

Meeting ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

Date 13 March 2023 (commencing at 10.30am)

**Membership****COUNCILLORS**

Mike Quigley MBE (Chairman)  
David Martin (Vice Chairman)

Reg Adair	Eric Kerry
Steve Carr	Philip Owen
Dr John Doddy - <b>apologies</b>	Mike Pringle
Sybil Fielding - <b>apologies</b>	Tom Smith
Paul Henshaw	

**SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle for Councillor Sybil Fielding

**OTHER COUNTY COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Matt Barney

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Bridget Cameron	Strategic Commissioning Lead
Martin Elliott	Senior Scrutiny Officer
Jonathan Gribbin	Director of Public Health
Kate Morris	Democratic Services Officer
Cath Pritchard	Consultant in Public Health
James Wheat	Commissioning Manager
Melanie Williams	Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Public Health

**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee held on 12 December 2022, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from:

- Councillor Sybil Feilding (Other Reasons),
- Councillor Dr John Doddy (Other Reasons)

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None.

## **4. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE DAY OPPORTUNITIES STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION 2022-2027**

Councillor Matt Barney the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, Melanie Williams, Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Public Health, James Wheat, Commissioning Manager, and Bridget Cameron, Strategic Commissioning Lead attended the meeting to present a report on the implementation of the Day Opportunities Strategy 2022 - 2027

The Corporate Director introduced the report, and the Commissioning Manager gave a presentation on the Nottinghamshire Day Opportunities Strategy and its implementation. A **summary** of the presentation is detailed below:

- The Day Opportunities Strategy had been originally approved by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in April 2022. The Strategy had been produced in consultation with user groups, social care professionals and Committee members.
- The Strategy recognised a number of themes, particularly around younger adults with autism and adults of all ages with dementia, and their ability to connect with their local community and access services. The Strategy also focused on the opportunities to work with adults with disabilities to move towards meaningful employment opportunities.
- The Strategy recognised that there were a number of different ways that people accessed the services, from early intervention & prevention, through to time limited support and specialist intensive support.
- Day Opportunity Services were accessed by around 1400 people a week, predominantly by adults with learning difficulties, but a wide range of adults accessed the services across the county.
- A tendering exercise had been initiated to appoint external providers to a framework. This has allowed the Council to influence the delivery mechanisms of partners and external providers. An update to the service specification set out the vision and types of activities required and the new framework once in place will allow flexibility when contracting with providers.
- Updated monitoring and evaluation methods, including revised Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) were being developed for the new framework to ensure the services and opportunities were appropriate, that outcomes experienced by service users were meeting their expectations and that the services and contracts offered value for money.
- Engagement with a range of stakeholders had been taking place around meaningful opportunities to enable service users to develop skills and accesses employment and

volunteer opportunities. Specific work with the Integrated Care Board and the NHS Trusts around complex and specialist support was undertaken to establish how work with adults with autism and dementia could be best implemented.

- Further consultation was due to take place from April 2023 around the implementation of the strategy, including with service users and internal colleagues to ensure the opportunities available will be fit for purpose.
- The strategy was centred around 4 themes,
  - Early Intervention and Prevention: working with local community resources and carer support hubs
  - Enablement: Introduction of the Independence and Employment hubs along side access to mainstream activities and networks
  - Personalised Support: Co produced plans that reflect aims and interest with clearly defined outcomes
  - Specialist Intensive support: Specialist dementia and autism services along with enhanced staff training.

In the discussion that followed, Committee members raised the following points:

- Committee members queried whether there were already specialist services available for adults with autism and dementia, and if not questioned why these were not already in place.
- Members asked how the efficacy of the implementation of the Strategy would be measured and how the baseline from which to measure improvement had been established.
- Members enquired how specialist services would be delivered across the County, not just in spaces where the appropriate environment was already in place.
- Members noted the emphasis within the report of moving away from building based services. They questioned this direction of travel given the positive response about building based services from services users within the consultation.
- Members raised concerns around the move towards more use of Personal Assistants as part of the strategy, highlighting the difficulties around recruitment and retention of care staff nationally, specifically highlighting the issue of low pay in social care.
- Members also enquired about the training and qualifications required for the role of Personal Assistant, and what programmes were available, or if the Council worked with colleges to tailor training courses and qualifications to the Personal Assistant role.
- Members asked whether it was possible for the Council to commission from large, national charities, Personal Assistants to encourage better take up with service users.
- Members questioned whether service users wanted to use community-based activities, as many community venues have struggled with patronage since the pandemic and the way people access activities had also changed.
- Members asked that the Equality Impact Assessment that had been carried out in the development of the strategy be made more readily available for scrutiny.

- Members questioned how equity of access to services would be ensured, particularly in the rural and semi-rural areas of the County.
- Members wanted the Council to better showcase how it supported people to find meaningful employment opportunities as a way of encouraging more employers to become involved.
- Members indicated that they wanted to receive further information around any ongoing review of buildings and be able to offer scrutiny to any proposals that may come out of that process.

In relation to the points raised by the Committee, the Cabinet Member and Officers provided the following responses:

- Officers assured members that existing specialist provision for adults with dementia and autism was available for service users currently. The offer was due to be reviewed to ensure that the Council along with other statutory partners, such as the NHS, offer a wide range of provision, including support for carers of those high need's individuals. Work would focus on reassessing the services provided to address emerging need particularly around older adults with learning disabilities and early onset dementia.
- A benchmarking process had been undertaken to determine the current number of people accessing the day opportunities, how many lived at home, and what support they currently received. Within the new strategy, monitoring would show on an individual level the outcomes service users wanted to achieve. From a commissioning perspective this would allow the individual services provided on the framework to be adapted to suit the individual and their needs at any given time. At present the data was very new and a better understanding of how the contracts are performing would be available in 6 to 12 months' time.
- Some very specialist support services for autism and dementia required quite specific accommodation, certain room sizes, or entrance and exit points etc. Some buildings were not appropriate for these types of specialist services currently so could not provide specific support services. These specialist support services were still available to service users but from more appropriate buildings.
- Officers highlighted that the service user group was a diverse group of people. Older adults with learning disabilities, and their carers, valued the building-based service, where as younger adults wanted support in accessing more mainstream activities like music gigs and social situations, at times that were which often outside the hours that services had traditionally been available. It was noted that by enhancing the personalised plans it allowed the Council to provide support specific for each individual. Alongside this, further work needed to be done to increase the accessibility of community activities for people with specific needs.
- The Strategy was focused on making the services fit for purpose, modern, and person centred and ensuring that a localised approach to allow service users to be supported in the community could be provided.
- Officers confirmed that it would be necessary to review how services were provided, and the premises that the services were provided from. Many required modernisation or were in locations that were no longer appropriate. Service users and carers had fed back through the consultation that flexibility of support was important to them, and any review would

need to consider how best to use the building resource for the diversity of need within the service user group. There were opportunities to offer services from a partnership hub building where a variety of services could be accessed.

- Work had been taking place around supporting the Personal Assistant workforce and supporting families to employ PA's. A Direct Payments Team had been established to support carers in employing Personal Assistants. There had been an increase in the number of people wanting to become PA's recently and the picture was looking more positive.
- The employment of PA's was about matching the correct skills for the service user. In terms of qualifications, specific training could be tailored to the match with service users' individual needs. Members were assured that there were Council structures in place to ensure that safeguarding elements of training were carried out.
- The Council had been working with a number of third sector groups around supplying Personal Assistant support. The work was in the early stages but would be developed as part of the Strategy.
- To ensure equity of access to day opportunity services a number of additional services could be offered such as specialist personalised transport. The majority of services were based around the larger population centres in Mid-Nottinghamshire. Officers had worked with external providers to develop and deliver hub model offers, which enhanced the offer in a specific community that also offered economies of scale for the provider. As work on the implementation of the Strategy continued, further work would be undertaken to understand the geography of demand and adjustments could be made to commissioning intentions to respond to that.
- Officers agreed that the inclusion of employment outcomes in the benchmarking work would be beneficial. It was noted that the Employment and Health Strategy was due to be refreshed following the pandemic and reporting outcomes to the committee from that refresh would provide a wider picture of employment opportunities across the board.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Matt Barney, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, Melanie Williams, Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Public Health, James Wheat, Commissioning Manager, and Bridget Cameron, Strategic Commissioning Lead for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions.

#### **RESOLVED: 2023/001**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the following issues raised by the Committee in its consideration of the report on the implementation of the Day Opportunities Strategy be progressed:
  - a) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee, in consultation with officers, considers the most appropriate approach for members of the committee to receive further information and to carry out further scrutiny work on:
    - i. how the Day Opportunities Strategy will be delivered in a way that ensures equity of access to support for service users across Nottinghamshire.

- ii. the Implementation Plan that will support the delivery of the objectives of the Day Opportunities Strategy.
  - iii. the processes (including the use of benchmarking information) that will be in place for measuring the success of the Day Opportunities Strategy.
  - iv. the use and role of buildings in delivering the objectives of the Day Opportunities Strategy.
  - v. the outcomes of the consultation activity that will be carried out with people who have lived experience of the implementation of the Day Opportunities Strategy and how this will be used to review and develop the service model.
- b) That the Equality Impact Assessment that was carried out in relation to the Day Opportunities Strategy be circulated to the members of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee.
  - c) That the Cabinet Member for Personnel, in consultation with officers reviews the section of the Council's website that contains Equality Impact Assessments to ensure that it fully up to date.
  - d) That a further progress report on the implementation of the Day Opportunities Strategy be brought to a future meeting of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee at a date to be agreed by the Chairman of the Committee.

## **5. THE ROLE OF E-CIGARETTES (VAPES) IN TOBACCO CONTROL AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

Jonathan Gribbin, Director of Public Health, and Catherine Pritchard, Consultant in Public Health attended the meeting. The Director of Public Health introduced the report, and the Consultant in Public Health gave a presentation on the role of E-cigarettes in tobacco control and public health in Nottinghamshire. A **summary** of the presentation is detailed below:

- E-cigarettes had become a recognised quit aid for stopping smoking. National reviews recognised that they were 95% less harmful than cigarettes. However, the long-term harm was not yet known. They were the most popular method for giving up smoking and switching cut health risks substantially.
- Only regulated and safety tested E-cigarette products were offered by smoking cessation services offered in Nottinghamshire to ensure that illegal and products with known dangerous ingredients were not used.
- The national reviews noted that there was negligible risk to people from second hand inhalation of vapour from E-Cigarettes, and that a large proportion of current users of E-Cigarette products in the UK were either current smokers, or those who had quit smoking.
- It was recognized that striking a balance between promoting E-cigarettes as a quit aid to adults whilst also preventing the uptake in young people and non-smokers was important.
- Two national surveys were used to inform work around E-cigarettes in young people. They found that most young people did not use E-cigarettes. They did identify an increase in E-

cigarette use in young people between 2018 and 2021 with those under 16 less likely to have tried vaping.

- Young people reported that they were exposed to advertisement for E-cigarettes online, through social media and in particular through influencers advocating their use.
- Part of the Public Health Grant had been invested in work with Trading Standards around age restricted sales to target business with a focus on vapes.
- Work had started on gaining local insight into the behaviour of young people around vaping in Nottinghamshire. Work around commissioning Health related behaviour surveys for young people in Year 6 and Year 10 to gain a more accurate picture of local behaviour had been undertaken along with colleagues in Nottingham City Public Health.
- The Intent Smoking prevention programme had been developed for use in participating secondary schools. It focused on preventing take up of smoking and vaping. The Whole School approach has been developed to provide a suite of resources including, materials, support and policy development for schools to use.
- The Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board support the use of E-Cigarettes as a route out of smoking for adults, whilst not becoming a route into smoking for young people and non-smokers.

In the discussion that followed, Committee members raised the following points:

- Members queried the accuracy of the surveys, particularly in relation to children who may not be truthful for fear of getting into trouble from their response.
- Members raised concerns about the long-term impacts of vaping, and the lack of information around potential future health implications. Members requested more information on the risks of vaping, acknowledging that the data stated that the risk of vaping was 95% less than that of using traditional tobacco products, but also recognising that there were still risks associated with it.
- Members questioned whether E-Cigarettes should be available on prescription, rather than on general sale in shops.
- Members raised concerns about the number of complaints made around sales of E-Cigarettes to underage children and were pleased to see joint work with Trading Standards to tackle sales to underage children.
- Members felt that advertising of brightly coloured and highly flavoured E-Cigarette products was inappropriate. Members felt strongly that the legislation and regulation of these products was not sufficient and felt that a letter from the Committee to all Nottinghamshire MP's that asked them to consider how the advertising should be regulated further should be drafted.
- Members asked if Public Health Colleagues were in contact with the D.A.R.E project in schools, but acknowledged that the time for its delivery and the associated costs could be prohibitive.

- Members raised concerns about the recyclability of the disposable E-Cigarette products, highlighting the use of lithium batteries within them.
- Members requested to see the resources used by schools to tackle both smoking and vaping to gain a better understanding of how these programmes operated
- Members questioned how long smokers using E-cigarettes as a quit aid were encouraged to use them, and at what point they should consider stopping their use.
- Members asked what level of tobacco use of tobacco was to facilitate the use of class C drugs.

In relation to the points raised by the Committee, Officers provided the following responses:

- The Surveys that had been discussed in the presentation were national surveys. It was noted that more information was needed to determine a local picture in order to ensure that work and resources were targeted most effectively.
- At present E-cigarettes were a regulated product, meaning they were subject to strict testing and that the Medicines Health regulatory agency held details of all products that had passed those tests. No companies had come forward to indicate that they wanted their E-cigarette product to go through the process to allow them to be available on prescription.
- The regulation of E-cigarette Product advertising had not caught up with the products themselves. Unlike traditional tobacco products, there was no standardised packaging for E-cigarette products and they were not required to be stored behind shutters and behind counters where sold. There was not the same stringent regulation and control of E-cigarette products which had proved successful in control of traditional tobacco products. Officers indicated that the recommendations in the Khan review, relating to vaping and tobacco control could be highlighted to MP's as positive actions to reduce the use of tobacco and E-cigarette products.
- Public health colleagues had worked closely with the Schools Health Hub programme, who focused on ensuring evidence-based interventions were available to schools across the County, such as the Intent programme and the Whole School Approach. The schools health hub focused resources on those schools in areas of higher adult smoking prevalence, and it was noted that any help and support from Councillors to reach out to schools they have particular concerns about would be welcomed.
- Officers stressed that the use of E-cigarettes was targeted as a quit aid to existing smokers and that the strong advice to non-smokers would be to not use these products. Those who use E-cigarettes as a quit aid were encouraged to reduce the use of vaping products, however evidence had shown that those who were most heavily addicted to nicotine would vape for longer than those using nicotine replacement therapy.
- The single use products vaping, contained a number of different materials and elements, including plastic, metal coils and batteries. This made them very difficult to recycle successfully.
- Officers offered to look into the levels of tobacco use to facilitate the use of illicit drugs and feedback to the committee outside of the meeting.



The Chairman thanked Jonathan Gribbin, Director of Public Health, and Catherine Pritchard, Consultant in Public Health for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions.

**RESOLVED: 2023/002**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the following issues raised by the Committee in its consideration of the report on The Role of Electronic Cigarettes (Vapes) in Tobacco Control and Public Health be progressed:
  - a) That the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, in consultation with officers gives further consideration on how the messaging and information on the relative reduced harm of e-cigarettes and vapes, compared to the harms caused by smoking tobacco is communicated with residents.
  - b) That the Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee writes to all MPs in Nottinghamshire to:
    - i. advise them of the committee's concerns around the advertising, availability, and subsequent use of vapes by children and young people, and to request that they raise these concerns with relevant Government ministers.
    - and to
    - ii. advise of the committee's support for the recommendations arising from "The Khan review: making smoking obsolete" that were published in June 2022.
  - c) That a summary of the report and recommendations from "The Khan review: making smoking obsolete" be circulated to members of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee.
  - d) That further information and data be circulated to members of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on the identified reduced negative health impacts around the use of vapes compared to the use of tobacco.
  - e) That as soon as available, that the information and data gathered from the Health-Related Behaviour Questionnaire/Survey that is planned to be carried with school children across Nottinghamshire be shared with the members of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee.
  - f) That further information on the support provided to schools to assist them to address issues around vaping by children and young people be circulated to members of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee.
  - g) That the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, in consultation with officers gives further consideration on how elected members can be involved with and promote the work being carried out with schools around the issue of children and young people vaping and smoking.
  - h) That the Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee writes to the Secretary of State for the Environment regarding the committee's concerns about the environmental impact of disposable vapes.

- i) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee, in consultation with officers, consider the most appropriate approach for the committee to carry out further work around vaping and tobacco control.

## **6. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented the Committee's current work programme.

### **RESOLVED: 2023/003**

- 1) That the work programme be noted.
- 2) That committee members make any further suggestions for consideration by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for inclusion on the work programme in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers, subject to the required approval by the Chairman of Overview Committee.

The meeting closed at 1:13 pm.

**CHAIRMAN**