

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 17 December 2009

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 Annual Performance Assessment 2008/09

Last year the adult social care and health department went up to '**3 Star - Excellent Service**' with 3 outcomes of 7 being judged as 'Excellent'.

The year the criteria to remain 'Excellent' was harder in that it was necessary to be judged as delivering excellent outcomes in 4 out of the 7 areas.

I am pleased to report that the excellent performance of last year has been improved and the department is judged as performing excellently.

This is a tribute to the commitment, skill and dedication of the staff who work in Adult Social Care in the County Council and those 300 organisations with whom the County Council also funds to provide adult social care. As you know the judgement is based on a large amount of evidence about the way in which services contribute to positive outcomes for service users and carers as well as performance indicators.

2.2 RADAR's People of the Year Awards 2009

The People of the Year Awards, now in its 43rd year, celebrate excellence and achievement by both disabled people and those organisations with a commitment to furthering the equality agenda for disabled people.

This year's theme for the Awards evening on the 30th November 2009 was: "**Future Proofing Disability Equality**". RADAR wants to drive home the

message that disability equality matters, regardless of economics – in fact, during tough times, equality matters more. With an Equalities Bill going through Parliament, a pressing need to avoid new inequalities in a recession and an imperative to spend resources where they are most needed, this is the opportunity to help create more equal and effective businesses and a more equal society for the future.

Nottinghamshire County Council was the only local authority to be nominated in all the categories. The Council was nominated in the ‘Doing Access Differently’ category for Adult Social Care and Health Department’s Disabled Registration Card. This category was won by the Promote the Vote team at Speak Up.

2.3 Occupational Therapist Pilot Scheme at the Customer Services Centre

A three month pilot scheme is being launched to base an occupational therapist and community care officer in the County Council’s customer services centre. The aim is to give hundreds of people appropriate and individual needs telephone information from their very first point of contact. They will do this by offering the possible non-assessment option for meeting the request by signposting to a wide range of services such as self assessment for small pieces of equipment and prevention and adaptation schemes for minor adaptations. In addition other miscellaneous needs such as the repair of broken pieces of equipment which do not require an assessment will be responded to immediately. This will reduce the amount of time that occupational therapy teams will spend handling straight forward enquiries

In March 2009, the customer service centre received nearly 700 enquiries about occupational therapy. More than 70% of these were referred to occupational therapy teams for an assessment.

This pilot will help people get the advice and equipment they need without having the wait for a full assessment. Having trained staff at this first point of contact will also ensure that people are given information about other important services – such as our gardening scheme – which could help keep them independent.

The scheme will be evaluated after the three month pilot and if it is successful, could be extended further.

2.4 Green Paper Seminar – 02 November 2009

A Members’ briefing was held to discuss the issues raised by the Green Paper – *Securing the Future for Social Care*. The Paper looks at the current funding systems for adult social care and alternative funding options which could accommodate increasing demands on services. The Paper also considers if a national service could be considered and how this would allow ‘portable’ assessments.

The Briefing began with a presentation followed by questions and discussion. It enabled Members to further their knowledge around funding options for care and allowed them to voice their views on the proposed options. Members’

views formed the basis of the response back to the Government on 13 November.

2.5 Visits to In-house and Independent Sector Care

I have taken the opportunity of visiting, recently, an In-house service and an independent sector residential and nursing homes with whom we contract, along with Linda Bayliss, Service Director (Strategic Services).

On the 30 October I visited Woodleigh Care Home and on the 01 December I undertook a Rota Visit to Braywood Gardens. All the visits gave a holistic view of the social care market.

2.6 Dignity Conference

This year's conference was entitled, "Dignity in End of Life".

The purpose of the event was to:

- raise awareness of the importance of 'End of Life' care and treating people with dignity and respect
- inform providers of new legislation regarding 'End of Life'
- recognise and share examples of best practice
- address issues of dignity in terms of 'End of Life'.

The conference included presentations from:

- Barbara Poynton, MBE
- The Reverend Paul Bentley, John Eastwood Hospice.

The day included four workshops:

- 1 - Gold Standards Framework for Care Homes
- 2 - Liverpool Care Pathway
- 3 - Advance Care Planning
- 4 - Dying to communicate.

This was an excellent, well attended event and good feedback has been received.

2.7 Carers Advisory Group (south and north)

The Carers' Advisory Group met on 13 November in the south and in the north on the 15 December 2009.

The key subjects covered were:

- description of the 'Let's Talk Wellbeing – Healthy Thinking across Nottinghamshire' (IAPT, or Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies) project

- update on the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Carers
- update on the Demonstrator Site for Carers' Breaks
- information on the Council's budget change proposals
- update on the 'Information for Carers' project.

2.8 Annual Achievement Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony took place at the Mansfield Civic Centre on 19 November.

The ceremony was to recognise the qualifications achieved by social care staff (both Adult Social Care and Health and Children and Young People's Departments) supported by Learning and Development, since the last ceremony in July 2008. This includes social work degrees; post qualifying awards; national vocational qualifications etc. Over 540 achievers were invited.

The Deputy portfolio holder from Children and Young People, Helen Ryan (Service Director for Children and Young People), Jon Wilson (Service Director in Adult Social Care and Health) and I presented achievement gifts and congratulated the recipients of awards.

2.9 Induction Event for New Lead Members for Adult Social Care and Health – London on 23 November 2009

The event took place at Etc Venues, The Hatton, 51-53 Hatton Gardens, London.

The event provided an opportunity to discuss the key issues facing adult care and health. The sessions provided background material, ideas and a personal challenge to support and sustain Members in what is a very demanding and publicly accountable set of responsibilities and covered the following:

- an overview of the policy context for Health and Adult Social Care services
- the leadership functions and responsibilities of the new roles
- issues of working with political colleagues both within cabinet and beyond and forging effective relationships with officers and health partners.

Local primary care trust non executive directors were invited as part of the IDeA's efforts to develop understanding and joint working between members with responsibility for health and social care issues and non executives.

2.10 Launch of Personal Budgets DVD – 04 December 2009

Putting People First is the Government's vision for the direction of social care for the future. The main aim is to give people more choice and control over their lives. A Personal Budget is one way that people who are eligible for social care funding can achieve this.

A DVD, filmed in Nottinghamshire, included local people and professionals talking about Putting People First, Self Directed Support and Personal Budgets.

This DVD is in three parts:

1. An introduction to Putting People First.
2. Personal Stories - People describe in their own words what having a Personal Budget means for them.
3. "Your questions answered" on Self Directed Support and Personal Budgets.

Extracts from this DVD will be available on our website
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/puttingpeoplefirst

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Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

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