

Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee

Meeting held 13 December 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Angela Argenzio (Chair) Sophie Thornton (Deputy Chair), Ruth Milsom (Group Spokesperson), Steve Ayriss, Julie Grocutt, Maleiki Haybe, Ruth Milsom, Laura McClean and Mick Rooney

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Martin Phipps, who sent their representative – Councillor Maleiki Haybe. Councillor Mick Rooney arrived at 10:30am.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

2.1 There were no items which would require the exclusion of the press and public.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest made.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 8th of November 2023 were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 No public questions or petitions were received by the deadline.

6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

6.1 There were no Members' questions on this occasion.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

5 The Committee received a report containing the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and discussion, presented by the Principal Democratic Services Officer. The aim of the Work Programme was to show all known, substantive agenda items for forthcoming meetings of the Committee, to enable this Committee, other committees, officers, partners and the public to plan their work with and for the Committee.

7.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Committee's work programme, as set out

in Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed, including the additions and amendments identified in Part 1 of the report.

8. ADULTS CARE AND WELLBEING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE DELIVERY PLAN

8.1 The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care and Wellbeing which sought endorsement from the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee on the Adults Care and Wellbeing Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice Delivery Plan 2023/24. The report laid out a commitment to improving Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Social Justice and to delivering upon statutory duties.

8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee:-

- Endorse the Adult Care and Wellbeing Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice Delivery Plan 2023/24.
- Requests that the Strategic Director of Adult Care and Wellbeing continues to provide the Committee with updates on progress against the Delivery Plan on a six-monthly basis, including updates made based on ongoing learning.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

8.3.1 Equality, diversity, inclusion and social justice are essential components of social care. Good equality and diversity practices make sure that the services provided to people are fair and accessible to everyone. They ensure that people are treated as equals, that people get the dignity and respect they deserve and that their differences are celebrated.

8.3.2 Our commitment is towards delivering on this ambition. We therefore must continue to listen, learn, and embed equality into everything that we do for our residents, visitors, and workforce.

8.3.3 The Care Sector Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice (EDISJ) plan was established to provide a framework for delivering on our ambitions and contributing to the Councils Strategic Plan.

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

8.4.1 Do nothing: Adults Care Social Care has duties set out in the Care Act and Mental Health Acts which in particular require a focus on ensuring equity of experience and services. These forthcoming Care Quality Commission Assurance will specifically look at Adult Social Care approach to Equity of Experience and due to this a delivery plan is required to mitigate and proactively respond to known risks.

8.4.2 Consider alternative delivery plan – We could review different Delivery Plan

options for EDISJ. The current Delivery Plan has been developed following staff engagement sessions and learning from SACMHA speak up reports.

9. DASS LOCAL ACCOUNT AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

9.1 The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Adult Care and Wellbeing which sought to approve the publication of Sheffield's Local Account for Adult Social Care for 2022/23.

9.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee:

- Approves the Local Account 2022-23 for publication
- Thanks members of the Local Account Co-Production Group for their time and contributions in creating the Local Account

9.3 Reasons for Decision

9.3.1 The Local Account highlights our strengths and areas of challenge for 2022 to 2023 and sets out priorities for the future. It emphasises our journey towards enabling people to live the life they want to live and in particular enabling people to live independently at home.

9.3.2 Having a Local Account builds in transparency and accountability in relation to reporting on adult social care performance.

9.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

9.4.1 Sheffield City Council could opt to not publish a Local Account for 22/23. However, the council would then need to find a different way to demonstrate the statutory duty of accountability for the Director of Adult Social Services.

9.4.2 We believe the Local Account is the best way to demonstrate the statutory duty of accountability.

10. COMMISSION OF HEALTHWATCH CONTRACT

10.1 The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care and Wellbeing which sought approval for a Healthwatch Commissioning Strategy. The report also provided an update regarding Healthwatch statutory duties and the local offer, including the outcomes of Stakeholder Engagement and the Healthwatch Annual Report 2022-3.

10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee:

- Approves the Council commissioning a new Healthwatch contract for Sheffield with a contract period of 10 years, with an estimated value of up to £2.4m over the 10 years.
- Notes the decision by the Strategic Director Adult Care and Wellbeing to

provide a 6-month extension to the current contractual arrangements to ensure continuity of service delivery whilst the commissioning strategy is being implemented.

- Endorses the Healthwatch Annual Report 2022 – 2023.

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

10.3.1 The failure to provide Healthwatch services after expiration of the current service without another arrangement in place to deliver the services would therefore mean that the Council would fail to meet its statutory duty.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

10.4.1 Do nothing - This is not an option because the Council have a statutory duty to enter into arrangements with a local Healthwatch organisation to meet statutory duties.

11. **ADULT CARE AND WELLBEING: MARKET SUSTAINABILITY AND**

COMMISSINING UPDATE AND APPROVAL OF THE 24/25 CARE FEES

- 11.1 The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care and Wellbeing which provided the Committee with an update on Adult Care and Wellbeing Commissioning in 2023/24. The report sought to provide assurance on the delivery of market sufficiency responsibilities as set out in the Care Act 2014, covering achievements and planned activity to improve sufficiency, stability and quality assurance.
- 11.2 The report sought approval for proposed fee rates for Council contracted providers in the financial year 2024-25. It was proposed that these rates take effect from 8th April 2024.
- 11.3 Members stressed the need for fair wages for staff, whilst also noting underfunding from Central Government.
- 11.4 Members asked whether a Climate Impact Assessment had been carried out. The Assistant Director, Adult Commissioning and Partnerships stated there was a brief overview of this in the report; however, they stated more detail would be provided in March's report to the Adult Health and Social Care Committee.
- 11.5 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee:-
1. Note progress made in relation to providing support in the City and delivering a stable care market, including:
 - The outcome of the Care and Wellbeing tender
 - The tender for Care at Night services
 - The tender for Standard Residential provision
 - Our Technology Enabled Care offer and developments.
 - Our Direct Payment Support Service
 2. Note progress made in implementing Quality Assurance oversight and governance arrangements.
 3. Note the flowchart for provider escalations to the Council covering contractual, safeguarding and fee uplift requests set out at Appendix 3 and the intention that officers will work in partnership with providers to develop an escalation framework based on this model to be brought back to Committee in 2024.
 4. Approves use of £840,000 in 2024/25 of the 'Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund: Workforce Fund' announced in August 2023 to further close the gap between the current weekly fee rate and the median Fair Cost of Care output for standard residential care.
 5. Approve the Care Fees for the financial year 2024/2025 as set out in this Report.
 6. Note that a report will be brought to March 2024 Committee with an update on the delivery of the Transforming Care Homes Commissioning and Delivery plan.
 7. Approves that a report will be brought to March 2024 Committee setting out

proposals for how Sheffield City Council can further move towards the Fair Cost of Care and Foundation Living Wage.

8. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director of Adult Care and Wellbeing in consultation with the Chair of the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee to agree any appropriate and proportionate fee increases requested by non-standard provision, and by providers outside Sheffield because cost pressures will vary from place to place.

11.6 Reasons for Decision

11.6.1 In fulfilling our Care Act 2014 duties, local authorities must ensure good oversight and understanding of the local care market, including setting rates that we believe, based on the evidence, will support a quality, flexible and sustainable market, providing choice to those who purchase care.

11.6.2 Approving use of £840,000 in 2024/25 of the 'Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund: Workforce Fund' announced in August 2023 will further close the gap between the current weekly fee rate and the median Fair Cost of Care output for standard residential care.

11.6.3 Approving that a further report be brought to March 2023 Committee setting out proposals for how Sheffield City Council can further move towards the Fair Cost of Care and Foundation Living Wage and an update regards Care Homes Transformation will also provide a further step in ensuring a quality, flexible and sustainable market.

11.7 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

11.7.1 No alternative options have been considered.

12. ADULT CARE STRATEGY DELIVERY AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE UPDATE

12.1 The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care and Wellbeing which provided a scheduled update following the approval of the Adult Health and Social Care Strategy at the Co-Operative Executive on 16th March 2022 and the approval of an operating model to deliver on the strategy by the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee meeting in November 2022. The paper set out delivery progress and what had been achieved. The report also demonstrated how impact was being measured in order to demonstrate progress in enabling citizens of Sheffield to live the life they want to live.

12.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee:-

- Notes progress in delivering upon the Adult Care Strategy Living the Life You Want to Live.
- Notes Adult Care and Wellbeing performance at December 2023 in relation

to each of the Adult Care and Wellbeing priorities and our actions in response.

12.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 12.3.1 Asking for regular updates and refreshes of the Strategy Delivery Plan will keep the Committee, wider stakeholders, and the public the ability to hold the Council to account for progress and impact and will provide an additional mechanism to input to future development.
- 12.3.2 Noting the performance update, enables Committee to undertake scrutiny of Adult Care performance including strengths and areas for prioritisation.

12.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 12.4.1 Do Not Provide an Update on The Strategy Delivery Plan Progress – When the Strategy Delivery Plan was approved by Committee in June 2022 the was a commitment to review the plan regularly and by not reviewing, we would not be meeting that commitment. Due to the significant amount that has been delivered on the plan, leaving it as it would make it harder to identify the priorities for 2023.
- 12.4.2 A different delivery plan - The real options for the delivery plan are around the individual elements, which will be worked through as part of the constituent pieces of work. These will be worked through in different ways, with many of them resulting in their own future reports to the Committee.

13. **EMERGENCY OVERNIGHT SHORT BREAKS (EONSB) FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY AND/OR AUTISM**

- 13.1 The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Adult Care and Wellbeing which summarised the Council's statutory duties and set out the importance of ensuring continuity of Emergency Overnight Short Breaks (EONSB) services, and the proposals to deliver those in a way which met the needs of the people of Sheffield.
- 13.2 The report also set out the approach to the development of Emergency Overnight Short Breaks provision for the City and the implementation of an Emergency Overnight Short Breaks review group to co-produce the development of short breaks in the City.
- 13.3 The Chair asked that reference to Council be removed from the Recommendations, as the report would not be approved at full Council.
- 13.4 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee:-
- Approves the proposal to develop both Sheffield City Council and Commissioned Services to ensure sufficiency of Emergency Overnight Short breaks arrangements in the City.
 - Notes that a Commissioning Strategy for the Commissioning of Emergency

Overnight Short Breaks will be brought to Committee in March 2024 following soft market testing between December 2023 and February 2024

13.5 Reasons for Decision

13.5.1 Increasing supply in EONSB is a complex programme of work and requires a multifaceted approach, likely over a number of years. A combination of options will be explored to potentially provide short/medium- and longer-term solutions.

13.5.2 Market sustainability, alongside the Care Governance Strategy, and the Care Quality Framework are key to the delivery of the Council's statutory responsibilities for Adult Social Care including the following outcomes for the people of Sheffield:

- promotion of wellbeing
- protection of (safeguarding) adults at risk of abuse or neglect
- preventing the need for care and support
- promoting integration of care and support with health services
- providing information and advice
- promoting diversity and quality in providing services

13.6 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

The options considered are: -

- Do Nothing – Doing no planned developments would not ensure sufficiency of local provision, leading to poor outcomes for the individual and their families, increasing the considerable distress such emergency situations cause. In addition, Adult Care would require relying on commissioning costly options via a direct payment or via a direct award, delivered by specialist crisis providers due to their urgency and complexity. This would pose an ongoing challenge due to the availability of very few specialist providers in the local market.
- Undertake A Commissioning Strategy Without Engagement – It is likely taking a direct approach would not enable the coproduction with individuals, carers, providers of personalised solutions required.

14. ADULT HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE: FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN UPDATE

14.1 The committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Adult Care and Wellbeing which aimed to deliver on the commitment to transparent and accountable financial reporting. The update provided:

- Assurance regarding delivery upon our financial recovery plan in 2023/24.
- Updates regarding use of new grant funding.
- Update on care funding decisions and appeals.
- Highlights of ADASS benchmarking on financial performance.
- Update on autumn budget statement and impact on 2024/25 business planning.

14.2 The report was noted by the Adult Health and Social Care Committee.

15. 2023/24 Q2 BUDGET MONITORING

15.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance and Commercial Services which brought the Committee up to date with the Council's General Fund Revenue outturn position for 2023/24 as at Quarter 2.

15.2 The report was noted by the Adult Health and Social Care Committee.

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