

11 November 2013

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CULTURAL SERVICES

NATIONAL CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES CONFERENCE 2013 – REWIRING PUBLIC SERVICES: 16 – 18 OCTOBER 2013

Purpose of the Report

1. To report back on Member and officer attendance at the National Children and Adult Services Conference which took place in Harrogate between 16 and 18 October 2013.

Information and Advice

Background

2. The County Council's representatives were Councillor Muriel Weisz, Councillor John Peck, David Pearson (Corporate Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection) and Anthony May (Corporate Director of Children, Families and Cultural Services).
3. This report describes the business of the event and an evaluation by the Council's representatives of its success, with particular reference to the business of the Council and the achievement of learning objectives. The report is supported by reference to the speeches and presentations which are on the conference website, hosted by the Local Government Association.

Purpose/Aim of the Event

4. The National Children and Adult Services Conference is the major annual national conference for adults and children's services.
5. This conference is designed to provide an opportunity to further understand and get up to date information on proposals to deal with issues in adults and children's services.
6. Attendance at the conference was with the following objectives:
 - understanding the policies and strategies of the Government for adults and children's services

- receive information on best practice across the country
- hear from expert speakers and Government Ministers on a range of policy developments, key challenges and opportunities in adults and children's services.

Achievement of Objectives

7. The conference had a full agenda of speeches, plenary sessions, workshops and exhibitions. It also provided opportunities for Members and officers to talk to colleagues across the country about the various issues and challenges facing adults and children's services.
8. The conference was addressed by the following leading politicians:
 - Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Health
 - Norman Lamb, Minister of State for Care and Support
 - Edward Timpson, Minister for Families and Children
 - Andy Burnham, Shadow Spokesperson for Health
9. A large number of topics were covered and some of the key issues are summarised below.

The Rewiring of Public Services

10. Sir Merrick Cockell, Chairman of the Local Government Association (LGA), opened the conference by outlining the budgetary challenges facing local authorities. The contention is that services need to transform, given the extent of the financial challenge and this will require councils to work differently, finding new and creative ways to understand and meet the needs of local people. The LGA response to this is a campaign known as Rewiring Public Services which sets out ten key propositions for the way in which local government works and its relationship with Whitehall. More details of the campaign can be found on the LGA website.

The Integration of the NHS and Local Government

11. The key message from across Government is that the NHS and local government must integrate further if services are to meet needs of a changing population in difficult financial times. There was much debate and discussion about the various forms that integration takes now and how this must develop in the future. There was also discussion about the best way to use the new £3.8 billion Integration Transformation Fund which has been set aside to support these developments. Arrangements are already in hand in Nottinghamshire to agree how to use our share of the fund.

The Role of Ofsted and the new Inspections of Children in Need of Help and Protection, Looked After Children and Care Leavers

12. The new inspection framework was the subject of much debate and a dedicated session led by Ofsted, the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Children's Services. The new framework will be implemented in November 2013 and every local authority will be inspected during a three year cycle.

By 2015, it is anticipated that the inspection framework will be extended to incorporate other inspectorates such as the Care Quality Commission.

Health Reforms

13. Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Health, spoke about the Government's approach to health reforms, focusing on the draft Care Bill, loneliness in older people, the new Care Quality Commission inspection regime, the role of the new Chief Social Worker, workforce development and social care funding.

The role of David Pearson and Anthony May

14. At the conference, David Pearson played a prominent role, taking up his new duties as the Vice President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care. This included briefing Ministers and hosting ministerial plenary sessions. David will become the President of the Association in April 2014 and will play an even more prominent role in next year's conference.
15. Anthony May presented at two of the workshops: Improving Health and Wellbeing Outcomes for Children and Young People (hosted by the LGA); and Systems Leadership (hosted by the Department of Health, Public Health England and the Virtual Staff College). Anthony's presentations are available on the conference website.
16. In addition to these main themes there were workshops on important topics, including the following.
 - Tackling Sexual Exploitation
 - Innovating in Local Government
 - Adopter Recruitment
 - Protecting Disabled Children and Adults
 - Creating Dementia Friendly Communities
 - Young People's Transitions
 - Public Service Mutuals
 - Literacy Changes Lives
17. Members and officers felt that the Conference was very effective in providing an opportunity to learn about the key issues in these areas of service and the future direction.
18. Details of the speeches and presentations can be found at the link below.

<http://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-forgotten/million>

Other Options Considered

19. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

20. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the report back on Member and officer attendance at the National Children and Adult Services Conference which took place in Harrogate between 16 and 18 October 2013 be noted.

Anthony May
Corporate Director, Children, Families and Cultural Services
and Deputy Chief Executive

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

22. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (KLA 29/10/13)

23. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

National Children and Adult Services Conference 2013 – report to Children & Young People's Committee on 16 September 2013

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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