

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) held at 3.30 pm on Wednesday, 18 October 2017

Present:

Members: Councillor D Gannon (Chair)
Councillor R Lancaster
Councillor M Lapsa
Councillor C Miks
Councillor S Walsh

Co-Opted Member: David Spurgeon

Other Member: Councillor F Abbott, Cabinet Member for Adult Services

Employees:

V Castree, Place Directorate
A Errington, People Directorate
P Fahy, People Directorate
M Holden, People Directorate
L Knight, Place Directorate

Apologies: Councillors J Clifford, L Kelly and T Mayer

Public Business

22. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

23. Workforce Development Strategy and Practice Quality Assurance in Adult Social Care 2017-2019

The Board gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director of People concerning the Adult Services Workforce Development Strategy 2017-2019 and the Practice Quality Assurance Framework for Adult Social Care. Copies of the strategy and framework were set out at appendices to the report. The issue had been discussed at length at the Board's workshop which had taken place earlier in the day. Councillor Abbott, Cabinet Member for Adult Services attended the meeting for the consideration of this issue.

The report indicated that workforce development was a key element of providing a good quality Adult Social Care service, both in respect of ensuring staff had the skills and learning opportunities to operate in an evolving social care environment and ensuring that staff working in the service were able to respond to the challenges they faced. Linked to this a Practice Quality Assurance framework was key to understanding practice standards and supporting staff to improve and learn where required.

The workforce strategy was conceived out of the need to support the implementation of the vision and principles for Adult Social Care and outlined the key workforce challenges for Adult Services over the next two years. The strategy complimented the City Council's current Workforce Strategy. The Strategy outlined current national and local demographics, adult social care activity and an overview of the current adult services workforce. It provides a framework for Adult Social Care to ensure its workforce was skilled, stable, motivated and committed to delivering its objectives and that the Council was achieving positive outcomes for the people of Coventry within the resources available.

The development and subsequent delivery of the strategy was overseen by the Adult Services Workforce Development Board chaired by the Director of Adult Services. The strategy outlined the workforce priorities for the next two years which included a priority to enhance leadership, management and supervision to support practice development. A key activity in supporting this priority was the implementation of a revised quality assurance framework which included a process for organisational health checks.

The Adult Services Practice Quality Assurance Framework detailed the service's approach to quality assurance. The framework built on previous casework audits and developed the approach to focus on self-assessment and quality assessment methods at social work and occupational therapy practitioner level. By applying the framework it was anticipated that there would be greater consistency and accountability in the quality of service provided, with the right support and challenge in place to improve practice.

The specific audit components were in two key areas, those to be owned and delivered by practitioners and their line managers and those to be delivered at an organisational level. The finding from quality assurance would be collated, with compliance and key themes forming part of the quarterly report. This would ensure clear governance reporting and oversight of social care quality and improvement. The framework had been subject to surveying and feedback from front line staff in order to ensure it was relevant and useable by both managers and staff.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) The content of the report on the workforce development strategy and practice quality assurance in Adult Social Care be noted.**
- (2) The report arising from the forthcoming Care Quality Commission review of the Health and Social Care system in Coventry be submitted to a future meeting, when available.**
- (3) An update report on the new supervision regime be submitted to a future meeting of the Board once the system has been operating for 12 months, unless the feedback is to be included in the Adult Social Care Annual Report.**
- (4) The poster setting out the responses from the Adult Services organisational health check be circulated to members of the Board.**

24. **Better Care Fund Plan 2017-19**

The Board considered a briefing note of the Executive Director of People which provided an update on the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2017-19, a copy of the plan was attached as an appendix to the note. The briefing note had previously been considered by the Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board at their meeting on 16th October, 2017 and the Board had given their approval to the Plan. Councillor Abbott, Cabinet Member for Adult Services attended the meeting for the consideration of this issue.

The briefing note indicated that the integration of health and care had been a long standing national policy ambition based on the premise that more joined up services would help improve the health and care of local populations and make more efficient use of available resources. Prior to, and subsequently alongside the Better Health, Better Care, Better Value programme, the BCF was implemented in 2015 as part of the government drive to integrate health and care. In response a BCF Plan was developed locally. A new plan was now required to cover the period 1st April, 2017 to 31st March, 2019 including how the Coventry element of additional funding in the spring budget for Adult Social Care was to be used.

The Board noted that the planning schedule meant that the planning tools were available in July, 2017 with the plan being submitted by 11th September, 2017. Meeting timescales meant the plan was only endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board in October.

The total value of the 2017-19 pooled budget from ring-fenced City Council and Coventry and Rugby CCG funds was £179.5m (£63.897m of local authority resources and £115.605m of CCG resources).

The Board were informed that a detailed policy framework for the implementation of the BCF was published in April, with further detailed guidance on delayed transfers of care being issued to local areas in July. There was an expectation that delayed transfers of care should equate to no more than 3.5% of all hospital beds by November, 2017. It was emphasised that this was extremely challenging to Coventry and a trajectory had been included within the BCF Plan to meet this expectation.

Detailed financial and operational plans had been developed to reflect the current CCG and social care priorities within the city. The following three purposes had been assigned to the additional BCF grant announced in the spring budget and set out in the plan: to meet Adult Social Care; to provide support to the NHS (especially through the application of 8 high impact changes) and to sustain the social care provider market.

The plan recognised that as well as achieving effective discharge, preventing admission to hospital was just as crucial to the effectiveness of the health and care system. Consequently activity under the BCF would also focus on a range of projects that sought to improve support to people away from the hospital setting. The briefing note highlighted the mandatory content and the national conditions contained in the plan and provided an update on governance. Following the submission of the plan by the NHS deadline of 11th September, and a revision to the delayed transfer of care targets meaning a re-submission on 20th September, a

single stage regional assurance process was now underway. This would be followed by moderation and the cross regional calibration. Formal letters indicating the results of the assurance process would then be issued by NHSE. The Board were informed that there were three assurance categories: approved, approved with conditions and not approved. It was anticipated that the Plan would be approved with conditions. The consequences of the plan not being approved were highlighted.

The Board questioned the officers on a number of issues and responses were provided, matters raised included:

- The implications of the winter season affecting the trajectory targets for delayed transfers of care
- If consideration would be given to looking at other commissioning models e.g. Northumberland
- The impact of increasing numbers of people with dementia
- The rehabilitation support available for patients leaving hospital in short term accommodation and in their own homes
- Support for the patient support networks in the city
- Clarification about the figures for delayed transfers of care –what was considered to be high and the current position in the city
- Further information about the partnership working around delayed transfers of care
- Further details about spending commitments and how spending was monitored
- An assurance that the figures for delayed transfers of care were on track to meet the November targets.

RESOLVED that:

(1) The content of the Better Care Plan be supported.

(2) A report on health and social care integration in Coventry be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

25. Outstanding Issues Report

The Board noted that all outstanding issues had been included in their work programme.

26. Work Programme 2017-18

The Board noted their work programme for the year including the arrangements for the Board's visit to Coventry University on 1st November.

27. Any other items of Public Business

There were no additional items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 4.10 pm)