

## **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

held on Thursday, 26th November, 2015 at Council Chamber - Town Hall,  
Macclesfield, SK10 1EA

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor J Saunders (Chairman)  
Councillor L Wardlaw (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Rhoda Bailey, B Dooley, L Jeuda, G Merry, A Moran and  
A Harewood (sub for D Bailey)

#### **Apologies**

Councillor D Bailey

#### **ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor J Clowes – Cabinet Member for Adults and Health in the  
Community

Brenda Smith – Director of Adult Social Care and Independent Living

Sarah Smith – Corporate Commissioning Manager,

Kate Philips – Commissioning Manager, Contracts Quality Assurance

Patrick Rhoden – Principal Accountant

James Morley – Scrutiny Officer

#### **43 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2015 be  
approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

#### **44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

#### **45 DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of party whip

#### **46 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

Ms Kate Sibthorp spoke in relation to Item 6 of the Committee's Agenda. As the parent and carer of a adult daughter with learning difficulties she was concerned about the proposed fee rates for personal assistants which she purchased at an hourly rate using direct payments. She stated that there had not been a rise in fees paid to personal assistants for six years and that the proposed increase in the report by Red Quadrant was too low. She suggested that the process used to come up with the fees had been flawed and should have included more research

on the role of personal assistants and more consultation with service users groups should have taken place. She offered to provide a hard copy of her comments to the Committee and Officers and the Chairman requested that Ms Sibthorp be provided with a response.

#### **47 IMPLEMENTING THE CARE ACT 2014 - MOVING TO A LOCAL AND PERSONALISED SYSTEM OF CARE AND SUPPORT**

The Cabinet Member for Adults and Health in the Community provided an overview of report on Implementing the Care Act. The Council was required to comply with the Care Act 2014 which meant changes to the way services were provided need to be made. There were two phases to the Act, the first phase of which had started to be implemented from April 2015 and the second phase which had been delayed until 2019. The elements of the Act which the Council had implemented so far were working well however further implementation was required.

A report was due to be considered by Cabinet on 8 December 2015 for a decision and the Committee was requested to provide comments to be considered by Cabinet. Members asked questions and the following points arose:

- Members wanted to ensure that services continued to remain safe for users and employees as changes to the delivery of Care4CE were implanted.
- Members wanted to ensure that education and training was in place for all employees of private providers used to provide services. The Council could measure the levels of training as part of its contractual arrangements with commissioned providers.
- Members were pleased that there would be investment in Community Agents to support and advise users in their decisions about purchasing services and that social workers would continue to provide advice and support about the services that users would find useful.
- Members wanted to ensure good information about providers was available for services users to help them make informed decisions. A directory of services had been developed and the intention was to build on this.
- Members wanted to ensure that future services and ways of working helped to reduce social isolation. It was suggested that enabling people to choose their own packages and providing access to more local support would help to reduce isolation.
- Members believed that the Council needed to ensure that people acted in their own best interests when considering whether or not to purchase services.
- Members agreed that the implementation of the Integrated Care Teams was an essential part of the way services would be delivered in future. It was expected that the teams would be in place by April 2016.

The Committee was requested to consider whether or not members would take part in the process to co-design the new service and delivery models of care as detailed in the report. Members expressed an interest in being involved in the piece of work and more detail on members' role would be developed in a scoping exercise.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report be noted
- (b) That the minutes of the meeting be submitted to Cabinet for consideration with the report on 8 December 2015.
- (c) That a scoping exercise take place to define the role which members of the Committee will play in the co-design of the new service and delivery models of care.

#### **48 ADULT SOCIAL CARE FEE RATES**

The Cabinet Member for Adults and Health in the Community provided an overview of report on Adult Social Care Fee Rates. The Council had operated the same fee structure for adult social care external providers since 2009 and it was considered necessary to review the fees paid in future. Red Quadrant, a consultancy firm, had been commissioned to conduct an independent review of the adult social care fee structure which began in May 2015. Two reports were provided by Red Quadrant on Home Care costs and Care Home costs which were appended to the report.

A report was due to be considered by Cabinet on 8 December 2015 which recommended the adoption of the fee rates proposed by Red Quadrant. The Committee was requested to provide comments to be considered by Cabinet. Members asked questions and the following points arose:

- Members expressed concern about the delivery of 15 minute care visits and whether providers would be willing to provide 15 minute slots. Some providers were not geared up to provide personalised care packages. Changes in fees needed to come with changes in practices and attitudes.
- Members wanted to ensure that the Council had capacity to be agile to the changing needs of service user to ensure financial assessments were completed and fees were paid. 16 additional social workers had been employed in 2014 to increase the Council's capacity to deal with assessments.
- Members were concerned about whether self funders were subsidising Council customers based of the fees they were paying for residential care. This was something that needed to be considered in future.

The Committee was requested to consider whether or not members wished to be involved in the review of the delivery models of domiciliary care and residential care. Members expressed an interest in being involved in the piece of work and more detail on members' role would be developed in a scoping exercise.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted
- (b) That the minutes of the meeting be submitted to Cabinet for consideration with the report on 8 December 2015
- (c) That a scoping exercise take place to define the role which members of the Committee will play in the review of the delivery models of domiciliary care and residential care

#### **49 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee gave consideration to the work programme.

RESOLVED – That the work programme be noted

The meeting commenced at 2.10 pm and concluded at 3.35 pm

Councillor J Saunders (Chairman)