

8th January 2018**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC
HEALTH****NATIONAL CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES CONFERENCE,
11-13 OCTOBER 2017****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report informs the Committee of the key messages from the National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) Conference which took place in Bournemouth between 11th and 13th October 2017.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council's representatives attending the conference were Councillor Stuart Wallace, Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee, Colin Pettigrew, Corporate Director of Children, Families and Cultural Services, David Pearson CBE, Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Public Health, and Jane North, Programme Director, Adult Social Care and Public Health.
3. The report is supported by the presentations which are available on the [conference website](#).
4. A range of issues and priorities in adult social care were reflected in the conference agenda including some joint issues with children's services. Major topics covered were: integration with health; rising demand, continued budget pressures and few savings remaining; early intervention and prevention; and strengths based approaches to social care work.
5. A key topic at the conference was the joint letters from the Secretaries of State for Health and Department of Communities and Local Government on 10th October to individual local authorities with regard to delayed discharge of care targets. The letters indicated that the government may introduce directions as to how the funding could be spent if performance does not improve for poor performing councils and health trusts. A major issue was the difficulties in ensuring that accurate data is submitted by Health Trusts about delayed discharges of care. A particular concern was the recording of delays by Health Trusts located outside the local authority area. Since the conference, councils have been putting in place robust arrangements with health trusts to enable more accurate recording of delays.
6. Lord Gary Porter, Chair of the Local Government Association, opened the NCAS conference in a gloomy mood and said 'if we don't get housing right then services are destined to fail'. He also made a plea for investment in prevention and said 'stopping people

going into hospital is the important thing and our resources should be focused on prevention rather than cure’.

7. This was followed by Margaret Willcox, President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), and Alison Michalska, President of the Association of Directors of Children’s Services (ADCS). The main messages from Margaret’s speech were:
 - the budget pressures facing adult social care
 - hopes for the upcoming adult social care green paper consultation
 - concerns over the measures being taken to limit delayed transfers of care, and the impact this is having on relations with NHS colleagues.
8. During Margaret’s speech she made reference to some of the key findings from ADASS’s Autumn Survey, including major difficulties in the care market. Almost half, 48%, of all authorities reported that they have experienced homecare providers handing back contracts in the first five months of the fiscal year. That is up sharply from just over a third, 37%, who said the same over a longer period – six months - in ADASS’s main Budget Survey from 2017. More than 45% of councils say that they are finding it difficult or very difficult to source homecare for people who need it. Just over 20% of councils say they are struggling to find enough places in residential homes, but 52% are struggling to find enough places in nursing homes.
9. A key message from the conference was prevention and the need for health, social care and housing to work together to address financial and demographic pressures by investing in prevention. At the session on ‘Better than cure – getting serious about prevention’ Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive, Public Health England, said ‘we conflate good health with the role of the NHS, and it’s simply wrong.’ He added that the NHS can only make 10% difference to good health and what mattered more included factors such as employment, good mental health, social inclusion, housing and the environment. He called for local government to lead on good health.
10. Strength based approaches were a common theme at the conference and in the session ‘Get your asset-based approach into gear!’ with Clenton Farquharson MBE, Chair of TLAP (Think local, act personal), he talked about looking at people’s strengths rather than their deficits. This is at the heart of strength based approaches and the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has released a new framework to support councils to adopt this approach called the [Future of Care](#).
11. Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker for Adults and Julia Scott, Chief Executive of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists focused on the transformative role of social workers and occupational therapists in enabling people to stay independent and live good quality lives. In the report, [Living not existing](#) Julia Scott describes how the skills of an occupational therapist are rooted in working with individuals ‘to establish what activities matter to them and to set goals to help them maintain or regain their ability to do them’.
12. David Pearson took part in a thought provoking session about the future of health and social care and considered some of the solutions to the challenges ahead. He set out a framework for how local politicians, clinical, commissioning and community leaders can come together to redesign their local health and social care landscape to meet the future challenges and deliver improved outcomes. He urged local leaders ‘not to stand still as this will result in in worsening outcomes for our citizens and services.’ He added that after years of pressure,

adult social care is now a well-recognised public policy priority and the national debate about appropriate levels of funding for adult social care and health is set to continue. David advised each area to set a plan and approach for the best way of meeting the needs of the population across health, local government, housing and wider public services. He advocated that social care and local government needs to be an equal partner in this endeavour and 'we need to blend the best of social care and health'.

13. Jackie Doyle-Price MP, the care services Minister, announced that the consultation on the Green Paper will be launched sometime in the New Year. She described the consultation on the Green Paper as a catalyst for an honest debate about how social care should be funded in the future. Subsequently, the date of consultation for the Green Paper has been delayed until the Summer. This is to allow for a period of engagement with experts to shape the proposals within the Green paper.
14. Examples of transformation programmes from different councils were peppered through the conference sessions. Stephen Chandler from Somerset Council talked about how they have put promoting independence at the heart of practice and emphasised creative, community driven support. He described how frontline social workers and their leaders have been given the freedom and flexibility to do things differently. This was summed up in the phrase 'no rules, don't break the law and don't break the bank'.
15. Different approaches by councils to transformation are by necessity many and varied, but whatever model is chosen, strong political and officer leadership is essential to drive effective change and realise ambitions.
16. At a fringe event on Integrated Personal Commissioning (integrated personal budgets in health and social care) Nottinghamshire was cited as an example of good practice.

Other Options Considered

17. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

18. The report provides an opportunity for the Committee to consider any further actions arising from the issues contained within the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

20. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Members consider whether there are any actions they require in relation to the key messages from the National Children and Adult Services Conference which took place in Bournemouth between 11th and 13th October 2017.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 14/12/17)

21. The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report and any actions they require in relation to the issues contained within the report.

Financial Comments (OC 14/12/17)

22. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 20 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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.

National Children and Adult Services Conference 2017 – report to Policy Committee on 15 March 2017

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

ASCPH514