

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 15 April 2010

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**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

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

#### **2. Key Issues and activities**

##### **2.1 The Strategy for Adults with Autism in England (2010)**

A new strategy to help adults with autism to live independently was launched recently.

The new strategy, which is called Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives, hopes to create a culture change, where public services will help people with autism find work.

Nottinghamshire County Council is one of three local authorities cited as providing good practice within the strategy for autistic spectrum disorder.

##### **2.2 Personal Budgets**

Self Directed Support is about giving those eligible for social care more choice and control to decide how their social care needs are met. Through Self Directed Support, people eligible for social care will be given a personal budget. People will be able to choose how they receive their personal budget by either having a direct payment which offers total control, support arranged by Adult Social Care and Health or a mixture of both. A personal budget means that people will know exactly how much adult social care and health will pay towards their social care and have the opportunity to consider different ways in which they may wish to spend their budget.

Self Directed Support is about having a different conversation with people to explore how they wish to meet their eligible needs using their budget to achieve their goals and aspirations in the way they choose and a way which suits their lifestyles.

By having a different conversation people are starting to explore alternative ways in which they can spend their personal budget. An example of this can be seen in the case of Mrs H who was receiving a sitting service. Mrs H had no idea adult social care and health had arranged the support. When she found out how much the support cost she explained that she could use the money more effectively and achieve a better quality of life by employing a friend with similar interests to her husband to take them out and have some money left to employ the same friend to assist her with the gardening, something she cannot do due to her own physical difficulties and caring commitments.

By March 2011, 30% of all eligible service users and carers should have a personal budget or a direct payment. The denominator for total number of community services is 27,310, therefore the target of 30% equates to 8,192.

In order to achieve 30% the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) recommends that by March 2010 we move 10% of eligible service users and carers; 10% equates to 2,731. Extremely good progress has been made and the department expects to meet the 10% target and have a total of 958 service users and carers on personal budgets. There are also 1,678 on direct payments; which totals 2,636.

### 2.3 Self Funders

The department continues to ensure that people who self fund their care have access to specialist financial advice provided by NHFA and Help the Aged Care Fees Advice (HTA). By receiving specialist advice it will enable as many people as possible who can fund their care for life and reduce the need to approach the Council for financial support.

From our work with the NHFA and Help the Aged awareness on the advice and support available has increased the number of people ringing the NHFA and HTA helpline and some people are now in the process of purchasing financial products.

The departments work in this area has received national interest and three joint conferences have taken place to share our learning with other councils.

The NHFA have agreed to extend the Project Managers secondment to the Council for a further year at no cost to the department.

### 2.4 Care Quality Commission

The authority has been notified of the performance assessment process for Adult Social Care for 2009/10. As an authority performing 'excellently' the

authority can self assess to move forward last year's judgements on the following outcomes.

1. Improved health and wellbeing
2. Improved quality of life
3. Making a positive contribution
4. Increased choice and control
5. Freedom from discrimination or harassment
6. Economic well-being

The Corporate Director had to carry out an assessment process by 12 March 2010 and notify the Care Quality Commission accordingly. It was agreed that last year's judgements in these areas would be declared for 2009/10. The outcomes 'Discrimination or Harassment' (which includes Safeguarding) and 'Commissioning and Leadership' and 'Use of Resources' have to be the subject of a full submission by 15 May 2010.

The Care Quality Commission will review the declared judgements if the information on performance results for 2009/10 indicates that there might be a change in the level of performance. All these areas are the subject of detailed review at quarterly meetings with the Care Quality Commission.

## 2.5 Provision of Community for Warwickshire County Council

The meals at home service has been successful in being awarded a contract to provide meals to Warwickshire County Council.

The contract is for the supply and delivery of approximately 5,000 hot meals per week (252,000 meals per year), throughout Warwickshire. The contract will commence on 01 May 2010 and has been awarded for a three year period with the provision to extend for a further year.

It is anticipated that the contract is expected to deliver an operating surplus to the County Council of £100,000 per annum, £300,000 over 3 years.

## 2.6 East Midlands Adult Social Care Lead Members Network

On the 19 March I attended the above meeting which was hosted by Northamptonshire County Council. The major topic of the day was Safeguarding of Adults, with particular reference to the issues raised by "Six Lives".

These quarterly meetings present a useful opportunity to share views, experiences and best practice.

## 2.7 Nottinghamshire Cares and Derbyshire Care Homes Associations Joint Event

On 24 March I attended a conference run by Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Care Associations who represent residential and nursing care providers in the two counties.

As part of the morning session, the meeting was addressed by The Right Honourable Stephen O'Brien MP, the Shadow Minister for Health and Social Care and our Corporate Director David Pearson who spoke about delivering cost effective care.

In the afternoon the key speaker was Susan Robinson from the Care Quality Commission.

## 2.8 Learning Disability

On the 24 March Cabinet considered a report on the negotiations regarding the transfer value of learning disability commissioning which involves the transfer of £9.545 million. The report also took account of the risk sharing agreement with the three Primary Care Trusts and the two local authorities.

## 2.9 Workshop - Councillors Leading Local Empowerment

On 04 April I attended a half-day workshop at Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre.

I met with other Councillors from Nottinghamshire and surrounding areas and took part in interactive sessions and explored the empowerment agenda.

The purpose of the day was to identify the 'local' challenges Councillors face in promoting community empowerment and to build action plans to overcome barriers and move forward.

## 2.10 Visits to Independent Sector Homes

I have taken the opportunity of visiting, recently, In-house services and independent sector residential and nursing homes with whom the department contracts.

I have visited, along with Linda Bayliss the Service Director for Strategic Services, Broadlands Care Home on 08 April and on 09 April Victoria Cottage Care Home.

## 2.11 Dignity in Care

Phil Hope MP has sent a letter to thank the department for the 'hard work and enthusiasm' regarding Dignity in Care. He states in his letter:

*"My department's Dignity in Care Team have highlighted your work to me as an outstanding example of good practice and have added it to the dignity champions website to help inspire others."*

**COUNCILLOR MEL SHEPHERD**  
**Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

CC60