

ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 November 2015

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

(10)

APOLOGIES – Councillor Lister

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Miriam Davidson, Director of Public Health, Pauline Mitchell, Assistant Director, Housing and Building Services, Sharon Raine, Head of Organisational Planning and Vikki Pattinson, Head of Service for Adults, Heidi Gibson, Board Development Officer, Pat Simpson, Senior Project Manager, Better Care Fund and Veruta Barlow, Housing Team Leader.

AH18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AH19. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 15th September, 2015.

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

AH20. HOUSING PLUS SERVICE – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) giving Members an update on the progress of the Housing Plus Service.

The submitted report outlined the background to the introduction of Housing Plus, which became operational in December 2014, and which was available to new and existing Council tenants with the aim of helping to ensure they were able to sustain their tenancies in the long-term.

It was reported that the service was self-financing and, although there was a cost to the tenant, the cost was eligible for Housing Benefit and all 103 tenants currently receiving the service had the cost met through this.

We were advised that the risk of tenancy failure had increased over recent years in view of the economic climate and the introduction of welfare reforms and that tenancy failure could have significant personal and social consequences with a statutory homeless case estimated to cost £2,500 and an eviction over £7,000.

Discussion ensued on the different needs of tenants and the types of cases which were managed by the service; the significant benefits of ensuring that tenants were successful with their tenancy; how the service linked with other partners and agencies to provide more intensive support to tenants when needed; and how support

was given to those tenants who were not readily identifiable or who didn't present as needing support

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

AH21. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – The Head of Organisational Planning gave a presentation on the performance management information at quarter 2 for those indicators under the remit of this Scrutiny Committee in relation to Enough Support when Needed.

It was reported that a review of the performance management framework was being undertaken alongside the implementation of Liquid Logic and that, in future, the information presented to us would focus equally on delivery and outcomes.

Discussion ensued on the indicator in relation to the percentage of individuals who met their goals following reablement which was not currently meeting its targets and we were advised of the reasons for this and the need to ensure that Members were equipped to support and challenge the delivery of services and were aware of areas where there might potentially be issues.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted and that this Scrutiny Committee be consulted on the review of the performance management framework to ensure that Members received the appropriate performance information in a way which ensured that they were able to support and challenge the delivery of services.

AH22. BETTER CARE FUND - The Director of Commissioning submitted a report (previously circulated) updating Members on the progress, at the mid-way point, against the work strands of the Better Care Fund (BCF) programme.

It was reported that the approach to delivering the BCF outcomes was a whole system approach, comprising a basket of schemes and working arrangements which collectively attacked unnecessary emergency admissions and readmissions as a way of ensuring patients were cared for in the most appropriate place and reducing the demand on acute capacity and that, at the mid-way point, it was expected that Darlington would meet the targets set out within the expected timeframe.

Discussion ensued on the key milestones and achievements; the reduction in non-elective admissions, admissions to 24 hour care and delayed discharges; the need to build confidence within Teams on ability; the benefits of greater integration; and the need for this Scrutiny Committee to look at the narrative of services and the outcomes for people as well as looking at performance data and financial information.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be noted and that Officers be requested to continue to provide updates on the progress of the Better Care Fund (BCF) and that quantitative data be submitted so that we can measure performance against targets.

(b) That, if possible, Officers be requested to arrange meetings with some of the staff involved with the Multi-Disciplinary Teams to seek their views on how integration and the Multi-Disciplinary Teams are working.

AH23. RESPONSIVE INTEGRATED ASSESSEMENT CARE TEAM (RIACT) – The Director of Commissioning submitted a report (previously circulated) updating Members on the progress made in relation to the review of the RIACT service.

The submitted report outlined the background to the review of the service and the purchase of community/reablement/nursing care beds, which had been undertaken by a Multi-Disciplinary Team Operational Steering Group as a strand of work within the Better Care Fund.

Particular reference was made to a number of key actions and opportunities for further development to ensure that the service was efficient and effective and to a number of remedial actions which had already been put in place.

Discussion ensued on a number of longer-term pieces of work to be undertaken; the performance indicators around the RIACT and reablement service to ensure it was meeting its targets and delivering better outcomes for patients; and to the need for this Scrutiny Committee to look at a patient's journey through the services.

The Head of Service for Adults reported that RIACT and reablement was currently a universal service and that this did have an impact on the outcomes and performance of the service as not everyone receiving it would benefit from it and that a more targeted service would need to be considered in the future to ensure the best use of resources.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and that information be submitted to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee to enable Members to map the journey of a patient through the service.

AH24. DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD – The Director of Commissioning submitted a report (previously circulated) on the work of the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board, which was now on a statutory footing in line with the Care Act 2014 and its future plans.

The submitted report outlined the background to the establishment of the Board, which was chaired independently; had a broad membership which was continually reviewed and brought together a range of skills and experience to ensure that it was able to discharge its plans and challenges ahead.

Reference was made to the three core duties placed on the Board; the six key principles for effective safeguarding practices; and additional training opportunities in relation to adult safeguarding which Members could access.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and further reports be submitted to future meetings of this Scrutiny Committee to enable Members to review the work of the Board and to be kept aware of its key milestones and achievements.

AH25. DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS (DoLS) – The Director of Commissioning submitted a report (previously circulated) giving Members an update on the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS).

The submitted report outlined the aims of the DoLS to protect people who lacked mental capacity, but who needed to be deprived of liberty so that they could be given care and treatment in a hospital or care home and to the background to a recent case in the United Kingdom Supreme Court in relation to the safeguards which had, in effect, lowered the threshold which meant that a significant amount of individuals would be deprived on their liberty and meaning more authorisations would be needed which placed an increased burden on those local authorities administering the DoLS.

The Head of Service for Adults reported that, following the judgement, from April 2014 to the end of March 2015, there had been 914 applications made to this Council which was an 842 per cent increased on the previous financial year.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

AH26. 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.

It was reported that an initial meeting of the Dementia Task and Finish Review Group to set terms of reference for that Group would be held on the 19th November, 2015.

Particular reference was also made to the visits held and being arranged to help build a picture of the support and services which were available to the residents of Darlington and it was reported that this Scrutiny Committee would be focussing strongly on the narrative of services and the outcomes for people as well as looking at performance data and financial information.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.