

MINUTES



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

Date: **5th February 2007**

Present:

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

Also in Attendance

- Councillor David Kirkham
- Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones
- Councillor Kay Cutts
- David Pearson Strategic Director Adult Social Health and Care

- Linda Bayliss Service Director – Strategic Services
- Jon Wilson Service Director – Mental Health and Learning Disability
- Paul McKay Temporary Service Director – Physical Disability and Independent Living

- Julie Cope Communications Officer
- Charles Walker Evening Post Press Officer
- Lisa Swift Committee Support Officer (minutes)

- Julian Wing Assistant Committee Support Officer

- Catherine Harvey Administrative Assistant
- Committee Support (minutes)

Cllr Rhodes introduced the meeting by saying that this was the first official departmental briefing for the newly formed Adult Social Care and Health Department.

Reference was made to the recent death of Cllr Anthony and a minute's silence was held as a mark of respect.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Kempster and Sykes and Mr Malcolm Dillon, Service Director Older People and Strategic Partnerships.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Membership of the Briefing

Cllr Rhodes confirmed the membership of the Briefing.

4. The Roles and Responsibilities of the New Adult Social Care and Health Department

David Pearson began with an overview of the department's strategic responsibilities and vision for the future. He explained that service users should have an assessment prior to allocation of services; also the importance of focussing on quality, performance, welfare and the appropriate use of resources.

Cllr Lonergan raised the following questions:

1. The responsibilities of Adult Social Health and Care - is this new strategy going to be impossible to maintain?
2. Is there going to be a sustainable transition between child to adult services?
3. Has another silo between child and adult services been created?

Cllr Kirkham responded by saying that departmental briefings were set up to capture the benefits of the old committee system. There will be different areas to report on and there would be plenty of opportunities to ask questions of the officers; the public are also welcome to attend and ask questions at the end of the briefing.

David Pearson explained that the agenda for Adult Social Care and Health is challenging and specific attention is being paid to transitions from children to adults. Both Helen Ryan and Jon Wilson are currently working on transitions strategy.

Cllr Carter wondered if the restructuring was going to lead to under funding for Adult Social Care and Health.

David Pearson replied that the Association of Directors of Social Services had published a paper linked to the valuing people agenda. This indicated that there would be a 1% increase year on year in people with learning disabilities. The cost of social care for the elderly would increase by two thirds over the next ten years. This was accounted for in the spending review and percentage increases above the rate of inflation are lined up.

Cllr Lally asked if the new structure was going to work particularly in relation to child to adult transitions? David Pearson said it was our responsibility to ensure this worked and would present challenges.

Cllr Lonergan queried the planned addition of 100 staff into the local authority from the health service. What would their conditions of service be and do we have the funding to support this? Jon Wilson explained that 80 staff from the NHS will be transformed under TUPE arrangements and therefore retain NHS terms and conditions of service.

Cllr Carter made the point that transitional payments were introduced some years ago but funding ran out. As people are now living longer will this be covered under our grant system? Jon Wilson explained that these services are provided under a five year tendered contract. If funding is insufficient then the council will not re-tender.

Cllr Lally asked how the move from day care, to care in the community was going to work. Jon Wilson responded by saying that there will be move into more localised services which would engage people in the community. For example a new centre had just opened in Gedling, followed by one in North Broxtowe. The next one is planned for Worksop.

5. Key Issues for Adult Social Care and Health

David Pearson delivered a presentation about the new department, focussing on the five priority areas: strategy, performance, quality, budget and service users and carers. He said the vision for the future is open to contributions from others. An important factor is that the new structure works at the level of the individual service user, from direct payment for services to larger group activities. There are representatives from user groups involved at board level and local working partnerships in place.

The new strategy is directed at the community and the changing needs of the local population through partnership; supporting carers and assessing care needs. There are currently 4,000 people in care homes but the figure is decreasing in favour of care at home. In Nottinghamshire the number of people supported in their own homes has risen from 800 to 1300 in the last ten years. However this has to be balanced with provision offered by the health service. The right training and development is needed to ensure carers have the right skills. Career opportunities in care will be highlighted as valuable and worthwhile.

The department has received positive comments from cabinet members about the direction and strength of service provision; the improvement in

services and the financial provision in place. There will be more reviews, strengthened intervention, plus a new contract for direct payments.

In respect of the budget it is challenging. However, through investment plans over the past years, we have doubled the amount of home care, reduced the numbers of people going into care homes despite the rising numbers of older people. From 2007/08 an additional £3.1m will be spent on new services for people with Learning Disabilities and Mental Health difficulties, and £730,000 for people with physical disabilities.

In general terms steady progress is being made and the department is well placed to meet the expected changes.

Cllr Lonergan raised two questions concerning sufficient money to cover the level of need and clarity regarding the budget and grants.

David Pearson explained to Cllr Lonergan that the funding had to come from either an increase in taxation or increases in charging. This issue is part of a larger national debate and there are no easy solutions. In respect of the budget a detailed written response was offered to Cllr Lonergan outside the meeting, if required.

Cllr Henshaw asked about the last CSCI judgement. David Pearson explained that Adult Social Care and Health is a two star authority on a scale of zero to 3.

Cllr Lally asked about 'hot desking' and whether there had been any issues regarding accommodation. Linda Bayliss replied by saying that there are savings to be made on accommodation. Flexible working is going well with Meadow House being the flagship for this. Flexible working requires a culture change and this needs to be embraced across the County Council as it is a positive way forward.

Cllr Lally asked about the costs of the sheltered employment project. Paul McKay reported that there has been a recent inspection into supported employment services and the final report is pending. Our service has been highlighted as one of the best in the country.

Cllr Cutts asked for clarification on David Pearson's presentation in respect of the budget growth for PCT's. David Person explained that these were percentages.

In response to Cllr Cutts on who decides who goes into a residential home and who stays at home, David Pearson explained that a review of needs takes place, made jointly by the service, the carer and the department. Increasingly the preference is to stay at home.

7. Direct Payments

Paul McKay stated that direct payments will be assessed according to level of need and there will be a choice of arrangement for users. 615 people in Nottinghamshire currently receive direct payments. There will be an

increase year on year. In 2006/07 another £1m was made available. In 2007/08 there will be £730,000. In general terms we are meeting expectations and achieving targets and the level of payments has increased. The Direct Payments Support Unit have also managed and achieved their targets.

There is currently no legal requirement for Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks in respect of direct payments – this is currently being considered by Parliament and is likely to be implemented in 2008. The Direct Payments and Support Unit and Age Concern currently provide assistance and users can buy support direct from agencies.

Although take up is above target we need to increase take up for carers and equipment. An action plan is place and is being developed with CSIP. To support carers we have a voucher scheme in place but this does not count as a direct payment.

New direct payments targets have been set for the next 2 to 3 years. To cope with the increase in demand we are currently tendering for a new support service. We will monitor learning from the individualised budget pilots and the Oldham self controlled site.

There will be a user satisfaction survey this year.

The White Paper outlines the strategic direction of giving more control and independence to users through direct payments. The authority is fully committed to this. Despite the growth in direct payments the Government recognises that the current number of users is only a fraction of those who could benefit.

Cllr Davidson asked about past targets. If they were met so easily, are they going to be more stringent in future? Paul McKay confirmed that the demand for direct payments has exceeded expectations and further targets would be set for April 2007.

Cllr Lonergan expressed an interest in the results of the user survey and asked whether this would be driven by performance indicators instead of the level of need. He was also interested in monies given to individual budgets. Paul McKay explained that the authority has a duty to offer direct payments. Feedback, particularly from young adults, indicates that users want to manage their own care. Any difficulties are assisted by the Direct Payments Support Unit.

Cllr Cutts asked about the amounts provided by direct payments. Are they less than the actual cost of care in some instances? Paul McKay said that the day rate is £8.10 per hour and the Sunday rate £12.15 per hour. These are both under review and may be increased. A higher rate is available to pay for support purchased through Care Agencies or to meet individual circumstances.

Cllr Cutts asked about any shortfalls to cover agency costs and travel expenses. Paul McKay replied that money has already been identified to

cover such things and the authority can pay above the rates quoted.

Cllr Cutts asked what happens in the event of an emergency. For example if a personal assistant is taken ill and agency staff are needed. Paul McKay said that travel costs are included but this will be clarified. Younger adults often have a buddy scheme in place to share carers.

Cllr Henshaw asked about improvements to services. Who makes up the service and are CRB checks a legal requirement? Paul McKay replied that they are not but that Parliament is considering introducing this in 2008. A direct payment can be declined if a service user would be considered to be at risk.

Cllr Carter asked whether we could make it part of our terms and conditions? David Pearson explained we would be overstepping our position and any such move would not stand up in a court of law.

8. Planning Services for the Future

Jon Wilson gave a presentation on commissioning strategies.

In 2006 the department began work on developing a suite of commissioning strategies to direct the activity of the department over the next two years.

Within the overall Strategy, stand-alone chapters are being prepared which cover:

- Prevention
- Older people
- Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment
- Mental Health
- Learning Disability
- Asperger's Disorder.

The individual strategies have been developed in consultation with users, carers and partners, and other stakeholders over the last twelve months.

The documents reflect key national and local drivers, the performance of the department, current resource issues and local market issues. The department then states its desired outcomes together with its commissioning intentions.

The strategies are being developed as far as possible in partnership with colleagues in the health sector; with the intention to work together to deliver fully integrated strategies over the next two years.

The department is to complete a final draft of the strategies by mid February, with a four week consultation period to finalise the documents ready for publication in May 2007.

Cllr Davidson noted that there is only one mention of groups involved in the new plan and is concerned that there will be no consultation with Children's

Services. Jon Wilson responded by saying there will be consultation.

Cllr Lally said that he is looking at this politically and would like more detailed information about departmental plans. Cllr Rhodes said he could arrange a further briefing.

Cllr Lonergan said he would like to see both a full and a summary report on this. He is concerned about the workforce and the market and the integration of the two. The external home care market is in difficulty in delivering.

Jon Wilson said that Linda Bayliss is looking into workforce planning across the social care sector.

Cllr Lonergan commented that we must make sure private sector care is of good quality. David Pearson said that new posts are being put in place to monitor and address this issue.

Cllr Cutts said that written reports are acceptable but debate was found to be more helpful.

9. Questions from the public

The media were invited to ask questions but the representative from the local press said he would speak to David Pearson after the meeting.

Cllr Rhodes thanked the members for their valuable input. There is no date set for the next meeting but members will be notified well in advance. Any agenda issues should be directed to Linda Bayliss.

The meeting closed at 12.10pm.