

Report



meeting

COUNTY COUNCIL

date

13th December 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 The National Children and Adult Services Conference 2007: 'My Life - My Choices: Independence, Security and Achievement – 17th to 19th October 2007 Bournemouth'

- 2.1.1 The theme of this year's Conference was 'My life - my choices: independence, security and achievement'. This reflects the work that local government and partners are doing to create services that are designed for and by the individual service users and their carers. The conference programme consisted of a mix of keynote and ministerial addresses and there was an opportunity to take part in a variety of participatory breakouts and networking sessions.

- 2.1.2 Keynote speakers included:

- Anne Williams, President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS)
- John Coughlan, Joint President, Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS)
- Paul Coen, Chief Executive, Local Government Association.

The ministerial addresses were given by:

- Right Honourable Ed Balls MP, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families
- Right Honourable, Alan Johnson MP, Secretary of State for Health.

2.1.3 The conference provided delegates the opportunity to consider issues of:

Independence: to support people needing services to design and manage packages of care that allow them to live the lives they want.

Security: the need for financial and housing security, how agencies deal with risk and broader community safety work and building a sense of safety for individuals and communities.

Achievement: often the focus is on what people can't do. The aim was to reinforce the high ambitions that local government has for looked after children and the successes of young people who have overcome often almost overwhelming circumstances and experiences to lead successful and fulfilled lives.

2.1.4 The main points from the address were:

- If we fail to get to grips with these long-term issues, we could inadvertently jeopardise the whole principle of a free NHS.
- Our welfare system - conceived in the 19th Century and introduced in the 20th Century – must be reformed to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
- Building a new consensus about the funding of social care is one of the main public policy challenges of our times.
- Fundamental questions around the balance of responsibility between individuals, families and the state; about our expectations as individuals and how we wish them to be fulfilled; about the levels of taxation we are prepared to pay and what we expect in return.

2.1.5 In summary the main points from the other keynote speeches and the policy sessions centred on how to deliver the White Paper, 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' and delivering better outcomes for service users and carers by:-

- improving people's health and emotional well-being
- improving quality of life
- enabling people to make a positive contribution
- to provide people with more choice and control
- to ensure people are free from discrimination
- to improve economic well-being
- to enable personal dignity.

2.1.6 The sessions reinforced the need to enable people to remain in their own home by having less reliance on traditional models of service and the need to have more flexible outcome focused models based on personalisation and individual budgets.

2.2 County Horticulture and Work Training

2.2.1 County Horticulture and Work Training has won an award from the Green Apple Organisation. The award is for Environmental Best Practice.

2.2.2 The award was collected from the House of Commons on the 9th November 2007. The award was presented by David Bellamy, OBE. The award was collected by Tony Wardle, Kenwyn Smith and Councillor Yvonne Woodhead, Deputy Portfolio Holder. This is a National award and there were over 500 nominations.

2.2.3 There were four levels; bronze, silver, gold and the top award. The winner goes through to the next level where they will represent the UK. This event is held in Brussels. This will go through to a panel of judges where they will make the decision that will represent the UK.

2.3 Residential Homes for Older People Strategy

2.3.1 The consultation process is now well underway and a number of homes proposed for closure have been visited by both Councillors and Senior Officers from the department. All of the Council's homes will be visited during the consultation process which ends on 11th January 2008.

2.3.2 Council representatives are also meeting with the District and Borough Councils across the County and all key stakeholders including voluntary and community organisations. A number of Focus Groups have also been organised across the county by an independent facilitator and the information from these groups will be fed into the consultation process which will ultimately assist in the final decision making process.

2.3.3 On the 7th November I visited Bishops Court, the 8th November I visited James Hince Court and on the 27th November I visited St Michaels View.

2.3.4 On all of the visits we had a courteous reception and were able to speak to staff and relatives about the proposals and answer any questions. Feedback from staff and relatives about the visits has been positive.

2.4 Accolades

2.4.1 The practice learning team in Adult Social Care and Health was successful in winning Skills for Care accolade for the "best innovative practice on workforce development across partner organisations".

2.4.2 The award was recognition for the work in setting up and developing the social work trainee scheme in Children and Young People's services. It is a good example of partnership working between the learning and development team, operational managers and Higher Education Institutes.

2.5 Newark Eden Housing

2.5.1 On the 6th November I visited the Eden Housing Presentation in Newark. This evening was to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of staff at Eden Supported Housing Ltd who gained a qualification, e.g. NVQ. I was very impressed by the highly trained staff and enjoyed meeting everyone.

2.6 Hettys Open Day

2.6.1 On the 7th November I attended my first meeting as a member of the board at Hettys. Hettys is based in Mansfield and is a charity that supports families and friends of drug users.

2.7 Older People Advisory Group

2.7.1 On November 21st I attended the Nottinghamshire Older People's Advisory Group meeting chaired by The Honourable Councillor Joan Taylor. This group are committed to help shape policies for older people.

2.7.2 Members of the group are all active within older people's forums and reach a large number of older people across the county. Members of the group were involved in shaping the outcomes of the Best Value Review.

2.8 Tackling Social Exclusion and the Aging Agenda

2.8.1 On Tuesday 20th November 2007 I spoke at the 'Tackling Social Exclusion' and the 'Ageing Agenda' event, hosted by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM). This meeting was to discuss experiences in developing wellbeing services for older people in Nottinghamshire.

2.8.2 Nottinghamshire has a population of 265,000 (35.3%) people aged over 50, by 2021 it is estimated that there will be 350,500 people aged 50 and over living in the County, representing 47.6% of the population.

2.8.3 Within the county there are seven District and Borough Councils and two Primary Care Trusts, there is plenty of experience of partnership working.

2.8.3 Nottinghamshire was selected to be involved in the 'Better Government for Older People' pilots. The pilot showed resources need to be put into improving access to services and taking an interest in basic services, such as handy person schemes and preventative adaptation schemes. Nottinghamshire has also been fortunate to receive government monies to develop initiatives through Link Age Plus and Invest to Save.

2.8.4 A Countywide Older People's Strategic Partnership has been set up. This body has representatives from older people as well as service providers and advocacy organisations. There has also been an Older Peoples Board to support the Strategic Partnership, chaired by the Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health.

2.9 Whitewater Day Service

2.9.1 On the 23rd November I attended a coffee morning at the Whitewater Day Service in Boughton. I enjoyed visiting the facility and meeting service users and staff.

2.10 Dignity Challenge Launch

2.10.1 On the 4th December, 2007 I spoke at the Dignity Challenge Launch at Cedric Ford Pavillion in Newark. The launch raised awareness of the national campaign to place dignity and respect at the heart of caring for people and for who is responsible for dignity in care. The Adult Social Care and Health department are taking on the challenge to mean dignity and respect for services they provide.

2.10.2 The event included both positive and negative experiences from service users, along with views of carers and examples of existing good practise.

2.10.3 Interest was shown from staff and from a range of independent healthcare providers who attended the event.

2.11 Disabled badge Identification scheme

2.11.1 Following concerns raised by a member of the public, Councillor Cole has been leading on a pilot to introduce a disabled person's identification badge for people with a disability within Nottinghamshire.

2.11.2 Not all disabled people have an 'obvious' disability and as a result some people find it difficult to use or access facilities and benefits for disabled people. This can include access to disabled toilets and obtaining concessions for public transport, theatres and other community venues.

2.11.3 In order to address this, seven disabled people are currently piloting the use of a disabled person's identification card.

2.11.4 The pilot will report back during December and action will be given on how this can be implemented across the County. Already the pilot has attracted a lot of interest and the initial feedback has been very positive.

2.12 Audit Commission National Study

2.12.1 Two workers from the Audit Commission visited Nottinghamshire in the week of the 20th November as part of visits to eleven local authorities throughout the UK. Their aim was to:

- identify to what extent local authorities are encouraging and supporting wellbeing amongst people of 50 plus

- evaluate the resulting management challenges of the new Public Service Agreements on wellbeing in later life
- identify good practice to support other local authorities.

2.12.2 The two workers met with a wide range of partners in the Notts50plus initiative including Adult Social Care and Health, Transportation and Supporting People as well as the third sector. In particular they met with Nottinghamshire Older People's Advisory Group for whole morning.

2.12.3 I had a fruitful meeting with the workers and they will return for one further day to visit older people's projects in the community.

2.13 Learning Disability Services

2.13.1 In Gedling the existing learning disability day service, Beck Meadow, based at Rolleston Drive is to be replaced by a new service developed on a site at Howbeck Road.

2.13.2 Service users at the day service came together to identify a name for the new service. Having considered a number of suggested names for the new building, the service users would like to name the building, Ernehale Lea.

2.13.3 Ernehale is the original name for Arnold, where the service is situated. Lea is an old name for meadow and is a reflection and connection to the existing service Beck Meadow.

2.13.4 The Council have developed a purpose built, respite care / short breaks unit at Holles Street, Worksop, to replace Wincroft. The new service will be operational early in 2008.

2.13.4 Service users will have modern, state of the art facilities for short breaks in Worksop and day services in Arnold.

COUNCILLOR ALAN RHODES
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