

ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

31 October, 2017

PRESENT - Councillor Knowles (in the Chair); Councillors Copeland, Culley, D. Jones, Kane, Lister, Lyonette and Storr. (8)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Mills, M Nicholson and EA Richmond. (3)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – James Stroyan, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care; Pat Simpson, Senior Project Manager; Jeanette Crompton, Development and Commissioning Manager; Emma Chawner, Safeguarding Boards Business Manager; and Ann Baxter, Chair of the Adults Safeguarding Board.

AH17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AH18. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 5 September 2017.

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

AH19. DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD ANNUAL REPORT – 2016/17- The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to advise Members of the effectiveness of the Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board during 2016/2017 and present its Annual Report for 2016/2017.

The submitted report outlined the purpose of the Board to help safeguard adults with care and support needs through effective safeguarding practice and to work collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible. The multi-agency Board in Darlington has an Independent Chair and meets bi-monthly to deliver the Boards business plan and its six priority outcomes.

The Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board delivers and measures its effectiveness in relation to safeguarding adults at risk in Darlington through multi-agency policy and procedures; multi-agency training across adult workforces; performance monitoring and quality assurance activity; and case reviews including Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

The submitted report also gave a summary of the progress made towards the six key principles that support good inter agency Adult Safeguarding as outlined in the Care Act 2014 of empowerment, prevention, proportionality, protection, partnership and accountability.

The Chair of the Adults Safeguarding Board attended the meeting to answer questions on the report and highlighted to Members the challenges associated

with ensuring adults were safeguarded and spoke in particular about empowerment and making safeguarding more personal by learning about safeguarding experiences of those adults at risk; proportionality and ways of ensuring that safeguarding arrangements in place were proportionate to the risks of significant harm; and protection, which was a key role of all professionals to monitor arrangements for reports of abuse and neglect.

Members discussed the Annual Report and raised a number of questions thereon and reference was made to the role of the Adults Safeguarding Board including advocacy, cross agency working and budgets; and the challenges faced with partners having separate recording systems, however this had been acknowledged by the Board and a protocol to exchange information had been agreed.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

AH20. BETTER CARE FUND UPDATE – The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an update of the progress in respect of the Better Care Fund submission for 2017/19 and delivery to date; plans for the iBCF (the additional social care grant announced in the Spring Budget); and the Reablement review and follow-up work.

The submitted report outlined that the 2017/19 Better Care Fund plan was approved at the Health and Wellbeing Board in September and was submitted on deadline and it was reported at the meeting that assurance from NHS England for the Plan had now been received.

The Better Care Fund Plan 2017/18 seeks to build on foundations laid in 2015/16 and 2016/17 in the areas of admissions avoidance in 65+, a joint approach to discharge management, reablement and intermediate care services, improving health in care homes, and building a robust community and universal services offer in support of managing demand into the future.

The submitted report outlined six broad workstreams to support the delivery of the Better Care fund priorities for 2017/19; highlighted the key programme in development to build on the outcomes of the Discharge to Assess model piloted in 2016/17 and further implement the High Impact Change Model; the Care Home Commissioning Group established to aid closer working of health and social care commissioners to support the residential care sector and avoid unnecessary admissions to hospital; primary prevention and care navigation; the Responsive Integrated Assessment Care Team (RIACT) and intermediate care service and the external review commissioned to examine a number of services including the RIACT Service and the in-house Reablement Service (summary report also previously circulated).

The submitted report also highlighted the work to implement the high impact changes continues and the Local Authority and health partners have been working together on discharge planning and delivery and the High Impact Change Model self-assessment tool for local health and care systems was attached to the submitted report.

The Local Government settlement announced in 2015 included an amount for Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and subsequently an additional improved grant was announced in the 2017 budget for 2018/19 and 2019/20. Details of how the Council can access the grant, following approval of the outline plan jointly agreed by the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group as the Pooled Budget Partnership Board; the principles and components for Darlington's iBCF and how the grant will be allocated were also included in the submitted report.

The submitted report also included Quarter one performance which indicated that delay to transfer of care and admission to 24 hour residential care was well within target; however non Elective Admissions were not on target and the Senior Project Manager gave an explanation to the reasons for this shortfall.

Members questioned why Darlington had ranked poorly on the NHS social care interface dashboard for weekend discharge and were advised that this was to be addressed by the Local Discharge Delivery Group to ascertain the reasons; how the pooled funding was administered; the new domiciliary care contract and how it linked with the Better Care Fund; and the findings of the review of Intermediate Care (RIACT and Reablement Services) in relation to the lack of availability of information and detailed case level data, which Members expressed their disappointment at. Members agreed to continue to monitor the Intermediate Care service to ensure that the service was working to its capacity and maximising the independence of people who require care and support.

RESOLVED – (a) That the content of the 2017-19 Better Care Fund plan and impact to date and requirements in respect of the next two year plan be noted.

(b) That the plans for use of the additional social care grant announced in the Spring Budget (iBCF) be noted.

(c) That the content of the Intermediate Care and RIACT review report and subsequent actions be noted.

AH21. QUALITY ASSURANCE – DOMICILIARY CARE CONTRACT – The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an update on the new Home Care and Support Contract.

It was reported that following a full service review and remodelling commissioners successfully re tendered a Home Care and Support contract that commenced on 2 October 2017. The new contract divides the borough into two geographical zones for east and west with a single prime provider required to deliver support within each zone. The successful providers were Careline and Positive Life Choices who will be expected to accept 90 per cent of all packages offered to them.

It was also reported that there will be a 'safety net' of ten additional framework providers who will be offered packages in instances where either of the prime providers are unable to meet demand; Direct Payments were offered to individuals who chose to opt out rather than transfer to alternative provider; and commissioners will continue meet regularly with the two main zone providers to ensure that both performance in relation to the 90 per cent package take up and the quality of service delivery was maintained.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report and commencement of the new contract be noted.

(b) That this Scrutiny receive a update report on the new Home Care and Support contract in six months time.

AH22. 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 2017/18.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.