

Report



Meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE		
Date	2 March 2011	Agenda item number	7 (b)

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH

NATIONAL CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES CONFERENCE 2010 SHAPING THE PRESENT - BUILDING THE FUTURE 3rd – 5th November 2010

Purpose of Report

To report back on the attendance at the National Children and Adult Services Conference in Manchester approved under the travel and accommodation policy.

Background

The Conference entitled “Shaping the Present – Building the Future” was held on 3rd to 5th November 2010.

The County Council’s representatives were Councillor Kevin Rostance, Councillor Chris Winterton, Councillor Jason Zadrozny, David Pearson (Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health) and Steve Edwards (Acting Service Director – Children’s Social Care and Health)

The County Council’s travel, accommodation, conference and member development policies provide for written reports to be produced which describe the business of the event and an evaluation written by the council’s representatives of its success, with particular reference to the business of the council or the achievement of learning objectives.

This report has been prepared by David Pearson. It is supported by reference to the speeches and presentations which are on the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services website.

Representative's Report

3.1 Purpose/Aim of the Event

The National Children and Adult Services Conference is the major annual national conference for adults and children's services.

This Conference is designed to provide an opportunity to further understand and get up to date information on proposals to deal with issues in adults and children's services.

Attendance at the Conference was with the following objectives:-

- Understanding the policies and strategies of the Government for adults and children's services
- Receive information on best practice across the country
- Hear from expert speakers on a range of key challenges and opportunities in adults and children's services

3.2 Achievement of Objectives

There was a very full programme at the Conference of speeches, plenary sessions, workshops and exhibitions. It also provides for many opportunities for Members and officers to talk to colleagues across the country about the various issues and challenges facing adults and children's services.

The Conference was addressed by leading Politicians:

- Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education
- Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State for Health
- Paul Burstow, Minister of State (Care Services) Health
- Andy Burnham, Shadow Secretary of State for Education
- John Healey, Shadow Health Secretary

A large number of topics were covered. Some of the key issues are summarised below.

The NHS White Paper

The key message is a commitment to take forward the elements of the White Paper and the important role of Local Government through the Health and Wellbeing Board, needs assessment, joint commissioning and the transfer of Public Health.

The Secretary of State announced the seeking of some “trailblazers” for the setting up of Health and Wellbeing boards.

The Secretary of State said:-

“The NHS White Paper had a clear aim to bring real, local democratic accountability to health care for the first time in 40 years”

“The Health and Wellbeing Boards will be a magnet, drawing key people together around the table to build on common ground and to have a shared sense of place and a focus on delivering the best results”.

It was emphasised that the Government were keen to see the additional scrutiny of local democratic involvement in the Health Service.

The Role of the “Big Society”

Andrew Lansley emphasised fairness, social solidarity and social responsibility. He explained that the Big Society was aimed at drawing on innate relationships and sources of support that lie underused within our communities. Examples were given of local voluntary activity to support adults and children and the work of statutory services.

The Future of Children’s Social Care; the Munro review

Professor Eileen Munro has been commissioned by the Government to review child protection. She explained that the ambition of her review was to achieve better frontline services to protect children. She feels this can be achieved by; reviewing the relationship between children’s social care and early intervention services, trusting professionals, removing bureaucracy to allow social workers to spend more time on the front line, greater transparency and accountability.

The Munro review is expected to produce an interim report in early 2011 and its final report in April 2011.

In addition to these main themes there were workshops on important topics

- Safeguarding adults and children
- Strategies for working with disabled children and disadvantaged children
- Putting People First
- Sector led quality and performance improvement
- National Dementia Strategy
- National Autism Strategy

As part of the workshop on autism there was an excellent presentation by the Nottinghamshire Aspergers team, Chris Mitchell, and a service user, Simon Bullen. Simon explained some of the challenges in his life

and how the services in Nottinghamshire have helped to meet his needs and enabled him maintain his independence.

Members and officers felt that the Conference was very effective in providing an opportunity to learn about the key issues in these areas of service and the future direction.

Details of the speeches and presentations can be found on the link below.

http://www.adass.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=654&Itemid=437

Statutory and Policy Implications

This report has been produced to ensure compliance with the Council's Travel and Accommodation policy and current arrangements for approving attendance at conferences, seminars and Member Training events.

Background Papers Available for Public Inspection

None as a link is provided above to all the papers available from the conference.

Electoral Division(s) Affected

All divisions in the Council are recipients of children and adult services.

DAVID PEARSON
Corporate Director – Adult Social Care & Health and
Deputy Chief Executive