

**MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON 23 JUNE 2014**

**Responsible Officer** Amanda Holyoak  
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**Present**

Mr G L Dakin (Chairman), Mrs P Dee, Mrs T Huffer, Mr S P Jones, Mrs H Kidd,  
Mr D Minnery, Mrs P Moseley, Mrs P Mullock, Mr P Nutting.

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Mr G Dakin was elected Chairman.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Cadwallader and Mrs M Shineton.  
Mrs P Dee substituted for Mrs Shineton.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Mr D Minnery was appointed as Vice Chairman.

**4. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no new disclosable pecuniary interests declared.

**5. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2014 be confirmed as a correct record subject to 'Alena Lane' being changed to 'Helena Lane' on page 4 and '£23 in funds' being amended to '£23,000 in funds', also on page 4.

**6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

**7. MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

There were no Member Questions.

## 8. AUTISM HEALTH ASSESSMENT

The Head of Social Care Efficiency and Improvement presented a report (a copy is attached to the signed minutes) on further developments against the National Strategy for Autism and a Department of Health update to the Strategy published in April 2014.

The Committee commented on the clarity of the report and was particularly pleased to hear of the significant progress made in key areas and that a clear diagnostic pathway funded by the Clinical Commissioning Group was now in place.

In response to questions, the Head of Social Care Efficiency and Improvement also reported on: improvements in the staff training around the needs of individuals with Autistic Spectrum Conditions; development of a community hub model which will be based at Louise House in Shrewsbury from September 2014; and the retendering of the current advice and information contract which would contain a specific focus on providing advice and guidance for those with Autistic Spectrum Conditions on it and be in place by October. She also confirmed that the tender included a requirement for follow up to find out how people had got on after initial signposting was provided.

A Member who was aware of two severely autistic people living in her Electoral Division referred to the closure of the Independent Living Fund and asked what arrangements would be made in the light of this. The Committee heard that there was some guidance available but the future of the Fund was not clear, following a challenge to government on the decision to close it. Independent Living Fund assessors were meeting individuals and arranging interviews with social workers where necessary

The Chairman said he understood that as many as 1 in 10 people might have an Autistic Spectrum Condition and enquired about the likely numbers of people in Shropshire who might be in need of support. Officers reported that it was not possible to estimate how many people might need support who were not already service users of the Council but as the hub developed it would help triangulate figures.

Members of the Committee asked how performance against the Strategy would be assessed and whether it was possible to develop a dashboard. The Head of Social Care Efficiency and Improvement said she would look into what information was collected and how it could be presented.

The Committee agreed that as a Commissioning Council, the needs of those with autism would need to be considered in all re-commissioning activity.

### **RESOLVED:**

To endorse the view that autism is an issue that needs to be responded to as a whole Council, ensuring all services are available to all with autism

That the Head of be asked to consider ways to measure and present performance against the Autism Strategy Action Plan.

## 9. SOCIAL CARE BRIEFING

The Committee considered its third briefing paper (copy attached to the signed minutes) on the Adult Social Care Bill, focusing on the sections relating to Continuity of Care when moving between areas, protecting adults from abuse or neglect, and the laws for carers. The Head of Service: Improvement and Efficiency also reported on the work being undertaken locally and tabled a chart showing the proposed programme structure to implement the new legislation within Shropshire (copy attached to the signed minutes).

Members heard that Continuity of Care ensured that when an adult who was receiving care and support in one area of England and moved home that they would continue to receive care on the day of their arrival in their new area. The Head of Service Improvement and Efficiency explained in which circumstances this would apply and how it would work.

She also referred to the current consultation, a regional submission would be made as well as one from Shropshire Council with specific comments about impact on circumstances within Shropshire.

Members asked whether there was an appeal system in place if the assessment conducted by a second authority determined that an individual was entitled to less than they had received in their originating authority. Members felt that such a process should be put in place and suggested that this be fed into the consultation response. Members also asked how individuals would self-refer and felt that the lack of clarity around this should also be fed into the consultation response.

With regard to Protecting Adults from Abuse or Neglect, the Head of Social Care Efficiency and Improvement explained that Shropshire already had a Safeguarding Adult Board which was already meeting most of the demands of the Bill. She reported that for the first time the Care Bill would confirm in law that abuse included financial abuse.

Members discussed ways to strengthen confidence in care settings in the light of recent national scandals. Officers reported on investment made through Shropshire Partners In Care for training for those working in domiciliary care and care homes, and new support was available for managers and leaders in these environments. The Chairman also reported that Healthwatch had the ability to make unannounced visits to Care Homes.

Officers answered questions regarding how to report concerns, how social workers were being trained to identify abuse, and about feeding back to complainants. Officers also explained arrangements for cross border working and confirmed that there was a number of way to report concerns in addition to the website. Officers were working with the Senior Citizens Forum and Learning Disability Partnership Board on raising awareness. A Member encouraged officers to consult Local Members regarding appropriate mechanisms to use in different parts of the county.

Officers also explained that for the first time carers would be recognised in law and have their support needs assessed in their personal contexts. Members enquired about the number of carers in Shropshire and on the extent of the financial impact stemming from this change. It was estimated that there were about 34,000 carers

in Shropshire and triangulation of records with other sources was expected to produce a more exact figure in September. Clear data was required to assess potential financial impacts of the change. It was confirmed that the Council would be aware of cross border issues in carrying out this work.

The Committee asked to be appraised of the impacts of the changes at a future meeting when more information was available and financial modelling further advanced.

**10. PEER REVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES**

The Director of Adult Services gave a presentation (copy attached to the signed minutes) on the findings of the Shropshire Adult Social Care Peer Challenge which took place in May 2014. He explained the context for the peer reviews and how the scope for each review was determined. The scope in Shropshire had included whether early intervention and prevention was adequate and effective, and how the Better Care Fund supported the integration of Health Social Care, local communities and the voluntary and community sector whilst protecting adult social care.

The Peer Reviewers had been impressed by the clear vision of officers at all levels with a clear focus on early intervention and prevention. The strengths and the areas for consideration were highlighted in the presentation and in discussion Members asked questions including about the definition of ‘community’ particularly in the context of the rural areas of Shropshire.

The Head of Adult Social Care explained that the Council did not have a single approach but did have a commitment to design services at the lowest possible level. Market Town delivery would work for some areas but not all and he emphasised that there was not a prescribed model. Improvements were needed in measuring impacts and outcomes and the Head of Social Care Operations would be looking at this with the Committee at a future meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Head of Adult Social Care Operations be asked to attend a future meeting to provide a briefing on Adult Social Care Transformation to cover outcome measures and performance management.

Chairman:.....

Date:..... 15 September 2014.....