



MINUTES

DRAFT 2

Meeting: **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH
DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFING MEETING**

Date: **6th March 2007**

Present:

Councillor Peter Barnes
Councillor Ken Bullivant
A Councillor Richard Butler
Councillor John Carter
A Councillor Steve Carr
Councillor Jim Creamer
A Councillor Yvonne Davidson
Councillor Vincent Dobson
A Councillor Paul Henshaw
Councillor Rod Kempster
Councillor Pat Lally
Councillor Joe Lonergan
Councillor Alan Rhodes (Chair)
Councillor Michael Storey
A Councillor Lynn Sykes
Councillor Yvonne Woodhead

Also in Attendance

Councillor B Wombwell
Councillor P Tsimbirdis

David Pearson

Strategic Director Adult Social
Health and Care

Malcolm Dillon

Service Director – Older People
and Strategic Partnerships

Jon Wilson

Service Director – Mental Health
and Learning Disability

Paul McKay

Service Director – Physical
Disability and Independent
Living

Joe Pidgeon

Service Head-Inter-Agency
Planning & Commissioning

Paul Johnson

Commissioning Officer

Sarah Hampton

Joint Planning Officer

Jane Cashmore

Strategic Planning and

Commissioning Manager

Gill Vasilevskis

Temporary Service Manager –
Mental Health

Julie Cope

Communications Officer

Charles Walker
Lisa Swift

Catherine Harvey

Evening Post Reporter
Committee Support Officer
(minutes)
Administrative Assistant
Committee Support (minutes)

1. **Welcome and Introduction**

Every one was welcomed to the meeting.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Allin, Bosnjak, Carroll, Davidson and Kirkham, Linda Bayliss and Liz Bennett.

3. **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 5th February 2007 were agreed as a true record.

5. **Development of Adult Social Care and Health Commissioning Strategies**

David Pearson, Strategic Director for Adult Social Care and Health introduced the item. He explained that this meeting stems from the last Departmental Briefing held on the 5th February regarding the item on the Commissioning Strategies "Planning for Future Services". This extraordinary meeting is to capture Members' views on the commissioning strategy as part of the consultation process.

The Health and Social Care White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" reinforces the importance of Adult Social Care and Health working in conjunction with Health. The key priorities, through the White Paper, are for services for the next 2 years and it recognises the changes in Health services.

Some of the individual strategies have been developed jointly with Health; others have been subject to consultation on the contents. Funding and affordability have been properly cost at the end of each chapter to ensure that the medium term financial strategy can be met.



Jon Wilson, Service Director – Mental Health and Learning Disability gave a presentation, putting the commissioning strategy into context. He introduced the officers present who have been involved in developing and writing the various chapters.

Councillor Lonergan was concerned that the Commissioning Strategy was a

very dense document which is labyrinthine and difficult to consume. On page 9 of the Commissioning Strategy for Adult Social Care 2007/2009, he requested clarity on what a Zone was. Throughout the document there are graphs and tables, he asked for the axis to be marked.

He also expressed concern about the very high degree of change and review. For example Fairer Charging – was this going to change along with the criteria for Eligibility.

He asked whether the Prevention Strategy contains risk assessments which no longer apply. He suggested that the 3 levels are hard to understand.

He said the section on intermediate care mentions specifically the rearranging and allocations between districts. It looks like intermediate care is being reviewed again. It is also not clear if it is in the home setting or in an establishment. He added that assessment costs are a very significant problem and are on the high side.

He pointed out that the Independent Living Fund graph shows the authority has a high amount of claims, which is good.

With regard to demography, there are implications for aging and an increase in levels of service need but there is no evidence that this is true. In the last 2-3 years of a person's life they need more help from Adult Social Care. There is no established link between age and help from social services. Councillor Lonergan suggested that improved medical intervention may delay the need for Social Care. In summary, the document needs an executive summary to explain what the big issues are.

David Pearson firstly explained that the document is being consulted upon and these comments are helpful in improving the strategy. The format of the document has been affected by the need to include detail. There has been debate about how best to construct the document as it is a live document and needs to be relevant to different groups. David noted Councillor Lonergan's comments about the Zone and the graphs and agreed that this would be looked at.

With regard to intermediate care, it started in the residential sector and has now been more widely developed as a home-based service.

David acknowledged that assessment costs are high, but £700k was being taken out through proposals reducing for the number of team manager posts.

David was pleased to acknowledge that the money received from the Independent Living Fund was relatively high as the fund is additional Government money to meet individual care needs.

With regard to demographic changes, David said there had been debate about whether improved medical intervention leads to a delay in the need for social care services, this may be the case for some physical conditions but this is not currently the case for people suffering from dementia.

Malcolm Dillon, Service Director – Older People and Strategic Partnerships added that the Alzheimer's Society recent research indicated an increase in dementia in the 80-85 and 85-90 year range as more of the population was aging and therefore cases in dementia are increasing.

David added that medical technology had advanced and more and more people with serious illnesses were being kept alive longer. The Commissioning Strategy does include a high degree of change. In the next 2 – 3 years the strategy will change and the plans will be reviewed overall.

Malcolm Dillon added that the Fairer Charging and Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) both need to be in the strategy but this doesn't mean that they need to change. Both are significant levers but there are no plans for further change to eligibility criteria or charging.

Joe Pidgeon, Service Head, Inter-Agency Planning & Commissioning explained that the lower 2 of the 3 levels described in the prevention strategy concern people who are not eligible for social care services. Level 3 (high) includes people eligible for other Departmental services as in the other strategies and levels 1-2 prevention services are equivalent to lower to moderate in FACS.

Councillor Lonergan wanted clarity on what would happen when the funding for some of the prevention schemes ceases from Central Government?

David Pearson explained that the temporary funding for Linkage Plus is from the Department for Work and Pensions. We and they are assessing which of the services being developed are successful and helpful to older people but it is not clear whether money will be available in the longer term. A meeting was held on 5th March with Social Exclusion Minister Pat McFadden and long term funding was discussed. The department is working with 30 partners on the project with sustainability in the future a key issue for all partners but it is not clear if further funding will be available.

Joe Pidgeon explained that the temporary funded services are contained in the Local Area Agreement. This gives a greater degree of certainty.

Councillor Tsimbiridis was concerned about the increasing number of people suffering from dementia in Mansfield Woodhouse and wondered what was being done to address this.

David Pearson pointed out that Mansfield Woodhouse is classed as an area of deprivation and these areas are more likely to have more referrals. More investment is being focussed in these areas.

Jon Wilson noted Councillor Creamer's comment about the reference to Zone one Arnold and confirmed that he would raise this with the Communities Department as this is where the information was obtained from.

Councillor Creamer requested clarity on how the PCTs are committing

resources.

Jon Wilson advised that PCTs are our partners and there is no significant reduction in their funding for learning disability. However, the large increases in social care funding have not been matched by proportionate increases from the PCTs and the gap is increasing.

Paul Johnson said the resource assumptions made in the strategy are an attempt to recognise the various budget pressures which will affect commissioning activity, and to be open and honest with service users and partners. Whilst the PCT may not be able to commit additional resources we are confident that the PCT is not anticipating any withdrawal of funds.

Councillor Carter raised concerned that Aspergers is unfunded and has been for a number of years with no funding coming from Central Government. He wanted to know what funding was required for this area.

Jon Wilson said the Children and Young Peoples Department estimated that there are about 1000-1500 children with moderate autism and the expected levels of referrals to adult care are expected to increase in the next few years. It is estimated that £3/4m is currently spent from existing budgets for adults, mental health and learning disabilities but there is no separate budget for Aspergers. However, this is being looked at with a view to developing a separate budget for this area and the county council have committed a further £340K in 2007 for people with Aspergers.

Councillor Lally acknowledged that the document contained many changes and asked whether the detailed costings and finance reflect this accurately.

Jon Wilson assured Councillor Lally that the costing were accurate and had been thoroughly checked by finance officers.

Councillor Lonergan asked for clarity on allocation of the capital grant to care homes. He wanted to know about transition services and why the modernisation of day services had slipped.

David Pearson explained that the Capital Grant is being considered by Cabinet on the 7th March. The grant has been made available by Government to enhance the dignity of residential and care homes. As the Department already has a project in place for its own homes, the grant is being spent solely in the independent sector. The grant is a one-off payment with a tight audit trail on spends.

Jon Wilson said he echoed Councillor Lonergan's concerns about Transitions. Clearly there are different legislative frameworks between adult and children's services and parents have expectations that services will continue. Person Centred Assessments should enable people to have all the relevant information early so people can make better choices.

With regard to Modernisation of Day Care, Jon explained that day care services will always need to be modernised and as the agenda and expectations change the modernisation agenda will continue to develop.

David Pearson added that there is a protocol in place to deal with transitions which Jon Wilson and Helen Ryan are working on. Planning has improved the department knows who is moving into adulthood. There are costs involved and Health contributes to this. In a recent visit to the Broxtowe District, he met with the dedicated Transitions worker who was planning with young people their move to adulthood. Such workers make transitions as smooth as possible.

Councillor Tsimbiridis requested clarity on what a 3rd sector is and who scrutinises this area.

David Pearson explained that the 3rd sector is the voluntary and community sector. They include social enterprise services with a social ethos and are more locally based. The Commission for Social Care Inspection inspect providers of social care services.

9. Questions from the public

There were no questions from the Public.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm