

Report



meeting

COUNTY COUNCIL

date

13th September 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 Commission for Social Care Inspection – Annual Review

2.1.1 The review covered the performance year 2006/07.

2.1.2 On the 29th August, I attended the Annual Review Meeting of the Authority's Adult Social Care function conducted by the Commission for Social Care Inspection. The Annual Review was an all day event involving a presentation by the Strategic Director, giving an overview of the authority's performance. There were then interviews with staff from the authority and other agencies.

2.1.3 The afternoon session was the formal meeting attended by the departmental senior management team, the Chief Executive, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust Chief Executive and County teaching Primary Care Trust Chief Executive.

2.1.4 The performance regime for Adult Social Care is extensive. There are 25 main performance indicators and a formal written assessment process (previously submitted) concerning 306 lines of enquiry.

2.1.5 It is pleasing to comment that the authority was able to report improvement in 19 out of 25 indicators, resulting in an improved banding (equivalent of a grade) in 8. The representatives from the Commission commented positively on the delivery of the authority's Commissioning Plans and Carers Strategy. The formal result of the process, the star rating, will be known in November.

2.2 Humanitarian Assistance Centre

- 2.2.1 Following the bomb attacks in London, a need was identified by the government for each local authority to have in place Humanitarian Assistance Centres (HACs). These provide a one-stop-shop for survivors, family and friends and all those impacted by an emergency, through which they can access support, care and advice.
- 2.2.2 The final HAC Plan has now been produced by a Steering Group, chaired by the Adult Social Care and Health Service Director for Strategic Services, consisting of representatives from local authorities, emergency services, Health and Voluntary organisations. It lays out the agreed procedure for establishing and operating the HAC in Nottingham or Nottinghamshire, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of organisations which may be involved.
- 2.2.3 There are to be two launches for the HAC Plan, Monday 24th September, 9.30-12.45 pm in the City, and Friday 5th October 9.30-12.45 pm at Newark Showground. These are aimed at managers and frontline staff, to raise awareness and to actively involve partners. Before this, a media event will be held to engage local press and radio to raise the profile of the important work. Members are welcome and are being encouraged to attend and have been sent an invitation.

2.3 Adult Social Care and Health Department's Response to the community during the floods, June 2007

- 2.3.1 Large areas of the county were involved in flooding incidents following the unprecedented rainfall of June 2007.
- 2.3.2 Adult Social Care and Health staff worked round the clock and with immediate notice to help the hundreds of vulnerable people affected by the flooding. They staffed four Rest Centres in Retford, Ollerton, Bingham and Newark as a place of safety for evacuees. Staff carried out extra assessments, and provided hot meals and extra home care for vulnerable people. Managers went on 24 hour duty in the Emergency Planning Centre at County Hall to help support frontline staff.
- 2.3.3 The commitment of staff within Adult Social Care and Health in responding to the incident cannot be underestimated. The willingness of staff to respond to such incidents, often at a cost to personal arrangements, is a testament to their commitment.

2.4 Staff Conference – Evaluation and Outcomes

- 2.4.1 The department organised three staff conferences this year focusing on the "The Way Ahead for Nottinghamshire Adult Social Care".

2.4.2 Each year the department holds staff conferences for frontline members of staff. The purpose of these conferences is for frontline staff to meet with senior managers and Members to discuss the particular theme. They had an opportunity to hear first hand accounts from service users of their experience of direct payments and to discuss the impact of self-directed support within their area of service within facilitator-led workshops. The workshops were rated very highly. A number of members from political parties attended.

2.5 New Service Director Appointment

2.5.1 David Hamilton has been officially appointed as Service Director for older People and Strategic Partnerships following interviews at the end of June. The appointment was confirmed by Cabinet in July. David has been Head of Adult Services with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council since 2002. For one year of this period he was acting Executive Director of Adult Social Services. He started with the Authority at the beginning of September.

2.6 Meetings and Events Attended

2.6.1 **Alzheimer's Society**

I visited Bassetlaw Alzheimer's Society on the 23rd July 2007. I am continuously impressed with all of the excellent work they do.

2.6.2 **Link Age Plus Evaluation**

On the 26th July 2007 I had a meeting with Professor Howard Davis, from Warwick University Business School. Professor Davis has been appointed by the government to evaluate the Link Age Plus programme.

2.6.3 **Visits**

I visited a number of Adult Social Care and Health establishments throughout August.

On Monday 13th August I started the week by visiting James Hince Court in Worksop, which is one of the county council care facilities. That afternoon I visited Willow Wood Day Service provision in Sutton-in-Ashfield and the Welfare Rights service at Warsop Town Hall. Tuesday 14th August I visited the very successful Learning and Development Team at Ludlow Hill. Thursday 16th August I spent the day in Newark. Firstly, visiting Woods Court, a county council day care facility and in the afternoon 65 North Gate, an Adult Social Care and Health office. On Friday 17th August I visited Gedling View Family Centre, which provides services for families and whose service user group is mainly children. As well as Prospect House, in Beeston this is another Adult Social Care and Health office. All of these visits I thoroughly enjoyed.

2.6.4 Solutions4Data – Launch

On Wednesday 22nd August I was pleased to attend a photo launch for Solutions4Data, Supported Employment Project. This was a promotional event to advertise the new name and logo for 'Solutions4Data'. Solutions4Data are a service that will capture your data. They offer a number of services, such as digital capturing of documents onto CD, micro-film for long-term storage and a full Braille service.

2.6.5 Cabinet

I have attended a number of press briefings regarding the proposed conclusions and recommendations of the Cabinet Committee looking into Residential Care Homes and Extra Care.

2.6.6 Greenacre Day Care Centre

The Service Director, for Mental Health and Learning Disability and I consulted carers on the options available to reprovide the current service delivered from Greenacre. Carers were presented with proposals to establish a new service based within the Community Hub facility which is being developed in Worksop, along with the option of redeveloping one of the existing day care facilities in the town.

COUNCILLOR ALAN RHODES

Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health