

ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22nd April, 2014

PRESENT – Councillor S Richmond (in the Chair); Councillors Harman, Hutchinson, B Jones, D. Jones, and Knowles. (6)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Kelley, Lister, J. Lyonette, Thistlethwaite and York (5)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Ann Workman, Assistant Director Adult Social Care, Duncan Clark, Interim Assistant Director – Commissioning, Sharon Raine, Head of Organisational Planning, Elaine Taylor, Senior Business Officer, Organisational Planning and Peter Roberts, Consultant – Sustainable Community Strategy.

AH40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AH41. MINUTES - Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Committee held on 4th March, 2014.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as correct records.

AH42. BETTER CARE FUND – The Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) together with a report (also previously circulated) which had been considered by the Health and Well Being Board on 2nd April, 2014 in relation to the Better Care Fund submission. It was reported that the Health and Well Being Board had approved the submission of the BCF to the NHS Area Team and the Local Government representative within the required timescales and that initial feedback on that submission was very positive.

The Interim Assistant Director – Commissioning informed Members that the BCF required both Darlington Borough Council and Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group as commissioners, to lead the integration of health and social care services to enable people to be cared for within their own home and community wherever possible which, in turn, would decrease the demand for acute hospital beds. It was highlighted that engagement and partnership with key partners including the Foundation Trust and Voluntary sector would be critical to the success of the BCF.

It was reported that feedback from the submission to the NHS Area Team and the Local Government representative, had been good and that comments received had included that strong engagement with other partners working towards a common goal was present within the submission.

Discussion ensued on; the fundamental aim of the BCF to deliver the right care, in the right place at the right time in order to keep individuals supported in a home environment, and to deliver this include looking to scheme more flexible services to offer support seven days a week, the possible development of the RIACT service and building close working relationships with the care homes within Darlington.

Discussion also ensued on the financial risks of a pooled budget; and this Scrutiny Committee's role within the BCF as it develops.

RESOLVED – That the content of the report and the submission of the BCF bid be noted.

AH43. LIFELINE PROJECT UPDATE – Pursuant to minute AH30/Jan/14, the Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) updating Members on the work being undertaken to achieve the proposed savings which had been identified in the Medium-Term Financial Plan in relation to the Lifeline service.

It was reported that work to achieve the proposed savings identified in the MTFP in relation to the Lifeline Service was making good progress and had not, as yet impacted on clients, however, the next phase to achieve the remaining savings, could impact once the level of subsidy ceased in April 2015 and that Equality Impact Assessments were currently being undertaken to assess the individual impact on clients.

Discussion ensued on the procurement benchmarking exercises that found the Council's service to be comparable against other Local Authority providers, and the difficulties measuring against private providers as not the same services were offered, as well as the aim of the project to keep the service within the Council and to work in conjunction with the BCF.

RESOLVED – That the report and the work being undertaken be noted.

AH44. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY – Pursuant to minute AH33/Mar/14 the Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) to present Members a working draft of the revised Sustainable Community Strategy (also previously circulated).

It was reported to Members that the Sustainable Community Strategy was in its final stages to be circulated for the next meeting of Cabinet to be held on 29th April, 2014 and that further changes had been made, to include working with the BCF and Tenants Board and a more detailed overview given to the sub-heading "Designed to Thrive" due to the constantly evolving nature.

Discussion ensued on; the sustainable future of Durham Tees Valley Airport, the aspirational focus of this for the Town and on-going solutions being discussed with the airport operator; the representation of Darlington within a national group formed to protect tourism within the region and the key focus of good communication to ensure a good quality of life within the Borough.

RESOLVED – That the report and appendix be noted.

AH45. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND THE POSSIBLE LINK WITH THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME – The Head of Organisational Planning gave a presentation on the revised Performance Management Framework which was currently being developed and which would measure achievement and

performance against the outcomes contained within the approved Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

It was reported that from revising the planning and performance management framework it would enable monitoring of services to demonstrate that they were delivering the right things to the right people in the right amounts; Members and Officers would be able to make timely and effective decisions at the most appropriate levels, as well as understanding costs and value for money assessments, and monitoring how successful the Council would be in moving towards the previously approved Vision.

Discussion ensued on the need to monitor progress on the delivery outcomes over a shorter period of time and the more strategic indicators over a longer period of time to ensure progress towards the key outcomes of the SCS; the variation of individual's perception in different areas i.e crime, and to the partnership approach being developed to reach the strategic goals.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

AH46. WORK PROGRAMME – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and 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 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.

Discussion ensued on the progress with the work planned in relation to young carers and their transition to adult carers, the possibility of the piece of work in relation to Telehealthcare being re-commenced and the future monitoring of the Co-Production work.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.