



Coventry City Council

Public report

REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee 13th January, 2016
REPORT OF: Gail Quinton – Executive Director, People
TITLE: Attendance at National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) Conference
DATE: 14-16 October 2015
VENUE: Bournemouth

1. Recommendation

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to:

1. Endorse the attendance at the 2015 NCAS conference as being a valuable use of officer and member time.
2. Due to the unique scale and scope of the NCAS conference that the City Council continues to send an appropriate delegation (to include at least one Cabinet Member or their deputy) to future conferences.

2. Background

The National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) conference is an annual event which brings together elected members plus senior officers with social care or health portfolios. The conference is jointly hosted by the Local Government Association (LGA), the Association of Directors of Childrens Services (ADCS) and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS).

The conference provides an opportunity to listen and contribute to key policy and practice discussions regarding current and future challenges for the sector and share national best practice across adult and children services.

In 2015 the conference was attended by a delegation of three from Coventry City Council, Cllr Joe Clifford - Deputy Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health, Gail Quinton – Executive Director, People, and Pete Fahy, Director of Adult Services. Originally five places were reserved at the conference by the City Council but the decision was made to reduce attendance to three delegates to ensure effective use of officer and member capacity.

3. Cost of attending

	Costs Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member	Total of Actual Costs
Conference Fees	£450.00 per person	£450.00 per person
Flights	Nil	Nil
Additional Travel Expenses	£100.00 per person	£175.00 per person
Accommodation	£240.00 per person	£213.00 per person
Subsistence	Nil	Nil

(NOTE: IF TOTALS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY.)

4. Benefits

Over the duration of the conference a diverse number of sessions were held, with six sessions often running simultaneously. Despite the number of sessions there were a number of key themes that dominated the agenda including use of resources, devolution and the delivery of integration. Notably there was also a strong theme of co-production and user, family and carer involvement woven throughout the sessions. A number of sessions also focussed on themes of supporting people within their own communities and the use of technology in service design and delivery. A number of closed meetings were also held for Councillors and members of ADASS and ADCS.

Whereas the conference usually provides an opportunity to hear from senior politicians and Cabinet Members, this year a number of apologies were received which, as a result, meant the level of senior political input was diminished.

Key Learning:

The key purpose of attending the conference is to understand leading and emerging developments across social care and where these can be applied in Coventry. The key learning to note is as follows:

- The growing use of new technologies and digital platforms to support the delivery of social care including self-assessment tools and signposting to locally available support
- Community and person-centred approaches to supporting some of our more vulnerable citizens including older people and adolescents at risk, and the development in some areas of community approaches to social work
- Approaches being taken across the country with regard to managing winter pressures in collaboration with health colleagues
- The changing face of regulation and inspection including discussion with Ofsted regarding the possibility of a sector-led approach to inspection, risk awareness in Adult Services and the findings from the State of Care report published by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) during the conference

The longer term use and implementation of this learning will be considered by the People Directorate Leadership Team in conjunction with Cabinet Members.

In addition to the formal sessions an extensive exhibition hall is a key feature of the exhibition which gives delegates the opportunity to talk informally with a wide range of organisations across health and social care to aid understanding of sector developments overall.

List of background papers

Proper Officer: Gail Quinton, Executive Director People

Author: Pete Fahy, Director of Adult Services

Tel Number: 024 76833555

(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors: Cllr Clifford

Papers open to public inspection

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