

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011

agenda item number **7a iii.**

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH**

### **KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. I am pleased to present the key issues and activities as Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, since the last report to Council.

#### **PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**

2. Personal Budgets

The Department now have 50% of people who are eligible on Personal Budgets and hope to have the remainder of eligible people on Personal Budgets by the end of this financial year. From information received from other local authorities, Nottinghamshire believe this to be the best performance in the region at present.

Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection will also be hosting visitors from 2 local authorities - Norfolk and Perth & Kinross - to look at our achievements on Personal Budgets and learn from that. The Authority has been recommended to Perth & Kinross by one of the lead consultants in Personalisation agenda.

3. Micro Providers

'Think local, act personal' is the coalition governments response to personalisation and a community-based approach to providing social care support. It builds upon the delivery of Putting People First.

The overall aim is to secure a shift to a position where as many people as possible are enabled to stay healthy and actively involved in their communities for longer and delaying or avoiding the need for crisis or acute services.

One way Nottinghamshire is developing community-based support is through the development of micro providers in our local communities. In partnership with Community Catalysts, very small providers are being supported to thrive and survive in the social care market. Currently, we are working with and supporting 26 low cost providers who are either established or developing.

At the national Community Care Live 2011 conference Nottinghamshire were invited to showcase our work to a packed audience. They were told about what we are doing with micro providers to personalise services for social care users and to help entrepreneurs give a boost to the local economy. Some examples of local projects include 'Ace of Spades' which supports people to tend their gardens whilst their carer takes a break, 'Break Barriers CIC' which enables people with physical or learning disabilities to have a break and a holiday whilst the carer has a rest and 'Pulp Fiction CIC' which enables people with learning disabilities to develop new skills and runs pedal powered smoothie bars at events. Customer feedback from using these services included:

'This service provides me with flexibility and spontaneity. I don't have to rely on my family as much.'

The Chief Executive of Community Catalysts thanked Nottinghamshire for their involvement at the Conference and said 'The success and innovation of your work really brought home to the audience the possibilities for micro-enterprise development as a key part of the transformation and personalisation agendas.'

#### 4. Self Funders 'Living in a Care Home'

The new Nottinghamshire County Council 'living in a care home' leaflet has been printed and a mailer sent to all care homes, social care teams, doctor's surgeries, Primary Care Trusts. Visits to care homes to provide additional copies and encourage them to proactively give out the information to self funders will take place over the next few months.

Self funders within Council run homes have received a letter informing them of the increase in fees over the next two years. The Customer Services Centre has made follow-up calls with reference to the letter to see if they have received it and to reiterate the importance of taking specialist financial advice.

#### 5. Nottinghamshire Welfare Rights Service

The Welfare Rights service is being redesigned following the agreed budget reductions.

The redesign will be completed by October 2011 and during the interim period the service will ensure that all ongoing casework is completed and appeal hearings are arranged wherever possible. With 641 cases still live this represents a big challenge but the team are working hard to meet this target and still securing large gains for service users.

To ensure a continuing knowledge and awareness of benefits issues within the Council as the Welfare Rights service is scaled down, a telephone helpline is being provided to support social care and VCS teams, running a range of basic benefits awareness training courses for front-line staff, and maintaining and updating information and self-help materials through the Council's website.

A brief annual report is being finalised on the achievements of the service in 2010/11 and will report the benefit gains of almost £9m achieved for the local community.

## **JOINT COMMISSIONING, QUALITY AND BUSINESS CHANGE**

### **6. Joint Commissioning**

David Sykes has recently joined Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection and takes up the post of Interim Group Manager (Joint Commissioning) to lead the newly formed joint commissioning team. The remit is to further develop links with Health and in particular the new GP Consortia and to jointly commission priorities which are established through the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

### **7. Adult Care Financial Services (ACFS)**

ACFS have updated the system for charging clients receiving a community-based service. Four weekly invoices now charge clients for service that has been provided within the last 6 weeks instead of up to 10 weeks previously.

ACFS submitted 1,567 claims for additional benefit entitlement in 2010-11. 1309 were successful resulting in an additional weekly income of £59,616.55 for service users. Outcomes are awaited for 111 and only 147 were unsuccessful compared with 170 in the previous year.

### **8. Serious Case Reviews**

The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board is about to make public its findings following completion of three serious case reviews.

Serious case reviews are undertaken when a vulnerable adult dies or is seriously injured and abuse or neglect is thought to be a factor. The purpose is not to reinvestigate or apportion blame. The purpose is to establish whether there are lessons to be learnt from the circumstances of the case, about the way in which local professionals and agencies work together to safeguard vulnerable adults. The actions of all agencies involved are examined and scrutinised very thoroughly and plans are made to improve practice by learning the lessons. In so doing, serious case reviews seek to try and prevent similar tragic circumstances occurring again. In Nottinghamshire we utilise experts from all our partner agencies to undertake the work and NSAB

wishes to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of the chairs, authors and all those involved in these reviews.

The recommendations from these three particular reviews all had similar themes and following comments from the coroner it has been helpful to recognise the improvements that can be made around the care and support to particularly vulnerable citizens of Nottinghamshire.

## **PERSONAL CARE AND SUPPORT – YOUNGER ADULTS**

### 9. Campus Reprovision

In line with government requirements, the local authority has successfully completed the process of 'Campus Reprovision' by the end of 2010. Working in partnership with the Primary Care Trust and the NHS Trust, a dedicated team supported 37 individuals with learning disabilities and high support needs to move from NHS accommodation into the community. Person centred planning was key to ensuring that the best outcomes were achieved for everyone. Supported living, the preferred model for campus reprovision, enables individuals to have their own tenancies and to receive support from specialist providers to ensure that their needs are met.

**COUNCILLOR KEVIN ROSTANCE**  
**Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

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