



MINUTES

Meeting: **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH
DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFING MEETING**

Date: **28th October 2008**

Present: 'A' denotes absent

Councillor Peter Barnes
Councillor Ken Bullivant
A Councillor Richard Butler
Councillor John Carter
A Councillor Steve Carr
Councillor Jim Creamer
Councillor Yvonne Davidson
Councillor Vincent Dobson
A Councillor Paul Henshaw
A Councillor Rod Kempster
Councillor Pat Lally
Councillor Joe Lonergan
Councillor Alan Rhodes (Chair)
A Councillor Michael Storey
Councillor Lynn Sykes
A Councillor the Hon. Joan Taylor
Councillor Yvonne Woodhead

Also in Attendance

Linda Bayliss	Service Director
Sharon Smith	Service Director
Caroline Baria	Service Director
Jon Wilson	Service Director
David Hamilton	Service Director
Peter Lacey	Whole Systems Approach
Councillor Girling	Nottinghamshire County Council
Councillor Laughton	Nottinghamshire County Council
Councillor Cole	Nottinghamshire County Council
Councillor Winterton	Nottinghamshire County Council
Judith Horsfall	
Liz Lambert	
Helen Holt	
Katie Petef	Minutes

1. Welcome and Introduction

Councillor Alan Rhodes welcomed everyone to the meeting. Item 6 'Reducing the Rate of Admissions to Long-term Care Homes – making care more convenient and closer to home' was discussed as the first agenda item.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Joan Taylor, Councillor Place, Councillor Henshaw and Councillor Butler.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 10th July 2008 were agreed as a true record. Councillor Lonergan commented that the figures in item 6 from the previous meeting, 'Creating a Workforce for the Future', conflicted with the papers in today's meeting. Councillor Lonergan also asked what the current position is with regard to the Green Paper.

Linda Bayliss responded to Councillor Lonergan saying the date had not been confirmed in respect of the green paper but we would confirm this in writing.

4. Reducing the Rate of Admissions to Long-term Care Homes – making care more convenient and closer to home

David Hamilton introduced Peter Lacey of Whole Systems Approach, a company that was commissioned to undertake some research to develop a system on how to improve performance on reducing the rate of admissions to long-term care homes.

Peter gave a short presentation on how the 'System Dynamics Model' works.

Systems thinking is a disciplined way of understanding the dynamic relationship between things so that better choices can be made and avoid unintended consequences. The purpose of the model is to identify the options open to Nottinghamshire that will lead to an increase in the numbers of older people helped to live at home and reduce the number of people admitted into care to levels that are comparable with high performing authorities in its comparator group.

There were a number of questions from Members around the accuracy of figures in the model. Mr Hamilton explained the figures used in the model to predict scenarios, were obtained from national sources.

5. The Adult Social Care and Health Department Budget 2008/09

David Hamilton introduced the item. The Adult Social Care and Health budget forms a significant proportion (42%) of the County Council's overall net budget. The size of the Adult Social Care and Health net budget has

increased significantly (68%) over the last 6 years. The factors which have resulted in the significant increase in the Adult Social Care and Health budget over recent years are ongoing, and will need to be considered by the County Council in the development of budgets for 2009/10 and future years.

Councillor Cole asked if there is an increase in older people, how confident are Adult Social Care and Health department about recruiting, retaining and attracting younger people into the workforce?

David Hamilton said that workforce planning is crucial. Judith Horsfall is currently working on workforce planning.

Linda Bayliss added that the department is working with the Independent Sector and looking into how we advertise and retain mature workers too, for example, through job fairs and by selling a positive image of the department. This will be reported on at a future meeting.

Joe Lonergan commented on the allocation of funding over a five year period – how do the Adult Social Care and Health department see the balance in future?

David Hamilton said that there had been an increase in demand for Learning Disability services. Jon Wilson added that four years ago, the department's expenditure on Learning Disability services was one of the lowest in the country, but is now one of the highest. The 16% increase in the demand for Learning Disability services is due to more complex needs, longer life expectancy and better health care.

Councillor Lally commented that the papers were a little clinical and cold with regard to relating directly, and being meaningful to the people of Nottinghamshire, and would like to see the proposals set out in the papers, work for the benefit of these people.

Councillor Winterton would like to see a better projection of figures.

David Hamilton said more money was being spent on preventative measures, for example, Link Age Plus which is now a continuous project.

6. How We Manage Performance

Linda Bayliss introduced the item. There are 198 national performance indicators – 35 are Local Area Agreements and 15 are specifically dedicated to Adult Social Care and Health. Linda went on to explain the performance regime of the department, what statutory returns had not been completed for the Department of Health and in turn how the department managed the many demands made for data and information.

Councillor Adair asked how much of the budget is spent on managing performance as a department.

Linda Bayliss replied that a small team of staff dedicated to managing performance is currently employed within the Adult Social Care and Health

department, which was essential to respond to the plethora of reports.

Councillor Lonergan asked how this information is conveyed to public in a meaningful way. Linda Bayliss explained that the public are interested in performance of a department as it affects them personally and therefore the use of complaints leaflets and other positive publicity to make the people of Nottinghamshire more aware of performance issues, for example, value for money etc. The outcome of inspections and star ratings are communicated via Cabinet and Council reports, and media releases.

The indicator C32 - People aged over 65 helped to live at home, per 1,000 population aged 65+ (only a small 70% to 71.2%) was a disappointment, however, it is important to note that many of the services that the department provides to assist people to remain independently in their own homes, particularly through Opportunity Age, are not counted under this indicator, so should be viewed as 'hidden successes'.

Councillor Lonergan asked about the percentages used in the report – a percentage of what? Jon Wilson replied that the percentages should be proportions representing the number of people per 100,000.

Jon Wilson reported on the indicator NI146 which shows the percentage of adults with a learning disability in employment. The Department of Health says that one hour per week on minimum wage is classed as 'employment'. Mr Wilson added that a lot of people could be employed by Nottinghamshire County Council in areas such as catering, care-taking and office based activities. The recruitment process needs to be developed, taking into account people with a learning difficulty. Jon Wilson also suggested that existing posts could be broken down to specific tasks so that a number of people could be employed for just a few hours at a time.

Mr Wilson pointed out that a lot of people do not want more than 16 hours of work per week as it could affect their benefits.

7. New Adult Social Care Green Paper – Care, Support, Independence

Caroline Baria introduced the item. Consultation is already underway and must be completed by the end of November. Ms Baria has arranged a presentation on the 12th November for the Labour Group. Member's input from all Groups is important.

Councillor Cutts suggested bringing the presentation to Full Council so that there is only one showing instead of trying to arrange separate showings for the different parties. The next full Council meeting is in December so it was agreed that Ms Baria would continue to arrange separate meetings for the presentation in November.

Caroline Baria will contact the Conservative Group and Liberal Democrat group to arrange a suitable date for the presentation.

8. **Questions from the public**

None.

The meeting closed at 4.10pm.