

FOR: COUNCIL MEETING

8 JULY 2014

AGENDA ITEM 8

(GREEN ENCLOSURE)

REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND HEALTH (OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

PRESENT:

Councillors Marshall (Chairman), Warfield (Vice Chairman), Mrs Woodward (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Bacon, Mrs Bland, Mrs Evans, Humphreys, Ms Perkins, Taylor and Tittley.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: were received from Councillors Mrs Allsopp and Salter.

(In accordance with Council Procedure No. 17 Councillors Greatorex and Pritchard also attended the meeting.)

ALSO PRESENT:

Staffordshire County Councillor Alan White, Cabinet Member for Care
John Tradewell (Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation, Staffordshire County Council)

At the meeting of the Community, Housing and Health (Overview & Scrutiny) Committee held on 10th June 2014 the following matters were considered:

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1.1 The Strategic Director for Community, Housing and Health, Mrs Helen Titterton, reported that following the dissolution of the Operational Services Directorate, some new responsibilities had been transferred to the Community, Housing and Health Directorate (CCTV, emergency planning and business continuity) and these were now all reflected in the terms of reference for the Community, Housing and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 The information received was noted.

2. SUPPORTING PEOPLE REVIEW

- 2.1 Staffordshire County Councillor Alan White (Cabinet Member for Care) and John Tradewell were welcomed to the meeting. Councillor White introduced the item by providing a background to the Supporting People (SP) service which provided housing related support to vulnerable people across the county to help prevent them from falling into higher categories of need / dependence.
- 2.2 It was reported that there was an annual spend across Staffordshire of £11.5 million on 196 contracts and 43 providers with 21 different types of services providing support to 17,772 households. It was noted that 11.3% of the budget was spent in Lichfield District. It was then reported that the SP contracts were currently being

reviewed and although no decisions had yet been made, Councillor White emphasised the considerable pressure on NHS and social care budgets and the need to refocus provision on individual need, 'doing things once and doing things well' by taking an integrated commissioning approach with partners.

- 2.3 Mr Tradewell made a presentation about the SP service explaining the background, limitations and aims for the future of the service i.e. better targeting towards people who need support, focusing on individuals rather than where they live and promoting independence rather than dependence. He advised that a new Prevention Fund would be developed and used on a time limited basis to offer a 'hand up' for people at risk of crisis, breakdown or exclusion. It was reported that this would help develop individual stability, resilience and independence and support time limited interventions with agreed outcomes for each individual. The fund aimed to prevent admission to more acute services, reduce impact of crisis and minimise the risk of harm to self and others. It was then reported that the SP Review would entail a two year transition to achieve prevention by April 2016.
- 2.4 Members noted that a decision about the future of all contracts would be made in June/July 2014 and implementation will start on 30th September 2014, where some providers would see their funding unchanged/reduced or withdrawn. It was also noted that all decisions would be based on Community / Equality / Locality and Provider Impact Assessments.
- 2.5 Members asked how the changes would be communicated to service users, many of whom may did not cope well or quickly with change. Mr Tradewell advised that as no decision had been made about the future of the SP services, it was premature to start consultation. He also suggested that the SP service providers would be better placed to carry out this communication than the County Council as providers had established relationships with their clients.
- 2.6 Members then enquired about the impact of the SP Review on provider organisations such as Bromford Housing. Mr Tradewell emphasised that meetings were underway with all providers covering the 29 contracts in place for Lichfield District which delivered sheltered housing, community alarms, the Pathway project and Bluebell House (Lichfield Foyer). Bromford was the biggest provider by contract value and the County Council was in an ongoing dialogue with them. As decisions had yet to be made, Mr Tradewell suggested it was premature to be discussing the impact.
- 2.7 Councillor White reported that he was in discussion with the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding future funding to support domestic abuse services. Members noted that this had been picked up through the 'call in' process at the County Council It was also noted that there was likely to be an additional cost arising from a personalised service compared to universal / same for all services.
- 2.8 It was noted that there was an ambition that partners would contribute in the future to the Prevention Fund. However, the financial position of partner agencies could make this difficult. Members discussed the need to be conscious of investments in the community and voluntary sector so that scarce resources were used in a complementary way between partner organisations. Councillor White agreed and referred to the need to pursue the integration agenda 'doing it once and doing it well'.
- 2.9 The Chairman asked whether there was any precedent elsewhere for SP budget reductions of a similar nature / level. Councillor White referred to exemplars in Worcestershire and Buckinghamshire.
- 2.10 The Chairman thanked John Tradewell and Councillor White for their attendance and help and the Supporting People Review was noted.

3. BURNTWOOD HEALTH CENTRES

- 3.1 The Committee received a verbal update by Helen Titterton on the progress of the Burntwood Health Centres which had been on the agenda for some time. It was reported that with regret, NHS England had announced their decision not to proceed with a new build development on the Burntwood Leisure Centre (BLC) site.
- 3.2 Mrs Titterton also reported that the lease and planning permission for the temporary Health and Wellbeing Centre (also located at the BLC site) would expire later this year and that discussions with NHS England would be proceeding shortly on this matter. Mrs Titterton advised that she was seeking a meeting with NHS England to ascertain the current position on the Wellbeing Centre and to discuss the implications arising from the decision not to build on the BLC site.
- 3.3 It was agreed that the District Council needed to maintain good working relationships with the NHS and avoid recriminations. However, Councillor Mrs Woodward felt that the District Council should press for an explanation regarding the failure of the business case to be presented to the Primary Care Trust Board and to explore what had happened to the other health centre projects which were also put on hold owing to the reorganisation of the NHS.
- 3.4 In response to the news about the health centre, a press release had been issued by the District Council with both the Leader and Councillor Mrs Woodward expressing their disappointment at the decision. The Committee was advised that MP Michael Fabricant had put a motion to Parliament on how this issue could be addressed.
- 3.5 County Councillor White advised that there were 11 'distressed' health economies nationwide and Staffordshire is one of them owing to the very substantial financial deficits in the NHS. It was noted that a review was currently taking place being led by KPMG and the results of this should be issued by end of June 2014 which would influence future plans for local health services. Councillor Mrs Woodward agreed that the health economy in Staffordshire was very complex and that primary care deficits were well documented following the closures of St Matthews and Hammerwich Hospitals.
- 3.6 Turning to the proposed new health centre to be located at Greenwood House, Councillor White stressed his intention and commitment to ensure this development went ahead.
- 3.7 Councillor Mrs. Evans said that that Burntwood residents were devastated by the news that they wouldn't be getting a new health centre and expressed concerns on behalf of the 3,000 people registered with the temporary Wellbeing Centre about the future of this facility. She also noted that new houses would be built bringing more people into the local community in addition to the growing elderly population. It is therefore crucial to have good quality health care services available to them all. Councillor Mrs. Evans expressed disappointment that Michael Fabricant had not intervened earlier. The Chairman offered to look into the possibility of inviting Mr. Fabricant to come to this meeting.
- 3.8 The Chairman thanked County Councillor White for his support with this discussion and it was agreed for the item to remain on the work programme.

4. FUTURE OF COMMUNITY HOSPITALS

- 4.1 The Committee were notified that Lichfield District Council had received a letter from Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Clinical Commissioning Group to advise that they would be undertaking a consultation regarding the future of the two local community hospitals (Sir Robert Peel Hospital and Samuel Johnson Hospital).
- 4.2 It was reported that an advisory board was being set up to oversee this process with the first meeting to be held on 20th June which the Strategic Director would attend.
- 4.3 It was agreed that this item be added onto the Work Programme for the September meeting agenda. It was noted that if any important information were to be received at the meeting, the Director would report it to the Chairman.
- 4.4 The information received was noted and it was agreed for the item to remain on the work programme.

5. FEEDBACK FROM STAFFORDSHIRE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 5.1 The Committee received a verbal report from the Chairman who had attended a recent meeting of the Staffordshire Health Select Committee. It was reported that the main item on agenda was the minor injuries unit at Cannock Community Hospital. There were several general practitioners from the Cannock area who had expressed an interesting taking over the management of the minor injuries unit. It was also reported that this proposal would go out to consultation for 3 months. The Chairman reported that he would forward details, via email, to anyone requiring more information regarding this.

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- 6.2 It was reported that an advisory board was being set up to oversee this process with the first meeting to be held on 20th June which the Strategic Director would attend.
- 6.3 It was agreed that this item be added onto the Work Programme for the September meeting agenda. It was noted that if there were any important information received at the meeting, the Director would report it to the Chairman.
- 6.4 The information received was noted and it was agreed for the item to remain on the work programme.

7. COMMISSIONING SERVICES FROM THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

- 7.1 The Committee received a verbal report from Cllr. Mrs. Woodward (Chairman of the Member Task Group on Funding the Community and Voluntary Sector). She explained the process that the Task Group had gone through and outlined the

proposed priorities for future investment and the proposed allocation of the available budget between these priorities.

- 7.2 Councillor Mrs Woodward emphasised that the District Council needed to look very carefully at how many organisations were funding the same priorities and the need to ensure dovetailing with all the other services to ensure maximum impact.
- 7.3 It was agreed that the proposed Service Level Agreement priorities and financial allocations be endorsed and forwarded to the Cabinet Member for consideration

8. END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2013/14

- 8.1 The Committee received a report on the activities and projects set out in the Council's One Year Action Plan 13/14 and highlighted some of the activities:
- Procurement and commissioning of Home Improvement Agency services in Staffordshire which links in to our activities and projects on Disabled Facilities Grants.
 - Homelessness Review and Strategy.
 - Suitability of private rented accommodation, contributes towards homelessness prevention and assistance.
 - Equality Statement 2014, this helps us to meet our commitments to the Public Sector Equality Duty.
 - Work Clubs, this contributes to helping unemployed people back into work.
 - Member Task Group of fuel poverty and affordable warmth which has been considered the ongoing delivery of the Warmer House Greener District scheme and options for local implementation of the Green Deal.
- 8.2 It was reported that current performance indicated that out of the 23 Activities & Projects for 2013/14, 18 were currently *On Target*, *In Progress* with 3 and *Behind Target* with 2. It was noted that PIs (Performance Indicators) would be monitored as they gave a large amount of important data.
- 8.3 Members raised concerns about the sustainability of the community transport service and the need to progress with plans and opportunities to increase income. It was reported that Burntwood Town Council had developed a proposal to use community transport to underpin a local ring and ride service and were anxious to proceed with this. Councillor Greatorex explained that Officer capacity was extremely stretched and this had slowed down the pace at which the proposal could be progressed. However, he reassured Members that the future viability of the CT service continued to be a priority for all concerned.
- 8.4 A similar comment was made in relation to future plans for the Old Mining College Centre where it was felt there was the potential to raise more income through additional room hire. Councillor Greatorex acknowledged there was scope for improvement but also noted that given the significant reduction in officer resources, the income achieved had continued to remain fairly stable.
- 8.5 Members noted that organisational resilience was becoming a pressing issue and that pressure on Officer time was very high, especially when new functions such as emergency planning were being absorbed.
- 8.6 The report was noted.

9. CORPORATE COMPLAINTS – 2013/14

- 9.1 The Committee received a report on the corporate Complaints and Compliments received in 13/14 and the associated Charter which guided staff on dealing with complaints. The Charter identified a three stage complaint process:
- Stage 1 –the complaint is dealt with the relevant service manager, 92 complaints were resolved at this stage.
 - Stage 2 – the complaint is reviewed and considered by the relevant Director, 3 complaints were received at this stage.
 - Stage 3 – the Chief Executive will appoint an independent Director to review the complaint and advising them of the outcome, 6 complaints were progressed to this stage.
- 9.2 Members felt that many complaints (and compliments) that Councillors received did not get logged corporately.
- 9.3 It was agreed that the report be noted and that compliments be an item at future meetings

10. WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

- 10.1 Members discussed the Work Programme and items that could potentially be added including the County Council's review of the library service and the implications of the Dementia Centre of Excellence. Mrs Titterton reminded Members that neither of these areas of work fell within the responsibility of the District Council and therefore the County Council may be a more appropriate conduit for scrutiny. The consultation on the community hospitals would be added to the work programme
- 10.2 It was agreed that the Work Programme be amended as agreed and Forward Plan be noted.

T. Marshall
Chairman
Community, Housing and Health (Overview & Scrutiny) Committee