

ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15th September, 2015

PRESENT – Councillor S. Richmond (in the Chair); Councillors Culley, Kane, Lister, Lyonette, Mills, M. Nicholson, E. A. Richmond, Storr and Tostevin.

(10)

APOLOGIES – Councillor Knowles

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Miriam Davidson, Director of Public Health, Pauline Mitchell, Assistant Director, Housing and Building Services, Kevin Kelly, Acting Assistant Director, Adult Social Care, Sharon Raine, Head of Organisational Planning and Hazel Neasham, Head of Housing.

AH8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AH9. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 30th June, 2015.

Pursuant to Minute AH6/Jun/15, it was reported that a meeting of the Members Toolkit Working Group had been held and that 1:1 sessions were being offered to Members to demonstrate the first part of the Toolkit.

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

AH10. HEALTHWATCH DARLINGTON – Michelle Thompson, Chief Executive Officer of Healthwatch Darlington gave a presentation on the work of that organisation, its key priorities and work recently undertaken.

Members were advised that Healthwatch Darlington, was an independent consumer champion for health and social care which helped to shape and improve local health and social care in the community; helped Darlington residents to get the best out of their health and social care services and access the right services through information and signposting and gathered views and experiences of residents to see what was and what was not working in health and social care.

Particular reference was made to the work Healthwatch Darlington was undertaking to develop effective ways of working with Black and Minority Ethnic Groups and young people to ensure that their views influenced policy and strategy and delivery.

RESOLVED – That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to Michelle for her interesting and useful presentation.

AH11. CARE ACT – UPDATE – The Director of Commissioning submitted a report (previously circulated) giving Members an update on the progress being made both

locally and regionally in relation to the implementation of the Care Act, which came into force on 1st April, 2015.

The submitted report outlined the background to the work which had been undertaken as part of the first phase of implementation, which included an on-going project within Adult Social Care to develop the Assessment documentation to ensure that elements of the Care Act were embedded in practice and that the assessment facilitated a cultural change within the community and the Acting Assistant Director, Adult Social Care referred to a consultation event which was being held on 15th October, 2015, with organisations and partners from within the third sector to seek views on that documentation.

It was reported that the second significant phase of implementation had been delayed until 2020 to enable time to be taken to ensure that everyone was ready to introduce the new system and to look at what more could be done to people support with the cost of care.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

AH12. NEW MODELS OF CARE – OUTCOMES FROM THE HEALTH AND CARE SUMMIT – The Director of Commissioning submitted a report (previously circulated) giving details of the work being undertaken to develop a new local model of care for health and social care services within Darlington and to the outcomes from Darlington’s Health and Care summit which had been held on 11th June, 2015.

The Acting Assistant Director, Adult Social Care reported that the development of a new model of care was needed to ensure that the five key partner organisations in Darlington could guarantee to have sustainable and high quality services for Darlington residents, in view of the significant budget pressures faced, and that the Summit, which was attended by around 130 health and care professionals, had been held to communicate the work in progress to develop the model and to seek views and listen to national best practice.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

AH13. DARLINGTON DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2014 – The Director of Public Health submitted a report (previously circulated) together with her Annual Report 2014 entitled ‘Public Health: A Shared Agenda, which reflected the partnership working that was necessary to tackle the causes of health inequalities by all sectors, not just the Council or the NHS, and to help residents who experienced disadvantage over the course of their lifetime.

It was reported that this was the second annual report following the transfer of public health responsibilities from the NHS to the local authority, as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Particular reference was made to the key challenges faced by the authority in relation to the need to create the environment and opportunities for people to live healthier lives; the need to move from a reactive to a preventative approach to health and well-being; earlier detection of cancer through increased awareness and access and uptake of screening programmes and public sector financial challenges.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

AH14. MANAGEMENT OF CHANGE PROGRAMME - The Head of Organisational Planning gave a presentation outlining the current position in relation to the management of change programme for those projects under the remit of this Scrutiny Committee as at August 2015.

Particular reference was made to the work progressing under the developing change programme aiming to provide both assurance in terms of progress, as well as an indication of the future timetable of approvals.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

AH8. COMPASS – The Head of Housing gave a presentation on Compass, the choice based lettings scheme which was a partnership made up of all the Council's and most of the registered providers (Housing Associations) in the Tees Valley, which gave applicants more choice about where they wished to live and helped them to choose the right home from a list of available properties in those areas.

Particular reference was made to how the scheme operated in practice; the eligibility which was based on a banding system, how homes were advertised and how the bidding system operated; the number of current active applications and to a number of improvements which were being made following feedback from partners and organisations.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

AH9. NEW BUILD HOUSING PROGRAMME – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) advising Members of proposals for the provision of 166 new flats and houses during 2015-18 at various locations within the Borough.

The Assistant Director Housing and Building Services reported that the proposed programme of 60 two and three bedroomed houses and 106 two-bedroomed flats, reflected the type of properties in greatest demand.

It was reported that the total cost of the new build programme had been estimated at £23.3 million and with Housing and Communities Agency grant of £3.2 million, the contribution required from the Housing capital programme would be £20.1 million.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

AH7. 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.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.