

**6<sup>th</sup> January 2020****Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND  
HEALTH****NATIONAL CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES CONFERENCE NOVEMBER  
2019****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 from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019.

**Information**

2. The County Council's representatives attending the conference were Councillor Tony Harper, Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee; Councillor Tracey Taylor, Vice Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee; Melanie Brooks, Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Public Health; Paul Johnson, Service Director, Strategic Commissioning and Integration, Adult Social Care and Health, and Laurence Jones, Service Director, Commissioning & Resources, Children and Families. The report is supported by the presentations which are available on the [conference website](#).
3. This year attendance at the conference and the agenda were subject to late amendments due to Purdah for the General Election which meant that the Government was not represented at the conference. A range of issues and priorities in adult social care were reflected in the conference agenda. Major topics covered were: reimaging and reframing social care, building strength based approaches, community development and coproduction with people.
4. A key theme this year was that social care requires a 10 year plan akin to the 10 year plan for the NHS. The Conference opening was undertaken by Councillor James Jamieson, Chairman of the Local Government Association (LGA), Rachel Dickinson, President of the Association of Directors Children's Services (ADCS) and Julie Ogley, President of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS). Councillor Jamieson highlighted the role of councils as leaders of place, with a proud legacy of delivering better social care and wider outcomes for health and wellbeing. He spoke of the vital role that councils play in delivering high quality services, citing council maintained schools as an example. He went on to highlight the cost savings adult social care has achieved for the NHS, and the improvement in public health outcomes delivered through Health and Wellbeing Boards. Councillor

Jamieson called for the next Government to secure a long term deal for local government giving powers, funding and certainty to enable councils to transform communities.

5. Rachel Dickinson spoke of the levels of child poverty and homelessness and an education gap leading to huge challenges for councils. Rachel spoke of the review for special educational needs and disabilities and the role ACDS will play in the review to ensure no child is left behind.
6. Julie Ogle said that partnerships with health need to be nurtured and to set out the role for social care to shape the personalisation agenda in the NHS, especially with the emerging Primary Care Networks and link workers. There needs to be a greater focus on prevention and to build resilience in the sector and in communities. For the care sector there need to be better career paths established with the requisite training. Greater focus is required on quality of life, which councils can play a significant part in achieving. The social care sector needs sustainable investment, and not at the expense of other council services, to enable people to live a good life. The focus should be on taking an asset based approach with trusting relationships with providers and co-produced with people.
7. Melanie Brooks chaired a workshop session as ADASS Policy Lead leading a debate on working together to keep carers connected - Developing Carer Friendly Communities. The most powerful presentation was from Stockton on Tees Borough Council, who were sharing the developments they have made since bringing carers' services in-house and embedding carers' support in all that they do. Angie, a carer, told her story about her adult son and her own journey into employment as a Carers' Support Worker. Carers UK and Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE) also presented, summarising best practice evidence and carers' views about what is needed to deliver relevant and appropriate services. The session found that coproduction was essential to ensure services responded to carers' needs, and that the most successful models were those that were flexible, with good provision for short breaks. It was shocking to hear that 60% of carers lose their work due to caring roles, and that 70% of carers have not had a break in the last four years.
8. Paul Johnson spoke at a seminar on towers of strength – strengths-based approaches. Paul shared the feedback tree with the conference and the impact felt by staff and on performance metrics of the three tier model in Adult Access. Paul was joined by colleagues from City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council and Thurrock Council who are further ahead with their strengths-based approaches and gave good practical examples of how directors can lead sound whole organisation change and provide a defensible framework to enable practitioners to have greater freedom in decision-making. This session was thought provoking and encouraging. 'The Big Conversation' was a method of coproduction used in Bradford and will be taken into the coproduction work as it was an excellent way of listening to hundreds of people to hear their views.
9. Think Local Act Personal, SCIE and Social Care Futures are leading on ground-breaking work to re-imagine social care and an interactive approach demonstrated different ways of thinking on personalised care. Stay up late organisation demonstrated social connection by crowd knitting! 'Gig Buddies' and 'no bed time campaign' are new to Nottinghamshire and will be followed up. The Making it Real 'I statements' have more potential to be used in quality management and service development, and this was key learning coming from the conference.

10. The sub-plenary on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND): the challenges and the opportunities set out several issues for children's services, but also drew attention to the poor educational and employment outcomes for post 16 and post 19 children and adults and showed that there is a great deal of work required to realise the ambition for Preparing for Adulthood intended in the SEND reforms. This will be an area for Committee to consider with the Children & Young People's Committee.
11. Ten years on from the Autism Act - local government's role in meeting the needs of autistic adults and children looked at the progress made and best progress examples, whilst examining the further work needed to enable people with autism to live well in their communities. The Autism strategy has been extended to be all-age and there were good examples given in this workshop of what Nottinghamshire can consider in the strategy refresh being undertaken by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
12. Everybody's business - leading effective local suicide prevention strategies was a discussion led by the Samaritans and Jim McManus as Vice President of the Association of Directors of Public Health. The workshop looked at learning from a review of suicide prevention plans, drawing attention to strengths, weaknesses and best practice in plans. A guide was shared on how Members can scrutinise suicide prevention plans, and this will be taken to Health and Wellbeing Board, which leads on Nottinghamshire's Suicide Prevention Plan, as an action.
13. A summary of the key learning points for Nottinghamshire:
  - consider best practice examples for coproduction and The Big Conversation as a listening method
  - Making it Real 'I statements' to be used as a tool to assess quality in services, both internal and external
  - consider the work in Liverpool to engage the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in the Market Position Statement to look at developing and growing the VCS role as providers
  - take forward learning from the Delayed Transfer of Care workshop and the integration session to consider actions with health partners.

### **Other Options Considered**

14. No other options have been considered.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

15. The report provides an opportunity for the Committee to consider the key learning points highlighted from the conference and any further actions arising from the summary contained within the report.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

16. 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**

17. There are no financial implications arising from the report.

### **Implications for Service Users**

18. The report highlights opportunities to learn from experiences and models of practice in other councils to improve services and support available to people in Nottinghamshire.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Committee considers whether there are any further actions it requires in relation to the key messages from the National Children and Adult Services Conference contained in the report.

**Melanie Brooks,**  
**Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Melanie Brooks  
Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health  
T: 0115 804 3928  
E: [melanie.brooks@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.brooks@nottsc.gov.uk)

### **Constitutional Comments (LW 28/11/19)**

19. Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

### **Financial Comments (DG 13/12/19)**

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

None.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.  
ASCPH692 final