

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Council Chamber, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford on Monday, 22 November 2010

PRESENT

Cllr Miss A Sparrow (Chairman)
Cllr A M Turner (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs Mrs J Freeman
Mrs R B Gammons
Mrs S A Goodchild

Cllrs Ms A M W Graham
J Kane
P Rawcliffe

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs P Freeman

Substitutes: Cllrs P Hollick (In place of Cllr P Freeman)

Members in Attendance: Cllrs R A Baker
Mrs R J Drinkwater
Mrs C Hegley
J G Jamieson
M R Jones,

Officers in Attendance: Mrs M Clampitt – Committee Services Officer
Mr T Keaveney – Assistant Director Housing Services
Mr N Murley – Assistant Director Audit & Risk
Mrs J Ogley – Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
Miss C Powell – Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Mr E Thompson – Assistant Director, Adult Social Care

Others in Attendance Mr G Dinn – Bedfordshire LINK/Lead Social Care Working Group
Mr D Levitt – Head of Public Engagement and Communications, NHS Bedfordshire
Mr C Lister – Public Health Liaison Officer, NHS
Mrs C Shohet – Consultant in Public Health, NHS Bedfordshire

SCHH/09/192 Minutes**RESOLVED**

that the minutes of the meeting of the Social Care, Health & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 18 October 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SCHH/09/193 Members' Interests**(a) Personal Interests:-**

Cllr Mrs S Goodchild She is an ongoing service user.

(b) Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-

Cllr Mrs S Goodchild Trustee of the Ludun Trust
Cllr P Hollick Trustee of the Ludun Trust

(c) Any Political Whip in relation to items on the agenda:-

There were no declarations made.

SCHH/09/194 Chairman's Announcements and Communications

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman provided the Committee with the following information:-

The Vice-Chairman provided an update from the Regional Conference where the SHA confirmed that from April 2011 there would be National Policy regarding National Trauma Centres. Addenbrookes would be the hospital for this area. If someone is within 45 minutes of Addenbrookes they will be taken their right away, if more than 45 minutes from Addenbrookes they will be stabilised at a local hospital and transferred as soon as possible.

The Chairman also noted the following:-

- that a letter had been received from the Staff at Ludun requesting assistance to allow the business to become self sufficient. It was noted that the letter would be forwarded to the Executive for their consideration.

- That the East of England Ambulance service was becoming a Foundation Trust and had circulated a consultation document. It was agreed that the individual members of the Committee would respond rather than submit a joint response.
- That a demonstration of the Telecare system had been given in Clophill and was excellent. Members who had also attended found it very interesting and the range of technological solutions available impressive. It was noted that the information about the service would be available on the website.
- Members were reminded of the briefing to be held on 6 December 2010 on the Equity & Excellence White Paper Briefing. It was requested that everyone attend.

SCHH/09/195 **Portfolio Holder's Update**

The Chairman requested an update from each Portfolio Holder in attendance be provided to the Committee.

Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley, Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health provided Members with an update on key issues arising from her area of responsibility, these being:-

- Further to the earlier mention of the tellycare it was noted that the numbers using the service had doubled in the last year.
- The budget strategy was available and was out to consultation.
- Attended the Adult & Children's Conference which had discussed the integration with NHS, variety of speakers on a range of topics and the notification that there would not be a formal CQC assessment in the future.
- NHS was working with the consortiums to provide the best services for the funding available.
- The Briefing on the White Paper to be held on 6 December 2010 will provide further clarity.
- 25 November 2010 – Accolaid Award Event – CBC nominated for innovation award for caring. Cllr Hegley will be attending.
- 14 and 20 January 2011 member training on safeguarding
- CQC assessment remains embargoed until 24 November 2010, it will be announced at 7 December 2010 Executive meeting.

Cllr Mrs Rita Drinkwater, Portfolio Holder for Housing provided Members with an update on key issues arising from her area of responsibility, these being:-

- January 2011 – government to publish its proposals for £4m HRA.
- Visits had been carried out to extra care places including the McCarthy Stone Retirement in Biggleswade and Rushton.
- Also the Bedfordshire Pilgrims launched a very extra care scheme in partnership with St Johns. Shared ownership with some social housing. It was not possible to tell who was who.
- The demand on housing and the preventative strategy were working well.

SCHH/09/196 Petitions

The Chairman announced that no petitions had been referred to this meeting.

SCHH/09/197 Questions, Statements or Deputations

The Chairman announced that no questions, statements or deputations had been received.

SCHH/09/198 Call-In

The Chairman announced that no call-ins had been referred to this Committee.

SCHH/09/199 Requested Items

The Chairman confirmed that no requests for agenda items had been received.

SCHH/09/200 Corporate Budget Strategy

The Committee received and considered a report which allowed the opportunity to assess all savings proposals for financial robustness and to have considered the viability and suitability of the specific proposals relating to the Social Care, Health and Housing Directorate. The Executive at its meeting held on 2 November 2010 had approved in principle the proposals outlined in Appendices A and B which have been attached for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People informed the Committee that the Executive had considered the proposals in relation to a 25% reduction (£14m savings) over four years. The savings would have been made up of £10m from Appendix A and £4m from Appendix B. Recently it has been learnt that the actual savings amount to be found was 28% (£20m) over four years.

The Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health acknowledged the work of officers to look at how to transform the existing services with as little loss as possible. In addition, Ludun would be a special consideration due to the staff involved and the financial outlay.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing acknowledged the work which was ongoing to harmonise two needs across the district for reablement service and extra care sheltered housing.

SCHH6 – More effective deployment of council resources across the reablement service and extra care sheltered housing – Efficiency

The Director of Social Care, Health and Housing informed the Committee that the services currently being provided at the four sites were being reviewed for a more effective deployment of staff through the reablement services. It was acknowledged that staff were concerned about their futures but discussions had been held with the staff and more sessions would be held shortly.

It was noted that the press had misrepresented what was being done at the Council and any queries had been answered. It was also noted that as a result of the review up to half as many people would be helped again once the efficiencies were in place.

SCHH16 – Ludun – Service Reduction

The Chairman of Ludun addressed the Committee to explain that the decisions which had been put forward for this area had not been made quickly but rather over seven months of detailed discussions. It was noted that the service had originally been created to offer skills training to allow the vulnerable members of the community to train and move on to regular employment. Regrettably this was not what had happened, some staff had been at Ludun for 25+years. The Trustees were bound by the Terms of the Trust so that until the land is sold no help can be offered and with the current climate the sale of the land is not expected to happen quickly. The staff have been spoken to over several months to help them understand what would be happening and where possible what help they could be given. It had also been noted that Luton Borough Council would no longer be contributing financially to the centre. The Disability Resource Centre had also become involved in the process and were offering guidance on how best to go forward. A petition had been received from the staff of Ludun and it will be considered at the January 2011 Executive meeting. It was noted that local resources had been approached for providing assistance but no one had expressed an interest. It was suggested that the Luton Voluntary Action group and John Gelder be approached to help raise awareness.

The Portfolio Holder Social Care and Health asked that a thank you be sent to the Trustees for all of their time and effort over the last eighteen months including the fact finding carried out by Officers.

The Committee reluctantly agreed with the findings of the report.

SCHH15 – Modernisation of Day Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities – Service Reduction

The provision of day centre services for adults with learning disabilities has remained constant whilst adults are living for longer periods of time and wanting different approaches to how they could live their lives. The allocation of personal budgets has been accelerated by the Coalition Government with the majority of budgets to be in place within two years.

The day centres are being given the opportunity to look at what services they offer and what can be done differently to make the services more inviting and challenging for the users. Staff have welcomed the opportunity to review the services they offer. Staff, families and users would be consulted on changes before they are made.

It was noted that there would be no cost implications to Council's budgets by supplying more personal budgets.

The Committee agreed with the findings of the report.

SCHH17 – Reduction in the usage of residential care services – Service Reduction

Central Bedfordshire has a larger proportion of its residents in residential care than most of its family group. It has been found that the system currently in place does not encourage people to return to their homes and receive assistance but rather the transfer to residential care for the remainder of their lives. The Council will be looking at alternatives to help residents where appropriate to return to their homes or an intermediate care service rather than residential care from the outset of their illness.

Community care and telecare were to be considered as alternative support. In addition, the Council would review the best way forward for Central Bedfordshire Residents. It was confirmed that charging is based on fairer charging so no one is excluded from any service available.

The Committee agreed with the findings of the report.

SCHH18 – Develop a joint approach to improved care and reablement services – service reduction

Central Bedfordshire Council was reviewing ways to reintegrate the services it provides with NHS partners to help offer a better and more timely service to residents following a hospital admission or a fall.

It was noted that whilst a significant savings could be achieved it would not result in a reduction of service but rather a reconfiguration of the services currently provided.

The Committee requested that the Executive consider changing the wording on SCHH18 to say Service reconfiguration rather than service reduction.

RESOLVED

- 1. that all savings proposals having been assessed for financial robustness be agreed.**
- 2. that the viability and suitability of specific proposals relating to Social Care, Health and Housing Directorate be agreed.**

3. **that the Executive be asked to consider the renaming of SCHH18 to show service reconfiguration rather than service reduction.**

SCHH/09/201 **Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP)**

The Committee received and considered the report and presentation from NHS Bedfordshire which provided an overview of the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention(QIPP) National programme to improve quality and productivity in the NHS.

The NHS and the replacement GP consortia must manage a budget reduction of £107m between 2010 and 31 March 2014. There were no plans to cut services but rather to deliver services in better ways. It would only be achieved in partnership with key partners and stakeholders. In addition the public and patients engagement was essential.

A copy of the presentation which was given has been attached to these Minutes at Appendix A.

RESOLVED

that the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Production (QIPP) presentation be noted.

SCHH/09/202 **The Healthier Communities Strategy**

The Committee received and considered a report regarding the Healthier Communities Strategy which outlined the key priorities to improve health and wellbeing throughout Central Bedfordshire and to support and enable the priorities of the Sustainable Communities Strategy to be achieved.

The key strategies of the Healthier Communities Strategy were as follows:-

- Ensure a healthy start to life
- Reduce health inequalities and increase healthy life expectancy
- Support people to have healthier lifestyles
- Promote choice and access to high quality services based on needs and preference
- Support and care for an ageing population and those who are most vulnerable.

The overarching Strategy would cover the period from 2010 – 2031 but has a delivery plan which cover a three year period of time and can be adjusted as required.

The Strategy had been developed in consultation with NHS Bedfordshire, Central Bedfordshire Council and partner organisations including the voluntary sector.

The draft Strategy had been considered by the Central Bedfordshire CMT in May 2010, Local Strategic Partnership in June 2010 and the Equality Forum in September 2010.

The consultation ran from 1 August 2010 to 22 October 2010, which was hosted on the Central Bedfordshire Council website.

The NHS confirmed that having reviewed all 3 to 5 year targets, they are still deliverable. It was acknowledged that some targets may need to be directed at specific areas where problems are high.

It was agreed that a refreshed version of the Outcome and Delivery Plans would be brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED

that the Healthier Communities Strategy as the key strategic driver to improve the health and wellbeing of all residents of Central Bedfordshire and at the same time reducing inequalities be approved.

SCHH/09/203 LINK Update

The Committee received an update from Graham Dinn of Bedfordshire LINK.

The Committee noted that work was continuing through a ward working group in relation to hospital releases and the processes which currently exist.

A questionnaire, similar to one used by Derbyshire LINK, would be issued to care homes regarding discharge assessments, medication, attire of residents and other relevant questions.

Bob Smith had resigned from the LINK and the Committee expressed their thanks to him for his work with Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED

that the report from LINK be noted.

SCHH/09/204 Work Programme 2010 - 2011 and Executive Forward Plan

Members considered the Committee's work programme and noted that the following items would be considered at the 24 January 2010 meeting:-

Health White Paper "Equity and Excellence"

Health White Paper "Equity and Excellence" Implications of LINK – Health watch

RESOLVED

that a revised work programme be circulated to the Committee.

SCHH/09/205 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Social Care, Health & Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held on Monday 20 December 2010 in Room 15 at Priory House starting at 10.00a.m.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 1.00 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated