

ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE13th February, 2018

PRESENT - Councillor Knowles (in the Chair); Councillors Copeland, Culley, Kane, Lister, Lyonette, Mills, M Nicholson and Storr. (9)

APOLOGIES – Councillor D Jones (1)

ABSENT – Councillor Grundy (1)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE –

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – James Stroyan, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care, Kevin Kelly, Head of Learning Disability and Mental Health and Patricia Simpson, Programme Manager.

AH33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AH34. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes of meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 19th December, 2017 and 12th January, 2018.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as correct records.

AH35. BETTER CARE FUND 2017/18 AND 2018/19 – The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) advising Members of the 2017-19 Better Care Fund submission and associated plans.

It was reported that the Better Care Fund Plan 2017/18, which had been submitted on time and had received full assurance, sought to build on foundations laid in 2015/16 and 2016/17 in the areas of admissions avoidance in 65 plus, 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 the six broad work streams to support the delivery of the BCF priorities and particular reference was made to the work being undertaken in relation to delayed transfers of care (DToC) and the RIACT and Intermediate Care Service, which was central to keeping people out of hospital and for speeding their journey home if they were in hospital.

Discussion ensued on Darlington's good performance in relation to DToC, with most delays being recorded as health related and reference was made to work being undertaken to ensure that that performance was maintained and the targets within the DToC metric were delivered. Discussion ensued on the weekend discharge figures in Darlington which ranked poorly in the NHS social care interface dashboard, possible reasons for that lower rate due to the high level of discharges undertaken during the week and to further work to be undertaken by

the Local Discharge Delivery Board to look particularly at that issue. It was also reported that out of area hospital discharges was an area to monitor, although this was not a particular issue for Darlington.

Particular reference was also made to the external review of the RIACT and intermediate care service which had been undertaken in 2016/17 and which had identified a number of areas for improvement in relation to the service and to work which had subsequently been undertaken to improve and streamline the pathway within the Council. It was reported that more focus would be on 'step up' provision to individuals into short term support and reablement to try to avoid hospital admissions.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and a further update be submitted to this Scrutiny Committee in six months' time.

AH36. DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY – The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) updating Members on the implementation of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and the Deprivation of Liberty in supported living and home environments, which had come into force on 1 April 2009.

The submitted report outlined the challenges placed on the local authority due to the increased number of requests for authorisation and it was reported that arrangements were in place to reduce the costs associated with Independent Best Interest Assessors (BIA's) by making better use of BIA's within the Authority, by training more social workers and by the possible employment of a further BIA.

Particular reference was made to the number of DoLS applications per 100,000 adult population, which was more than double the England average and it was reported that one of the contributing factors towards that was that the supervisory bodies in the north east, granted authorisations for shorter periods of time which then required more frequent applications. It was however, felt that it was important to take the advice of the Best Interest Assessors in relation to the review period to ensure the right outcome for the person involved.

Reference was also made to a number of cases where the involvement of Best Interest Assessors had had a positive outcome for individuals.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

AH37. 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.