

ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28th February, 2017

PRESENT - Councillor S Richmond (in the Chair); Councillors Kane, Knowles, Lyonette and Storr (5)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Curry, D Jones, Lister, Mills, M. Nicholson and T Richmond. (6)

ABSENT –

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE –

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – James Stroyan, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care, Christine Shields, Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Transformation, Mark Humble, Commissioning Manager and Linda Thirkeld, Head of Adult Services..

AH28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AH29. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 10th January, 2017.

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

AH30. BETTER CARE FUND UPDATE AND RIACT REVIEW – The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) giving an update on the progress to date in relation to the Better Care Fund (BCF) delivery in 2016/17 and the current position in relation to the planning process for 2017 - 19.

It was reported that the BCF work was currently reporting third quarter progress against each of the mandated metrics and the outcome thereof would form the basis of planning for BCF for the next two years.

The submitted report outlined the four mandated BCF metrics used to measure the impact of the BCF delivery and it was reported that, in relation to those metrics, delay to transfer of care and permanent admissions to 24 hour residential/nursing care were on target, however, non-elective admissions were not currently on target to be achieved and further work needed to be undertaken to understand the reasons for that. It was noted that the deployment of Community Matrons within care homes had had a measurably positive effect on the frequency with which care home residents attended A and E or had unscheduled admissions.

The Assistant Director. Commissioning, Performance and Transformation also referred to the policy framework and technical guidance for the BCF 2017-19 and reported that that framework and guidance was still awaited, however, there were

some elements which it was expected to contain and also referred to three areas which this Council may wish focus on in shaping any new or different schemes and interventions.

RESOLVED – (a) That the impact of the BCF to date and the requirements in respect of the next two year plans be noted.

(b) That the receipt of the preliminary draft of the Intermediate Care and RIACT review be noted and that a further update on the final recommendations be submitted to this Scrutiny Committee when appropriate.

AH31. DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY UPDATE – The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) updating Members on the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Deprivation of Liberty in supported living and home environments, including outcomes for people and the challenges faced by the Council as a result thereof.

The submitted report outlined the background to the DoLS which had come into force on 1st April 2009, to ensure that individuals who lacked the mental capacity to consent to the arrangements for their care, where such case may amount to a deprivation of liberty, had those arrangements independently assessed to ensure that they were in the best interests of the individual concerned.

The submitted report outlined the significant challenges and impact of DoLS on this Authority and to the additional resources which had been required to meet statutory obligations. It was reported that the reliance on Independent Best Interest Assessors (BIA's) did have a significant financial impact to the Authority and that work was being undertaken to work towards reducing this cost by limiting reliance on Independent BIA's and training more in-house social workers. It was important that any work undertaken by BIA's was quality assured and some examples of where they had made a difference to the quality of life for people were contained within the submitted report.

Following questions by Members, it was reported that, in a recent NHS digital comparator publication, which compared similar local authorities, Darlington was doing well, with 98 per cent of applications being reported as being completed within three months. It was accepted that, in view of the volume of cases, it was sometimes difficult to meet all the statutory timescales, however, risk assessments were undertaken to target those most at risk and guidance had been issued by ADASS to local authorities on how to manage and limit those risks.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

AH32. AUTISM SELF-ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK 2015/16 – The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) advising Members of the outcome of Darlington's Autism Self-Assessment which had been reported to the Public Health Observatory in October 2016.

The submitted report outlined the background to the self-assessment which was designed to monitor local progress in implementing the Autism Act 2009 and the National Autism Strategy and which covered seven broad themes of planning,

training, diagnosis, care and support, accommodation, employment and the criminal justice system. It was reported that although the Authority was the lead authority for its completion, the self-assessment also required input from a range of statutory partners, including the NHS and a summary of the findings against each of the themes was contained within the submitted report.

Particular reference was made to the 52 key questions included within the self-assessment, which included 32 RAG rated questions, and it was reported that of those 32 RAG rated questions, Darlington rated eight green, one amber/green, 18 amber and 5 red.

Members were advised that there was evidence of clear progress within Darlington over the last four self-assessments, however, there were some gaps which needed some additional focus and it was reported that a Local Delivery Plan would be developed to address these once formal feedback on the self-assessment had been received.

The Chair reported that a further piece of work into the support pathway for adults with a learning disability (including autism) was to be undertaken by this Scrutiny Committee, as part of a Task and Finish Review, and it was suggested that a briefing on the different types of autism and how it affects a person's life could be an initial starting point, with the next phase of the review focussing on the red RAG ratings.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received and that the progress to date, together with necessary future improvement work required, be acknowledged.

(b) That the draft Local Delivery Plan be submitted to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee for endorsement.

(c) That the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee receive further reports where specific actions are required of partner organisations.

AH33. WORK PROGRAMME - The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2016/17.

It was suggested that an item on eligibility criteria be included as a future work programme item.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.