequency of sessions – It was confirmed that existing opening hours would remain;
- It was agreed that arrangements would be made with day centres to arrange suitable times for a number of members to visit a number of the Day Centres, once the work had been completed. A further update report would then be completed for Adults Scrutiny in June 2016;
- It was highlighted that sustainability of the services would be determined by service users ultimately choosing to use the facilities;
- The possibility of approaching local colleges within the localities regarding work experience for students for painting and decorating, carpentry, and building works was suggested;
- The Committee extended their thanks to David Watson, for all his input over the years with regard to day centres; and
- Consultation process – The Committee was advised that all comments had been included in the decision report in relation to Boston and Skegness Centres to the Executive Councillor with responsibility for Adult Services.

RESOLVED

1. That the update report be noted.
2. That arrangements be made by the Assistant Director Specialist Adult Services for members of the Committee to visit In-House Day Service Centres once work has been completed.
3. That an update report be on progress made relating to In-House Day Services be presented to the June meeting of the Adult Scrutiny Committee.

51 ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report from Richard Wills, Executive Director responsible for Democratic Services, which enabled the Committee to consider its work programme for its forthcoming meetings. A copy of the work plan was detailed at Appendix A. Appendix B provided the Committee with tracking information relating to the items considered by the Committee since June 2013.

The Health Scrutiny Officer advised that he was still waiting for confirmation as to whether the Adults Safeguarding report would be considered at the February meeting, or whether it would be considered at a future meeting.

The Committee enquired whether a Task and Finish Group/Working Group should be established to look into Domiciliary Care. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the pre-meeting scheduled to be held on Monday 1 February 2016.

Another item suggested for consideration was Volunteers, although it was suggested that this might be an item that should be considered by the Communities and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED

That the work programme as set out in appendix A to the report presented be noted, subject to the inclusion of the items discussed above.

The meeting closed at 1.10 p.m.