

SHOPSHIRE COUNCIL

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2017

10.00 - 11.50 am in the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Responsible Officer: Amanda Holyoak

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Present

Councillor Gerald Dakin (Chairman)

Councillors Madge Shingleton (Vice Chairman), Heather Kidd, Pamela Moseley,
Peggy Mullock and Peter Nutting

62 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies were received from Councillors P Adams, J Cadwallader, D Evans and T Huffer.

63 Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a disclosable pecuniary interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

64 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 30 January 2017 and 20 February 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

65 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

66 Member Questions

Councillor P Moseley had submitted a question about long term holders of Blue Badges no longer qualifying for a badge, due to changes in benefit payments and criteria. A copy of the question and the response is attached to the signed minutes.

Councillor Moseley thanked officers for the comprehensive reply provided. Although there were only nine individuals identified as having their renewal application refused, the impact on those individuals would be great. She was pleased to hear that Shropshire Council supported revision to the scheme so that people with severe dementia and autistic spectrum conditions could qualify.

The Director of Public Health added that the Council had received letters from local MPs about individual constituents. In replying to those letters a lobbying opportunity had been taken and this would be continued.

67 Young Carers

The Chairman welcomed the following Members of the Young People's Scrutiny Committee to the meeting: Councillors J Barrow, K Pardy, and A Walpole. Councillor P Mullock was a Member of both Committees. The Chairman also welcomed the Portfolio Holder for Young People, The Director of Children's Services and Val Cross, Health and Wellbeing Officer and Jo Cox, Senior Practitioner, Targeted Youth Support to the meeting.

The Health and Wellbeing Officer introduced the report and referred to the new All Carers Strategy. During discussion Members raised the following questions:

Identification of Young Carers

Members asked how children, particularly the very young ones were identified as carers and what the criteria were. Officers explained that this could be through the early help process or by the school. Carers Trust For All had produced and sent a resource pack to every primary school in Shropshire and also visited schools as required. The criteria used was set out in the Children's and Family Act 2014.

Information and Support

Some work had been undertaken with Telford and Wrekin Council and young carers had identified that they wish to know more about medication. There was a specific action plan to improve information and support in this respect and a meeting had been arranged with the Local Pharmacy Committee. A Members highlighted that many pharmacists were extremely busy and unable to engage with written material sent through the post. Officers agreed that letters were not enough and said it might be that appropriately trained staff other than the pharmacist who could take on the role of explaining medicine to a young person.

(A link to the Carers Trust 4 All pack on working with pharmacists was circulated after the meeting)

Members were informed that young people had spoken very highly of the staff at Carers Trust 4 All.

Support provided by schools

Members heard that some schools were able to provide good pastoral support although some small schools were not in a position to offer that. Members were concerned that too much was being asked of teachers in smaller schools. Carers Trust 4 All supplied a resource pack and visited schools if requested. The Young Carers in Schools Award was given to schools adhering to standards related to understanding the needs of young carers.

Measuring Outcomes

The Chair of the Young People's Scrutiny Committee asked if there was any quantitative evidence that the support provided was making a difference, as most feedback obtained from young people and families would be anecdotal. They asked if a list of outcomes to measure against was available. Officers reported that the new Head of Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning would develop a set of measures and members agreed

that they would like to have sight of these in future. Members heard that Carers Trust 4 All had held the contract for almost a full year and the final quarter report would be available shortly.

68 Mental Health Services

The Director of Public Health explained how the West Midlands Combined Authority had produced a report on Mental Health (a copy is attached to the signed minutes). It had been brought to the attention of the Scrutiny Committee as Shropshire was an Associate Member and looking to establish parity of esteem for mental health services.

Members considered Shropshire's relationship with the Combined Authority, being an Associate rather than a full Member, and how relevant the content of the report was to sparse Shropshire. The Director of Public Health explained that Shropshire had become an associate member of the Combine Authority so that it could be kept informed and influence some plans, although not be bound by them. The nature of the Combined Authority was very much an urban model and the Committee could recommend and use material it felt to be appropriate.

A Member pointed out that Shropshire was not the only rural county which had associate membership of the Combined Authority and the Committee discussed partnership working and working with the Voluntary Sector in lobbying for the health and wellbeing needs of rural areas to be recognised.

The Director of Public Health drew attention to the joint signatories of the report and also referred to joint working between Public Health England and the Local Government Association regarding the Health and Wellbeing needs of rural areas.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Public Health develop an appropriate response to the report for Shropshire

69 Shared Lives and Community Living

Michelle Davies, Service Manager, Commissioning and Governance, introduced the report on Shared Lives and Community Living (copy attached to the signed minutes).

She referred to the previous report presented to the Committee in July 2015 and reminded Members of how the Community Living and Shared Lives services of the Council had been transferred to Midland Heart and Positive Steps in March 2014. Midland Heart had given notice on the contract and the new provider of the Community Living Services from 1 April 2017 would be Perthyn.

In response to questions about the handover to Perthyn she confirmed that agency staff used by Midland Heart had transferred to Perthyn. Goal planning had been undertaken with service users and a regional manager had been appointed to oversee the project. She explained that Midland Heart had given 9 months notice on the contract and was no longer delivering that service across the whole of the West Midlands, it had not been a Shropshire specific decision.

A Member referred to accommodation issues and said she had not been able to find a solution for a person in her electoral division who wished to leave property for their child. The Service Manager said that this would mean a different sort of model for working, and requested that the Member send details directly to her.

Members commented on the long distances travelled by some service users to take up volunteering and other opportunities which had a significant impact on personal budget and time. They asked if opportunities closer to home could be identified or sharing of transport. Officers agreed to look into this.

Members noted recent action taken to recruit Shared Lives carers. Work had been undertaken with Shropshire Partners in Care, adverts had been placed in local newspapers and local carer forums and existing carers had been approached. It was confirmed that the team was based at Louise House in Shrewsbury. The contract with Positive Steps had been extended by 12 months and it was hoped to expand services further into mental health and dementia.

Members asked if the service made use of the brokerage system but heard that a more informal approach was needed as it was so important to obtain an appropriate match between service user and carer. Members were pleased to hear that a European model involving students living rent free in return for personal assistance such as gardening or shopping was to be looked into by Shropshire.

Members thanked officers for the report and said that they would welcome an update report in future covering: geographical coverage; developments in identifying local opportunities; transport and hospital discharge.

70 Work Programme

The Committee requested for a future update from West Midlands Ambulance Service on the Physician Response Unit, Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance Response Programme and Handover times.

Members requested that any future work undertaken by the Committee on Metal Health involve South Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Trust.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: