

11 January 2021

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

NATIONAL CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES CONFERENCE: NOVEMBER 2020

Purpose of the Report

1. The report informs the Committee of the key messages from the National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) Conference which took place online from 4th to 6th November 2020.

Information

2. The County Council's representatives attending the conference were: Councillor Tony Harper, Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee; Councillors Boyd Elliott and Frances Purdue-Horan, Vice Chairmen of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee; Councillor Philip Owen, Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee; Councillors Sue Saddington and Tracey Taylor, Vice Chairmen of the Children and Young People's Committee; Colin Pettigrew, Corporate Director, Children and Families Services; Laurence Jones, Service Director, Commissioning and Resources, Children and Families Services; and Naomi Russell, Group Manager, Living Well (North), Adult Social Care and Health. The report is supported by the presentations which are available on the conference website www.ncasc.info
3. As a consequence of the COVID pandemic and national restrictions on meetings and travel, the conference was held online this year, through Zoom. A range of issues and priorities in adult social care services were reflected in the conference agenda, including the identified and anticipated impacts of COVID on service provision. Major topics covered were: equality and diversity, housing, funding issues, mental health and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. On the opening day of the conference there was a plenary session on **Equality, Diversion and Inclusion – Inclusive Leadership in Social Care**. This session challenged social care leaders to consider how they exercise inclusive leadership and address the under-representation of diverse groups at senior levels in adult and children services and how to nurture, recruit and develop more diverse leaders of the future.

5. Representatives from several local authorities spoke of the importance of securing people from diverse backgrounds into senior and leadership roles; of the need for a secure and confident workforce; and to ensure inclusive support for all residents and service users.
6. Speakers at this session referenced local government's role in improving residents' mental wellbeing throughout life, and the particular impact of COVID on mental health arising from limited socialisation.
7. Also, on day one of the conference there was a session run by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), the Local Government Association (LGA), Social Care Futures and Think Local Act Personal – **'From a vision to a better future'**. The session sought to connect recent initiatives setting out what leadership groups and organisations in social care want to see from reformed social care, key issues to be tackled in achieving big change and to explore how these could be taken forward, including via learning from a successful national change effort.
8. The essence of the vision presented by Social Care Futures is:

'We all want to live in the place we call home with the people and things that we love, in communities where we look out for one another doing things that matter to us'.

The session explored how all key stakeholders can move closer to achieving this vision.

9. On the second day of the conference there was a session called **Minding the mental health gap – leading the mental health recovery for individuals, families and communities**. This session looked at local government's role in improving and maintaining residents' mental wellbeing across the life course – from childhood to old age – and how the importance of this has been further highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
10. Aimed at delegates across children and adults' services, the session looked at how councils can embed a 'whole family' approach towards improving mental health. The speakers identified the additional challenges that COVID-19 has highlighted in working together to support people to maintain good mental health and considered how partnership working within local authorities can be effective in working with communities and families to build resilience.
11. The closing panel session - **The Role of Local Government in Responding to a Pandemic** - looked back on local government's key role in responding to a global pandemic and how it has responded to some key challenges. It also looked forward to what this may mean for adult and children's services in what is now the 'new normal' and the opportunities it may present for more effective connections between central and local government and local systems.
12. The panel discussion was chaired by Cllr James Jamieson and included James Bullion, ADASS President; Jenny Coles, Association of the Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) President; Dr Jeanelle De Gruchy, Association of the Directors of Public Health (ADPH) President and Paul Najsarek, Solace spokesperson for community wellbeing and Chief Executive, Ealing Council. The wide-ranging discussion covered:
 - the challenges of COVID, including those arising from a second wave and lockdown

- the collective approach and response
- the LGA's response to the spending review and the need for a long term vision
- the benefits of having public health within local government
- great pride in local government for its support to community hubs, local residents in need and local care markets, to name a few
- hidden inequalities arising from poverty and discrimination and how local government has paid attention to the most vulnerable, including through social care
- the need for local government services to be fully funded
- the creativity and tenacity of so many and the significance of empowerment and strong leadership versus the burdens of bureaucracy.

13. The key learning points for the department to consider are:

- the importance of progressing with a more integrated and all-age approach to mental health support – as mentioned in the report on the Adult Social Care and Public Health Service Improvement Programme which is also on the agenda of this Committee meeting
- continued focus on equality and diversity in the workforce – the department will be taking forward actions relating to the corporate anti-racism pledge and support for black workers action plan, and will be participating in a national pilot on the workforce race equality standard, which is supported by the Chief Social Worker's Office and the Department of Health and Social Care
- alongside continued emergency response work, to take forward into recovery the creativity and excellent partnership working adopted during the pandemic response.

Other Options Considered

14. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

15. The report provides an opportunity for the Committee to consider the learning highlighted from the conference and any further actions arising from the summary contained within the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

17. There are no financial implications arising from the report.

Implications for Service Users

18. The conference highlights opportunities to learn from experiences and models of practice in other councils to improve services and support available to people in Nottinghamshire.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee considers whether there are any further actions it requires in relation to the feedback from the National Children and Adult Services Conference contained in the report.

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Constitutional Comments (EP 24/12/20)

19. The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report and if Committee deems any further actions are necessary it should ensure that such actions are within its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (ZB 22/12/20)

20. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[Attendance at the National Children and Adult Services Conference; November 2020 – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 2 November 2020.](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

ASCPH745 final