
OVERVIEW OF ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Better Care Fund

2. We have received an update on the current position in relation to the Better Care Fund (BCF). We were advised that the Health and Well Being Board at its meeting held on 2nd April, 2014, gave its approval to the final submission bid to the NHS Area Team and the Local Government representative by the deadline date of 4th April, 2014 and that the initial feedback on that submission is very positive.
3. As Members will be aware, the BCF is a key driver for the Council and the Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group to work more closely together and to develop a more integrated approach to the delivery of health and social care services in the future to enable people to be cared for within their own homes and community wherever possible.
4. There are significant financial risks and challenges in delivering the vision of what health and social care services will look like in Darlington in 2018, particularly in the transformation of services, within the required timescales and, as a Scrutiny Committee, we will monitor the progress against delivery.

Lifeline Project Update

5. Following our meeting on 14th January, 2014, we have received a progress report on the work being undertaken to achieve the proposed savings which had been identified in the MTFP in relation to the Lifeline Service by removing the level of subsidy.
6. We were advised that savings made to date during the financial year 2013/14 had not yet impacted on clients, however, the next phase to achieve the remaining savings could have an impact once the level of subsidy ceases in April 2015 and that Equality Impact Assessments were being undertaken to assess the impact on individual clients and that work was also being undertaken to mitigate any additional cost to residents.
7. It is anticipated that the project will be complete by the end of June/July 2014 and we will receive a final report at that stage.

Sustainable Community Strategy

8. As all other Scrutiny Committees, we were invited to comment on the draft Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), which is elsewhere on this agenda for approval.
9. We were advised that the draft SCS document, which incorporated the Vision on a Page which had previously been approved and which we discussed at our last meeting, set out the context in which the SCS had been prepared; described the three conditions of Building Strong Communities; Spend Every Pound Wisely and Grow the Economy and provided the headlines underpinning each of those outcomes.

Performance Management Framework

10. We received a presentation from the Head of Organisational Planning 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 SCS.
11. The revised Performance Management Framework has been developed around the key eight outcomes contained within the SCS and each individual outcome has a number of high level strategic indicators aligned to it which will be used to measure performance and achievement against the Vision and those outcomes. It is proposed that we will consider information at this strategic level on an annual basis to enable us to ensure that progress towards the key outcomes is being achieved.
12. In addition, there are also a number of low level delivery indicators which are linked to the strategic indicators and performance against these indicators will be available for scrutiny on a more frequent basis. These indicators will assess delivery performance on the ground and will enable us to test whether services, which are provided by the Council or its partners, are delivering towards the Vision and outcomes and how much those services cost.

Councillor Bryan Thistlethwaite
Chair of Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee