

HEALTH AND ADULT CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting of the Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee
held on 18 December 2018 at 2.00pm in Meeting Rooms G3-G4, Addenbrooke House,
Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT**

Present: Cllrs A J Burford (Chair), M Boylan and T J Nelson; Co-optees J Gulliver, C Henniker, H Knight and D Saunders

In Attendance: S Dillon– Assistant Director: Adult Social Care, D Williams – Service Delivery Manager: My Options, A Grewal – Team Leader Wrekin, H Cottrell – Senior Assistive Technology and Sensory Impairment Officer, S Worthington, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer.

HACSC-17 Apologies for Absence

Councillors V A Fletcher and R J Sloan

HACSC-18 Declarations of Interest

None.

HACSC-19 Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee held on 16 October 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

HACSC- 20 Adult Care Performance, Budget & Savings & Cost Improvement Plan 2018-19 – Adults with Learning Disabilities

The Chair welcomed the Assistant Director: Adult Social Care. The Committee had requested information focused on Adults with Learning Disabilities in terms of budget, performance and activity.

The Committee raised questions and the following discussion ensued.

The numbers of adults with Learning Disabilities in the Borough differed significantly from those accessing support.

The Assistant Director: Adult Social Care advised that the baseline projected figure for the number of adults in the Borough with Learning Disabilities was 4,000, however, approximately 700 residents had more complex needs, and had been assessed under the Care Act has been eligible for additional support. This was based on national criteria.

Members raised their concerns that this left a large number without any support.

The Assistant Director: Adult Social Care stated that many people received advice or support with transition or physical health issues. The service users accessing the service had significant care needs.

A discussion was held regarding admissions to residential care. Members acknowledged that residents should not be moved for the sake of being moved, but it was a balance and needed to be in the person's best interests. It was noted there were more options available now, such as two bed bungalows or flats with overnight support.

Members discussed the employment service offered.

The service offered a 12 week bespoke programme for up to 5 people at a time. The programme looked at confidence building and work experience placement. The second programme was currently underway, from the first programme, one person is currently in paid employment. It was noted that 2% of the population with ALD were currently in paid employment in the Borough, which, for statistical purposes, was 18 hours of paid employment per week. It was an aspiration of the Council to improve this number. It was noted that this figure did not include apprenticeships.

Members received a presentation and demonstration of assistive technology. It was noted that some of the technology demonstrated was currently available to only adults with learning disabilities, and not frail and elderly people, due to the funding it was purchased under. It was noted that this was a critical element of development and could greatly improve quality of life. A group of experts by experience were trialling Alexa.

Was there an issue with staff shortages in ALD?

The Assistant Director: Adult Social Care stated that the same pressures were present. The team worked closely with colleagues from health.

A discussion was held regarding respite care.

A member of the public stated that adults with learning disabilities were being pushed into existing services and that suffering was going on. Carers were not being involved in assessments.

The Assistant Director: Adult Social Care advised that if the service user had capacity to make decisions, then they would make their own decisions. Services available now were significantly different to what was available 40 years ago.

HACSC- 21 My Choice Report – July to September 2018

The Chair welcomed Caro Hart, Chief Executive, Citizens Advice Telford and Wrekin, to the Committee. The Committee received the report in respect of the My Choice Service.

The Committee raised questions and the following discussion ensued.

Members praised the effectiveness of partnership working.

What did My Choice do well with?

Ms Hart advised that the service took the pressure off Social Services for lower level services, which freed up Social Services to look at the more complex cases. My Choice sat well within the community and voluntary sector.

In what areas could the service do better?

Ms Hart stated that there were always areas that could be improved. Levels of customer care were good but not excellent. The Tiers could be more joined up, Tiers 1 and 2 had recently been co-located so this should improve.

What monitoring was in place?

Ms Hart stated that at Tier 1, customer satisfaction was monitored. At Tier 2, there was a case recording system, which was highly quality assured. A new ICT system had been implement, which would hopefully improve the situation.

It was noted that there was some confusion over the My Choice branding and some people were not aware that they needed to ask for My Choice. There was nothing in the contract in regards to publicity, however, agencies worked well together to signpost.

HACSC- 22 Chairs Update

Unmet Needs Survey.

The Chair advised the Committee that the full report for this project would be presented at the next Committee meeting. A workshop had been undertaken and approximately 50 representatives of community and voluntary organisations attended. A survey had also been produced to accompany the workshop and, to date, 43 responses had been received. The Chair highlighted that the report would provide transparency of what needed to be done.

Neighbourhood Working

The Chair advised that several members had met with local GPs who ran the neighbourhood areas to discuss what impact neighbourhood working had. The insights they had provided were invaluable, however, most GPs did not attribute some successes to neighbourhood working, and rather that they were areas of good practice.

Future Fit

The Chair advised that the JHOSC had met the previous day, as had the Future Fit Programme Board. Some Members of the JHOSC had raised concerns regarding the programme and noted that the majority of the population of Telford and Wrekin had raised their opposition to the preferred option.

The meeting ended at 16.25pm.

Signed:

Date: