

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of meeting: 23 February 2009
Report of: JOHN WEEKS
Title: INDEPENDENCE, WELLBEING AND CHOICE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report makes Members of Committee aware of the response to the findings of the Commission of Social Care Inspection (CSCI) who inspected Independence, Wellbeing and Choice in February 2008. It also highlights key themes from this report and links them to developments in social care both nationally and locally. An important issue arising from this the need for a 'whole system response' to social care needs.

2.0 Decision Required

The Members of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:

- Note the intention to create an Adults Safeguarding Board for Cheshire East
- Note the areas for development from the CSCI Inspection
- Note the need for leadership from the local authority and partners in promoting a 'whole system response' to social care need.
- Request a further report in four months that provides an update on the above issues and how they are being addressed through the redesign of adult social care and other Council initiatives.

3.0 Financial Implications in 2008/09

- 3.1 There is some expenditure within this financial year around the creation of the Safeguarding Adults Board and the appointment of an independent person to chair the Safeguarding Board.

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 The continuing growth of demand for social care services linked to the ageing population and the growing complexity of the needs of young adults in transition from Children's Services pose potential risks for future financing. These are addressed by changes within Adult Social Care through the Adult Social Care Redesign Project but such changes

need to be matched by changes within the Council and in partner agencies to ensure that a greater proportion of the needs of older people and vulnerable adults are met within universal services

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The legislative framework of social care has not changed as part of the reforms. Councils remain liable to meet assessed care need. Efforts to reduce such need through preventive interventions and other measures are therefore essential.

6. Risk Assessment

- 6.1 The quality of life of older people and vulnerable adults is rising up the national agenda and will be a key element in the judgement of Council performance. It is essential that the Council and its partners make a coordinated response to issues such as housing, health, safety, leisure, transport and employment/training in order to improve overall quality of life and improve the outcomes of the most disadvantaged groups.

7.0 Background and Options

- 7.1 The Government has demonstrated a consistent approach to the changes required in social care since the Green Paper, 'Independence, well-being and choice' (2005) and reinforced in the White Paper, 'Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services' in 2006. It describes the vision for the development of a personalised approach to the delivery of adult social care and the context in which this policy is grounded. Prevention, Personalisation and a whole system change are key parts of this response.

- 7.2 The Commission for Social Care Inspection carried out an inspection of Independence, Wellbeing and Choice and Safeguarding Services in Cheshire County Council between the 5th and 13th February 2008. This focused on older people (not exclusively) and 3 themes

- People have access to preventive services.
- People benefit from effective partnership working, and
- People are safeguarded

- 7.3 The inspection team found overall **Good** performance: Most people were effectively safeguarded against abuse, neglect or poor treatment. It is clear that very few Councils achieved this level of assessment and none has achieved a better level. However there were areas for development.

8. Areas for development:

- Balancing risk in supported housing
- Safeguarding training for partner agencies
- Information sharing between agencies
- Impact of the Adult Protection Committee

9. Specific Recommendations

The report contained a series of specific recommendations aimed at achieving the improvements required by the inspection. These are contained in the document at Appendix 1, along with an estimate of progress to date.

10. Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

- 10.1 On day 1 it will be essential to have effective Adult Protection arrangements in place and the foundations of a wider safeguarding approach. This will be covered by progress on establishing an Adults Safeguarding Board chaired by an independent person.

By the end of year one the Safeguarding Board should be well established and should be beginning to oversee and influence multi-agency arrangements. The impact of the Redesign of Adult Social Care should begin to show in terms of more people having access to information and interventions that divert them from formal social care involvement. Those within social care should have greater choice and control. Together these responses should deliver better outcomes for individuals and their communities.

By the end of Term 1 these arrangements should be influencing the policies, procedures and priorities of the partner agencies, ideally via the Local Area Agreement. This in turn should begin to deliver improved outcomes for people and less reliance on formal social care inputs. This is consistent with the position set out in the Local Authority Circular of January 2008, which stated:

This is a challenging agenda, which cannot be delivered by social care alone. To achieve this sort of transformation will mean working across the boundaries of social care such as housing, benefits, leisure and transport and health. It will mean working across the sector with partners from independent, voluntary and community organisations to ensure a strategic balance of investment in local services. This will range from support for those with emerging needs, to enabling people to maintain their independence and to supporting those with high-level complex needs. When considering transformation partners should look at resources spent through mainstream services, the NHS, housing and other relevant statutory agencies, the voluntary and private sectors, and not just those resources spent via the adult social services department.

11. Reasons for Recommendation

To ensure that the Committee is aware of the response to the Commission of Social Care Inspection report and how this will be seen within Cheshire East.

To assist the Committee in identifying how the Council can lead the delivery of safeguarding and prevention work within the wider partnership

To suggest how the Committee may monitor progress in achieving the required response to the report in the context of the Redesign of Adult Social Care and the development of Cheshire East Council.

For further information:

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Roland Domleo

Director: John Weeks, Strategic Director - People

Tel No: 01270 529600

Email: john.weeks@congleton.gov.uk

Lead Officer: Phil Lloyd, County Manager, Community Care (East)

Also Head of Adults (designate) for Cheshire East Council

Room 359, County Hall, Chester

e-mail: phil.lloyd@cheshire.gov.uk

01244 973311

Background Documents:

Available on- line

Department of Health Putting People First -sets out the shared aims and values which will guide the transformation of social care.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_089665

Local Authority Circular 1 (DH) 2008

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/DH_081934

This Local Authority Circular sets out information to support the transformation of social care as signaled in the Department of Health's social care Green Paper, 'Independence, well-being and choice' (2005) and reinforced in the White Paper, 'Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services' in 2006. It describes the vision for development of a personalised approach to the delivery of adult social care and context in which this policy is grounded.

Commission for Social Care Inspection

Inspection on Independence Wellbeing and Choice in Cheshire County Council

<http://www.csci.org.uk/pdf/20080616%20Cheshire%20Final%20Report%20with%20cover.pdf>

APPENDIX 1

ACTIONS REQUIRED OF CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND SUCCESSOR COUNCILS FROM INSPECTION OF INDEPENDENCE, WELLBEING AND CHOICE, FEBUARY 2008.

Action 1

The Council and its supporting housing partners should ensure an effective balance between positive risk taking and personal safety in supported housing for people with learning disabilities.

Current status - Amber

Financial audits of networks undertaken and action plans implemented to improve skills of staff. Risk assessments and management plans reviewed

Action 2

The Council and its partners should ensure a good standard of competence in safeguarding work across all sectors.

Current status - Amber

Training in all areas of adult safeguarding and prevention will inform re tendering process for provision of training. Multi agency provision of training to be considered via safeguarding boards.

Action 3

The Council and its partners should ensure that the management of risk and the achievement of positive outcomes are supported by appropriate flows of information.

Current status - Amber

Best practice risk assessment models are about to be discussed at an away day involving the newly appointed Adult Safeguarding co-ordinators

Action 4

The Council and its Partners should improve their awareness of the diverse cultural and lifestyle preferences of older people and their carers.

Current status - Amber

Research to be commissioned from Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Race Equality Council to improve awareness of cultural preferences of carers in BME communities

Action 5

Do more to identify hidden needs and positively respond to diverse cultural and lifestyle preferences, including older people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender and older people from the traveller / gypsy communities

Current status - Amber

Departmental Equality and Diversity Plan is now reviewed every month including links with organisations representing minority interest.– tracker page on the back of the document indicates what has been added or modified. Department's equal opportunities group checks plan for red, amber, green accuracy

Action 6

The Council and its partners should ensure better outcomes in prevention, personal control and independence for older people with mental health needs.

Current status - Amber

Ensure that commissioning processes with third sector providers highlight the need for all services for older people to make that provision accessible and appropriate to older people with mental health needs and their carers

Action 7

The Council and its partners should enable a wide range of opportunities for carers that promote their well being and improve their quality of life.

Current status - Amber

To develop an emergency registration card for carers and a subsequent brokerage service for carers in the event of a crisis. Carers emergency card is being developed with Princess Royal Trust for Carers

Action 8

The Council and its partners should ensure that the work of the Older Persons Network (OPN) enables stronger local participation and network of support.

Current status - Amber

OPN and CCC staff have been working with Cheshire Community Action (CCA) to develop a memorandum of understanding to govern the relationship between CCA and OPN.

Action 9

The Adult Protection Committee should strengthen its strategic leadership, performance monitoring and scrutiny arrangements to ensure a clearer focus on risk and outcomes across the partnerships.

Current status - Amber

Replace the current Adult Protection Committee with a Safeguarding Board

Action 10

The Adult Protection Committee should review the deployment of staff and management across the partnership to ensure a sustainable future response to increases in the size and complexity of adult safeguarding activity.

Current status - Amber

Work pressures associated with LGR have meant that it has not been possible to develop interim performance management arrangements prior to the setting up of the Safeguarding Boards. Attention has focused on setting

up the Boards themselves and their launch. Advertisement for independent Chair concluded, additional resources identified for safeguarding.

Action 11

The Council and its partners should enhance the commissioning of Third Sector organisations to meet increased demand and support sustainable business planning and service delivery.

Current status - Amber

A Framework document setting out the principles for working with the sector has been disaggregated for East and West. The East Cheshire Cabinet endorsed this on Sept 8th. The documents include a summary of current investment.