

ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 April, 2013

PRESENT – Councillor Thistlethwaite (in the Chair); Councillors Harman, B. Jones, Kelley, Knowles, Lister, and S. Richmond (7)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Hutchinson, Mrs D Jones and York (3)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Murray Rose, Director of People, Ann Workman, Assistant Director - Adult Social Care and Lisa Summers, Head of Review and Development.

AH49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AH50. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 12 March 2013.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

AH51. WORK PROGRAMME – The Director of Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the current Municipal Year.

The submitted report outlined those areas where this Scrutiny Committee had previously identified it would like to focus its work and also emphasised that the work programme was a rolling programme and any Member of this Scrutiny could request an item to be included provided that a Quad of Aims had been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee to ensure that it contributed to the strategic aims of the Council.

Particular reference was made to the possibility of undertaking a joint piece of work with the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in relation to young and adult carers and it was reported that this would be discussed at the next ordinary meeting of the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group.

RESOLVED – That the current status of the Work Programme be noted.

AH52. ADULT SOCIAL CARE A CONTEXT FOR DARLINGTON – The Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) together with a draft working document (also previously circulated) which brought together key information about adult social care provision in Darlington.

The document, which it was envisaged was a working draft at this stage, included contextual data for Darlington; information about how social care was organised; what changes and savings had taken place over the last few years; what

demographic trends told about likely future service usage; what the performance was and how it compared to that of other local authorities.

It was reported that the document would be useful in setting the scene about adult social care for any visits which might take place by external regulators and inspectors and would be of benefit to this Scrutiny Committee in setting its future work programme.

The Director of People highlighted key areas within the document and discussion ensued on the changes to be made to the operating model of adult social care service delivery by 2016 which showed more budget and activity at universal and targeted levels and less activity and budget being required at more specialist levels; the principles behind the model; the introduction of the Good Neighbour Scheme which was currently being developed in partnership with the private and the voluntary sector to develop capacity within communities so that they could add value to the future delivery of adult social care; ways in which individuals and community groups could help the elderly within communities by providing social settings and activities; and the possible long-term benefits of investing resources into the community groups and organisations to enable them to assist the Council in delivering future adult social care in Darlington.

References were also made to the need to know more about the future needs and preferences of the population; the actions taken to reduce adult social care spend to date; the improvement in the percentage number of 65's and over who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services as a result of the work of the Responsive Integrated Assessment Care Team (RIACT); the overall cost and trend of cost of care packages; the budget pressures within the learning disability area and the possibility of further work being undertaken in relation to that by this Scrutiny Committee, possibly through a task and finish review group; the need to invest in the community to reduce costs for the Council in the long-term and the role of community champions and Ward Councillors in helping to map venues and social activities which were already taking place and in highlighting suitable future venues.

Discussion also ensued on the work being undertaken in relation to the three-Borough collaboration and the current position in relation to the synchronisation of adult social care contracts and the Director of Place reported that work to compile a contract register had been completed in Darlington and would be by the other two authorities.

It was also reported that the document would provide a useful tool for the Budget Advisory Panels and in commenting on the document, Members expressed the view that, although the document was welcome, it would be beneficial for a more user-friendly document to be produced which gave examples of real life situations with factual details appended.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and the comments of this Scrutiny Committee considered by the Officers.

AH53. DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI AGENCY SAFEGUARDING IN DARLINGTON

– The Head of Review and Development gave a presentation on the establishment of the Darlington Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), which was a multi-agency, co-located service to share information between agreed partners, in a secure environment with the aim of reducing risks of significant harm to children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Highlighted within the presentation were the key functions of MASH, how it would operate, what it hoped to achieve, the current position on its implementation and the further areas of work to be undertaken.

Discussion ensued on the Police presence within the MASH, the information sharing protocols which had been approved by the Council's Information Governance and the Legal Teams, the current operational hours of the MASH and the hope that, in the future, the hours could be extended to provide an out-of hours service.

RESOLVED – (a) That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to Lisa Summers, Head of Review and Development, for her informative and interesting presentation.

(b) That Members receive an update of the progress and effectiveness of the MASH once the service has been in operation for three to four months

(c) That a visit to the MASH Hub be arranged towards the end of May 2013 and that all Members of this Scrutiny Committee be invited to attend.

AH54. PROGRESS OF SCRUTINY REVIEWS - (i) Nutrition in Care Homes – Submitted - The notes (previously circulated) of a meeting of the Nutrition in Care Homes Task and Finish Review Group held on 27 February 2013.

RESOLVED – That the notes be approved.

(ii) GP Practices and Care Homes – Submitted – The notes (previously circulated) of a meeting of the GP Practices and Care Homes Task and Finish Review Group held on 20 March 2013.

RESOLVED – That the notes be approved

(iii) Adult Safeguarding – Submitted – The notes (previously circulated) of a meeting of the Adult Safeguarding Task and Finish Review Group held on 12 March 2013.

RESOLVED – That the notes be approved