

# Report



meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007

agenda item number

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES 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 Services and Health, since my last report to Council.

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

##### **2.1 Opening of Hilton Grange**

- 2.1.1 I was very pleased to formally open this service on March 30<sup>th</sup>, with the Chief Executive of the Metropolitan Housing Group and Sherrie Hewson, the celebrated local actress. Hilton Grange is a supported housing complex for older people which the council has jointly developed with Rushcliffe Homes in Edwalton, along with Leawood Manor care home, which we opened last December. Together these provide a comprehensive range of services for local older people.
- 2.1.2 Hilton Grange has a mix of leasehold and rented two bedroom properties and the Department has nomination rights to 15 of the rented properties. We provide 'extra care' services to these residents, which involves care services at the level they individually need 'around the clock'. For these people, it provides an alternative to residential care and maintains them independently in their own homes in a supportive community.
- 2.1.3 The facilities are outstanding and Sherrie Hewson said she did not believe there were services of this quality in existence.
- 2.1.4 Rushcliffe Homes has now merged with some other parts of the Metropolitan Group and been renamed 'Spirita'. The Department has valued the partnership with them and also Rushcliffe Borough Council in achieving this development.

## 2.2 Transformational Government and the Countywide Older People's Strategic Partnership

2.2.1 The March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Countywide Older People's Strategic Partnership received a presentation from Matthew Briggs, senior civil servant from the Department for Work and Pensions working on the Transformational Government Strategy. He informed us that Nottinghamshire's work on LinkAge Plus and "Opportunity Age in Nottinghamshire" were being quoted as examples of good practice by senior civil servants and his Minister.

2.2.2 This was Matthew Briggs' second visit to look at older persons' preventative services in the County. On his first visit he said how impressed he had been by the work of the older people's Resource Centre in Stapleford (part of LinkAge Plus).

2.2.3 Transformational Government was described by Matthew Briggs as "Putting the customer at the heart of transforming public services". He related this to the ageing population profile and the lifestyle changes and changing attitudes accompanying an ageing population. There are three themes underpinning Transformational Government:

- focussing on the customer by delivering cost-effective solutions (e.g. Nottinghamshire's multi-functional voluntary sector Resource Centres)
- ensuring services are integrated with our customer's lives (e.g. Nottinghamshire's LinkAge Plus pilot)
- delivering professional services (e.g. Nottinghamshire's award winning First Contact Signpost scheme).

## 2.3 Nottinghamshire County Council Commended for InfoCare System

2.3.1 The award-winning InfoCare system being used by Nottinghamshire County Council Adult Services has once again been commended in prestigious national awards. The Council was commended in the *Better Ways of Working* category of the National e-Wellbeing Awards, 2007, which took place at London's Globe Theatre on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

2.3.2 The InfoCare system has been installed in about 4,300 households which receive homecare services. It uses smartcards and readers in each home to help ensure service users receive the care that has been agreed for them. The InfoCare system also has advanced features to help protect the workforce, an innovative "call me" request button, the ability to monitor temperature in the home and to let service users review the actual care received.

## 2.4 Involve Arts Project

2.4.1 The Involve Arts Project works with older people and people with disabilities to provide a range of arts activities in social care settings using professional artists.

2.4.2 Over 6,000 service users have accessed in the programme. In recognition of the work the Care Service Improvement Partnership highly commended the Project as part of the Positive Practice Awards.

## 2.5 Outcome of the ALI Inspection

2.5.1 The Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI) have completed an inspection of the Workstep programme. Under the Workstep contract we provide employment for 179 disabled people. These employment opportunities may be either with an employer in mainstream employment or in one of our own supported factories or businesses.

2.5.2 The inspection was carried out in accordance with the Common Inspection Framework by three full-time inspectors who had knowledge of, and experience in, the Workstep programme. The team undertook 12 days of inspection, interviewing 28 Workstep participants, 18 Nottinghamshire County Council staff and 21 employers throughout Nottinghamshire.

2.5.3 The overall effectiveness of the Workstep provision was viewed as Good and the programme was awarded a grade 2 contributory grade (silver status), placing the provision in the top 7 of providers in the country. Leadership and management were considered good as were the arrangements for equality of opportunity and quality improvement.

## 2.6 Response to the DFG Consultation

2.6.1 As part of the cross party Member group, we have responded to the Disabled Facilities Grant consultation paper.

2.6.2 Overall we regard the proposals as positive and recognise the need to modernise the current system by making the process of application easier to understand, equitable, and to align the assessment and charging policies across the various authorities.

## 2.7 Beacon Council Award

2.7.1 Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council were awarded Beacon status in March 2007 for emergency planning after meeting the challenging criteria set by the government. The partnership work was assessed by the Beacon judges as being "outstanding" and they were particularly impressed by the involvement of internal and external partners and service users. This is the sixth year in a row that the County Council has achieved Beacon status for one of its services.

- 2.7.2 Adult Social Care and Health contributed to this award in their role in establishing and managing Rest Centres following major incidents. Such incidents include evacuation of houses and providing a place of safety for residents; dealing with emergencies such as flooding (Nottinghamshire has the second largest flood plain in the UK) and preparing for pandemic flu. The department has influenza pandemic plans in place, as well as its own major incident and business continuity plans. We are represented on the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum sub-group on pandemic flu and a joint Health and Social Care pandemic flu steering group.
- 2.7.3 The Service Director (Strategic Services) chairs the Humanitarian Assistance Centre steering group which was set up in response to the government's request following the London bombings. There is now a multi-agency draft plan in place covering both the City and County Councils, health organisations and the voluntary sector.

**COUNCILLOR ALAN RHODES**  
**Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health**

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