

Membership

Councillors

- Ged Clarke (Chair)
- Fiona Asbury (Vice Chair)
- Michael Bennett
- John Clarke
- Barrie Cooper
- Mike Cox
- Jim Creamer
- Bob Cross
- Vincent Dobson
- Rod Kempster
- Geoff Merry
- Tom Pettengell
- Mel Shepherd
- Alan Rhodes
- Keith Walker
- Chris Winterton
- Brian Wombwell

● absent

Other Councillors in attendance

Kevin Rostance

Officers

Paul Davies – Governance Officer
Matthew Garrard - Senior Scrutiny Officer
Helen Lee – Scrutiny Officer
Ashley Jackson – Researcher
Paul McKay - Programme Director, Transformation of Social Care, Adult Social Care and Health Department
Jon Wilson - Service Director, Mental Health and Learning Disability, Adult Social Care and Health Department
Helen Scaman - Tobacco Alliance Coordinator, Adult Social Care and Health Department

Also in Attendance

Jon Melbourne - NHS Nottinghamshire County

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 April 2010 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

2a. Membership

It was noted that Councillor Mel Shepherd had been appointed to replace Councillor Wendy Quigley.

2b. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Bennett, Geoff Merry, Tom Pettengell and Keith Walker.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interests.

4. Learning Disability Finance Project

Jon Wilson, Adult Social Care and Health Department introduced the report on a study of spending by the County Council on learning disability services. The study had been prompted by increasing costs and pressures in the service, and compared needs, commissioning and costs with other local authorities. Conclusions were that the level of need in Nottinghamshire is no greater than that which exists nationally or within comparator authorities; and the County Council does commission a higher level of care and support than comparator authorities with similar levels of need, and pays more than comparator authorities for similar services.

In reply to members' questions and comments, Mr Wilson stated:

- £2.8m was spent on transport service users. It might be that the County Council was providing transport to people who could use public transport, or had Mobility Allowance or a car. This would be against the policy, which was to only provide transport as a last resort. Personal budgets could be used for transport. The standard charge for transport was £4 per day, regardless of the length of journey.
- There was no direct link between the cost of care and the quality. Quality was monitored by the Care Quality Council, and by the County's own Quality Development Officers.
- Some 18,000 - 20,000 people had a mild learning disability or learning difficulties, and were not eligible for Adult Social Care services. Around 2,500 people had severe learning disability.
- There was coordination with the NHS. Closer co-operation on day services, for example, was under consideration.
- Nobody should be put at risk. The department was working with Community Safety and the Police about learning disability hate crime, anti-social behaviour and disability. Usually accommodation was shared.

Experience showed that people could blossom in the setting of supported living.

- In relation to the collection of charges, the County Council was in a stronger position than previously. The sustainability of services was key, given that people with learning disabilities were long-term users of services. The aim was to drive out inefficiencies, without compromising quality. Savings of £3m were anticipated, although this did not take account of increased demand. Savings accruing from any new business systems adopted by the County Council would be in addition.

It was agreed to request a progress report in 12 months.

5. Smoking

Jon Melbourne gave a presentation on NHS Nottinghamshire County's work to reduce smoking, which was responsible for 1,300 deaths in Nottinghamshire each year. He summarised the direct and indirect costs of ill-health from smoking, the PCT's strategy and targets, and the work planned for the current year. Helen Scaman outlined the role of the Tobacco Alliance. They answered members' questions and comments:

- Smoking had reduced by approximately 1% per year over the last 40 years. Sometimes this was a direct effect of Government action, for example the smoking ban in pubs. The PCT encouraged people to isolate their smoking from non-smokers, by for example smoking outside the house. Cigarette sales had gone down over the last 10 years.
- The message conveyed by people smoking outside hospital entrances was something which the PCT did raise in contracting discussions with the hospitals.
- Work was targeted on the parts of the county with the highest rates of smoking, eg Ashfield and Mansfield.
- The link between smoking (or giving up) and obesity was recognised. Training for stop smoking advisors would include weight gain. One suggestion was that people do something other than smoking or eating after meals. It was important not to victimise smokers.
- Rates of smoking varied between sexes and ages. Young women, for example, would see smoking as making them more attractive, seem older or help keep their weight down.
- DARE was a useful but expensive tool, in which smoking might seem an add-on. A survey of young people's attitudes would be used as a tool in education and intervention. The survey could be repeated to show the impact of intervention. Environmental Health Officers were working with the police officers and nurses allocate to schools to tackle smoking by young people outside schools. Not letting children off the school site at lunchtime was another possibility, which could be explored with the education service.

It was agreed to note the PCT's work in relation to smoking.

6. Care through Co-operation

The report concerned the proposal to review co-operation between the County and district councils to provide adult services. Paul McKay introduced a report which gave detail of Disabled Facilities Grants, equipment services and Putting People First. The Chair pointed out that the scope of the review was likely to be wider than this, and address the allegation that a lack of cooperation was causing delay and people coming into care who need not of done.

It was agreed to establish a review group of eight members to scrutinise partnership working between the County and district councils to provide adult services.

7. Programme of Work

The programme of work for future meetings was agreed, and rota visits by members was suggested as a future topic for review.

It was agreed to establish two review groups, with politically balanced membership, as set out below. If any member wished to switch review group, they should identify someone from the same group with whom to swap. Nominations should be made by the group Business Managers.

Support for Young People in Transition to Adult Services: -

Councillors Asbury (to chair), Cooper, Creamer, Cross, Dobson, Pettengell, Shepherd, Walker and Winterton

Care Through Cooperation: -

Councillors Ged Clarke (to chair), Bennett, John Clarke, Cox, Kempster, Merry, Rhodes and Wombwell.

The meeting closed at 12.20 pm.

CHAIR

Ref: m_24may10