

**MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2013 AT 10.00 A.M.****Responsible Officer** Martin Stevens

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Present

Mr G L Dakin (Chairman), Mrs T Huffer, Mr D Minnery, Mrs Pam Moseley, Mrs P Mullock, Mr P Nutting, Mrs V Parry, Mr S Jones, and Mrs M Shineton.

Also in Attendance

Mr L Chapman

In Attendance

Tom Dodds (Performance and Design Team Leader)
Ruth Houghton (Head of Social Care, Efficiency and Improvement)
Mandy Thorn (Director, Shropshire Partners in Care)
Fiona Howe (Committee Officer)
Martin Stevens (Committee Officer)

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no apologies for absence. The Chair welcomed Pam Moseley as a new Member of the Committee. He thanked the Scrutiny Officer to the Committee, Fiona Howe for her valuable contribution over the years who was officiating at her last meeting having transferred to Electoral Services. Members wished her well for the future and for her support to the Health Scrutiny function.

21. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None were disclosed.

22. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 17 June and 19 August 2013 be approved as a correct record.

23. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

24. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from Members.

25. Continuing Health Care Funding

The item was deferred because the CCG has been unable to send a representative to the meeting. The Chairman asked for a special meeting to be arranged in January.

26. The Care and Support Bill – Impact for Shropshire Council

The Head of Social Care, Efficiency and Improvement introduced a report on the Care and Support Bill. The report provided an update on the potential impact for Shropshire Council on the Government's proposed changes to the rules on charging for adult social care based on a report by the Dilnot Commission. She identified the potential budget pressures which were likely to arise as a result of the changes. With regards to deferred payments, Shropshire already operated a deferred payment scheme under existing legislation which was compliant with the proposed regulations. She explained the proposed functioning of the £72,000 cap on social care costs.

A Member asked if there would be a need to be increase in staff and training as a consequence of the changes brought in by the Bill. In response the Head of Social Care, Efficiency and Improvement stated that additional resources would likely to be required to complete the increased number of assessments.

The Director of Shropshire Partners in Care stated an initial survey of the number of people self-funded in the care system underestimated the amount of self-funded people in the care system. Her experience was that 50% were self-funded. Nationally there was a concern that providers of care would have to look at the financial circumstances of individuals. There was also concern about the plans being misleading for the general public over the capping of care costs.

The Head of Social Care, Efficiency and Improvement stated that further work needed to be completed on the implications and risks associated around the people who funded their own care. The direct income lost to Shropshire initially was thought to be significant and over the following 4 years would potentially increase. She proposed that scrutiny in the future could consider a number of aspects of the Care and Support Bill and changes relating to the regulations and context of the Bill.

A Member stated that it was important to incorporate the implications of the Social Care Bill into the business plan and highlight any financial concerns.

RESOLVED: The suggested themes for future briefing notes as set out in section 8 of the report be agreed.

27. Work Programme and Forward Plan

The Chairman reported that at the next meeting he hoped to given consideration to the Quality Accounts for the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust and the West Midlands Ambulance Service on an exception basis.

A Member added that he hoped the Committee would receive a report in the future on the Quality Accounts of the South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

A Member stated that there was increasing concern over ambulance response times. He believed in some cases people were waiting over 40 minutes for an ambulance after the initial response vehicle. A second Member echoed these views adding that she had passed on some specific cases to the Chairman. The Chairman confirmed that he had written to the Ambulance Service requesting a response. He was also aware of some complaints about Ambulances travelling too fast on London Road in Shrewsbury.

28. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was reported as 3 February 2014 at 10:00am.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....