

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MONDAY 7 OCTOBER, 2013 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:
Councillors

Freeman, Miss. M. (Chairman)
Todd, R. (Vice-Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Jones, R.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Pearson, A.
Gamble, B.	Rowley, J.

10. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. A. Allt.

11. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No declarations of interests in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members Interests were made.

12. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 05 August be approved as a correct record and signed.

13. Learning Disability Day Opportunities for Staffordshire – Consultation

The District Commissioning Lead for Cannock Chase was in attendance for this item.

The District Commissioning Lead advised Members of a consultation which was currently being undertaken by Staffordshire County Council in respect of day opportunities in Staffordshire for people with learning disabilities, explaining that the consultation launched on 19 August and contained three different options for consideration:

- Option 1 – No changes to current service provision.
- Option 2 – All services to be provided by third/private sector. Each

current user would be assessed to determine which new service would best suit their needs.

- Option 3 – Some services to be retained, other services outsourced. Specialist staff would continue to support those people with complex needs, and those who were considered to have low or moderate needs would have their support outsourced (this was the County Council's preferred option).

The District Commissioning Lead then explained initial discussions had taken place with users and carers at Chase Day Services prior to the consultation opening, and these had since been followed up with workshops facilitated by the Carers Association for South Staffordshire.

It was then reported that a series drop-in of 'market place' events were going to be held across the County (one in each borough/district), where third/private sector groups and independent providers would be in attendance to provide users and carers with information about what opportunities and services they could access. The event for Cannock District was scheduled to take place on 16 October at Keys Park Conference Centre in Hednesford from 10:00am till 3:00pm.

Members then raised a number of general comments and questions about the consultation:

1. Depending on which option was agreed, care provision in future could be ropey, closure of services was not considered to be 'moving forward'.
2. In respect of option 3, what would happen to someone who was assessed as having only low or moderate needs, but then suffered a rapid deterioration in their health?
3. Concern in this exercise over the vested interest of each group – current providers, future providers, users and carers. Don't know yet who is out there who could provide sustainable services at an affordable price.
4. There was a need to ensure carers and users would be well supported, as it was normally the case that those who were more vocal would receive support first.

The District Commissioning Lead provided the following responses:

1. Still only in the consultation phase, no decisions had yet been taken on which option to select. Concerns had been raised by carers about the small number and type of independent providers within the county, hence the market place events to try and reassure carers.
2. Those individuals who were assessed as having low or moderate needs may be cared for by independent providers, but if their condition was to deteriorate, they would be reassessed.
3. Purpose of the 'market place' events was to allow interested groups to meet with potential providers and better understand the range of services which could be delivered.
4. People in the District who were considered to be 'hidden' from the current services offered (i.e. those who were already well looked after at

home), still required support, so it was important to raise awareness amongst this group of what was available.

Members then raised concerns about the timing of consultation, commenting that it had happened too quickly and commenced at the wrong time of year, that it had been poorly advertised, and information provided about the proposals too vague.

The District Commissioning Lead replied that the consultation had started on 19 August and would be running until November*. Carers and users had been given prior notice that the consultation would be conducted, and other potential options have already been mapped out.

A Member then queried if the consultation was isolated to Staffordshire, or if similar consultations had taken place elsewhere?

The District Commissioning Lead replied that it had happened elsewhere, and the County Council had looked into the impact on those areas concerned.

Members then raised concerns about whether or not assessments of needs were undertaken properly, and who was in place to monitor the work of the assessors.

The District Commissioning Lead responded that the professional assessments were undertaken by social work teams who were led by the County Council's Independent Futures team. In respect of monitoring, a case management system was in place so that cases had to be discussed and signed off by a relevant manager before completion. Furthermore, reviews were conducted on an annual basis or as requested.

Following this, Members raised that depending on which option was chosen, hundreds of people would have to be assessed, so were concerned as to how this would be managed, as they received regular complaints about there being backlogs in the process.

The District Commissioning Lead replied that the process would be no different to the present arrangements, with reviews being conducted on an on-going basis, with those who were considered to be priority cases being assessed first.

Members then queried how many current users were registered with Cannock Day Services.

The District Commissioning Lead replied that there were currently 89 registered, coming from both Cannock and South Staffordshire districts.

The District Commissioning Lead then advised Members she could provide them with information on need, service provision, staff numbers and proposals regarding reviews if needed, to enable them to be better informed about the consultation.

Members agreed that they wished to receive this information, and requested that an additional meeting of the Committee be held before the close of the consultation period, in order to properly consider the information.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Members' strong concerns about the consultation process noted.
- (B) An additional meeting of the Committee be held before the close of the consultation to allow Members to properly consider any relevant paperwork and respond to the consultation accordingly.

**Since the closure of this meeting,, the District Commissioning Lead has advised that the consultation is scheduled to finish on Monday 11 November.*

14. District Health Profile and Draft District Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The District Public Health Development Officer was in attendance for this item.

Members received a presentation from the District Public Health Development Officer and considered the District Health Profile and Draft District Health and Wellbeing Strategy (Items 5.1 – 5.5 and 6.1 – 6.19 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The presentation focussed on a number of key aspects from the Health Profile and Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

- Health Profile
 - 3,500 children classed as living in poverty
 - Lowest life expectancy for both males and females out of all Staffordshire
 - Men in deprived wards lived 6.7 years less than those in least deprived
 - Worse than England average for:
 - Adult and childhood obesity
 - Proportion of healthy eating adults
 - Breast feeding
 - Alcohol specific hospital stays in the under 18s
 - Teenage pregnancy rates
 - GCSE attainment
 - Early deaths from heart disease and stroke had fallen over the past decade
 - Significantly better than England average for:
 - Deprivation
 - Proportion of children in poverty
 - New cases of TB
 - Excess winter deaths
 - Road injuries and deaths

- Health challenges:
 - High levels of health inequality
 - Significant growth of people aged over 65, and in particular over 75
 - High levels of long term conditions in 9 out 15 District Wards
 - Alcohol related harm from hazardous and harmful drinking in the under 18s
 - High rates of teenage pregnancies in some wards
 - Adult obesity
 - Childhood obesity (reception age and Year 6)
 - High prevalence of smoking
 - Reducing the number of early deaths from cancer.
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - Strategy had been developed for the period 2013-2018
 - A partnership approach was taken to develop the strategy, with priorities being identified by a number of different health partners
 - Each locality within the District had its own health challenges, so the strategy aimed to identify where particular challenges had arisen
 - The strategy set out five specific goals to improve health and wellbeing in the District:
 - Reduce health inequalities through targeted interventions
 - Enable people to live independent lives
 - Empower people to make healthy life choices
 - Improve quality of life for vulnerable people
 - Improve communication and access to help, information and support.

Members raised concern with the reported 3,500 children in the District living in poverty and queried what can be done to remove them from this situation.

The District Public Health Development Officer responded that although this figure was better than the national average, it was still 3,500 children too many, and had a direct impact upon other areas such as teenage pregnancies. Removing them from poverty was a difficult challenge, especially in the current climate of unemployment and economic uncertainty.

The Head of Environmental Health informed Members that Staffordshire County Council had been undertaking an intensive support project with approximately 250 families within the District whose children were considered to live in poverty.

Referring to the District Health Profile, Members raised concern over the long-term and ongoing issues of children and young people in relation to obesity, underage drinking and teenage pregnancies, and wanted to know how they were being tackled.

The District Public Health Improvement Officer responded that the Council and

Staffordshire Public Health (SPH) recognised that these problems had to be dealt with, but was not aware if SPH had yet undertaken any relevant commissioning work.

Members then commented on the need to break the problems of unhealthy eating, and were pleased to see it highlighted as a priority area of health improvement.

Members further commented that the Health Profile didn't give an accurate picture of what was happening across the District, as positive changes were not being promoted widely enough, such as increased usage of the Chase Leisure Centre and people generally living a more active and healthy lifestyle compared to a decade ago, although this was balanced out by the fact there were now less activities and opportunities being provided for free than used to be.

The District Public Health Development Officer noted there was a need to make best use of the assets available across the District to promote an active and healthy lifestyle.

The Head of Environmental Health reported that in respect of underage drinking, Staffordshire Police and the County Council's Trading Standards Team had recently undertaken a number of test purchases at licensed premises across the County, and were surprised by the high number of premises which failed the test.

Members raised that in areas where supermarkets and off-licences had removed high alcohol percentage ciders and lagers from sale, there had been a reduction in drunkenness particularly with young people, and that it would be worthwhile making contact with those areas to find out how agreement was reached to remove the items from sale, and what impact this change had, for both the stockists and the purchasers.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation, District Health Profile and Draft District Health and Wellbeing Strategy be noted.

15. Work Programme Update

The Head of Environmental Health advised that he was awaiting updates for two items to be considered at the December meeting of the Committee, and that the District Commissioning Lead would provide an update on the Langbourn development at the March 2014 meeting, rather than December 2013 as originally planned.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted the date of the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 17 December 2013.

The date of the additional meeting would be announced to Members in due course.

The meeting closed at 5:30pm

CHAIRMAN

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER, 2013 AT 4.00 P.M.
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PART 1

PRESENT:

Councillors

Freeman, Miss. M. (Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Jones, R.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Rowley, J.
Gamble, B.	

17. Apologies

None were received

18. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No declarations of interests in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members Interests were made.

19. Learning Disability Day Opportunities for Staffordshire – Consultation

The District Commissioning Lead to provide further information in respect of the Consultation, as requested at the meeting held on 07 October 2013 (Item 3.1 – 3.14)

A presentation was made by the Service Delivery Lead to on the Learning Disability Day Opportunities for Staffordshire with Cannock as the main focal point. As part of the background a brief explanation was given regarding the changes in circumstances between 2010-2013 where there has been a decrease in people with learning disabilities using day services; this has had a knock on effect on the numbers of staff which have decreased; the number of buildings has been reduced; the budget has been reduced.

Option 3 incorporates working with all concerned parents, carers and key workers to ensure a service that meets their needs. Each person would have an individual assessment. There were concerns regarding the personal budget as feedback was suggesting that there was nothing in the market place that would suit their needs. In addition if they received the money would they then be forgotten about and lose the support that they had received.

The commissioning would investigate what partnerships are available and how they could be supported. Match funding could be made available through the small capital fund for such schemes for example for appropriate facilities.

Within Cannock there are 475 people who have learning disabilities of these 30% would not meet the eligibility criteria if were applied in the strictest sense.

Members commented that the eligibility criteria were constantly changing which would mean that different people at different times would not meet the criteria or have access to the service.

The Service Delivery Lead officer reported that in years gone by the eligibility criteria had not been adhered to strictly. Other Local Authorities had acted similarly, however, many of them had now brought their services in line with the eligibility criteria. The Service Delivery Lead Officer assured Members that the eligibility criteria was not being changed at the moment but Members needed to understand that some users may have been put in the day service as a default many years ago when there was not the choice available to them that there is now. Ideally what the service should be providing is choice for the service user allowing them the capacity to decide on the services that best suit them. In order for this to work the balance must be right between responsibility, choice and independence.

It was reported that Chase Day Service currently provides care for 87 people. These 87 can be split into different learning categories.

- Complex needs – these people would need support to work towards an in-house opportunity for a different type of building/model and would remain with our service.
- Moderate need – these would remain with the service but there overall needs may be met differently
- Low need – these are the ones that strictly do not meet eligibility criteria but because they have used the service for a number of years they would still receive some support
- However some are in private residential homes and as such are paying twice for a service
- A small number are in Brunswick House and have longer term needs and do not go to a day centre but still need the support of their family and friends.

The Consultation started in August and did not go as well as anticipated as some of the people thought that there would be more definitive work already undertaken. The consultation meetings lasted between 1-2 hours to give people the chance to view their concerns and allow for people to vent their anger and frustration. They were then given the chance to feed into what they wanted for a service.

Some family carers kept their children away from the meetings as they were worried that it would upset them due to the uncertainty of the way the service was being modernised. They were worried that their children would be

confused.

The Community Connecting Post was deemed as very important as these are support workers that liaise with the people who have stopped going to the day service. These support workers know the families and continue to keep the contact with the family. In Cannock there are two community connect workers who are very proactive.

Within the consultation groups discussions took place as to how a market place could be created that suited the needs of the community and met the safeguarding guidelines. If people were in poor accommodation which in turn was run by staff that were not trained to a high standard then the people using the accommodation would have a poor experience and low expectations. These wider consultations were aimed at trying to find ways to deliver alternative options and invited outside influencers; families; wider stakeholders to be part of the discussion. If these events were successful then they could be run on an annual basis to support people coming through the transition.

Where people wanted to do things differently they would be supported.

Approximately 25-30 formal consultations took place. This meant that these were conducted on a one to one basis with families where they did not want to interact with a large group. Through this people who were heading to crisis were able to be identified and helped through support plans if it meant that they could no longer care anymore.

Where people were in day services if assessed and reviewed they could be helped to develop opportunities around employment. If people were in work placements or paid employment then it would be necessary to interact with job coaches with the potential to support people out of the day service.

With the introduction of the personal budget many people had not understood what this meant to them. Some of the people could still receive a mixed package, others may access other opportunities and some may be able to live independently.

Over the years times and trends had changed with new opportunities being developed. If the service was left as it was then there would be a risk that people would miss out on opportunities that may help them.

It was acknowledged that there had been poor practice with some the services and it must be remembered that these people are vulnerable adults and need safeguarding. The commissioner's role would be to ensure that the right balance was being struck. Providers should be spot checked and assessed. Key workers should be able to check that the money was being used correctly. People using the service should have proper information and advice which should be given in a timely manner to help them make any decisions needed. Having access to education, training and a social life should be seen as important influencers on what service is required.

Looking at the data that is being brought forward it shows that additional capacity had to be built in as it showed a trend of more people with complex needs coming through the system eg Aspergers and Autism.

A market place could not be created over night and that at the moment there is not a market place that would enable proper learning based facilities for people with complex learning disabilities.

Some people through independent living would have greater choice and would be more in control of their own destiny.

Members questioned whether during the consultation the Officers had encountered difficulties in other localities. The officer responded that they had not encountered these kinds of difficulties in other localities. The Members understood that something needed doing but questioned how the service had been allowed to get to this stage. The Officer replied that Staffordshire was the seventh largest Shire County and that it was one of the few remaining ones that still provided an in-house service. Many of the other Shires had moved their services on through personalisation.

Members queried the new market place whereby private companies would come in and take on the service and how they would be regulated. The Officer explained that a framework was needed to work with the providers which would enable them to be regulated.

Members discussed the issue of the Chase Day Centre and what it would mean for the service users. The Officer explained that some of the buildings that were in use were not practicable as they were big and old; the needs of the service users had changed over the last thirty or so years; direct payments were now available with some service users not using the money at all; Commissioners would be able to spot check the services and ensure value for money and safeguarding criteria were being met. The Officer assured the Members that the service users with the most complex needs would remain under the Local Authority who would provide the service that they required.

Members commented that at one event in Hednesford services users were not accessing the services provided as they were too costly. Members enquired whether any service provider had come forward following the events in the Cannock area. The Officer replied that there were 3 service providers already operation in the Cannock area within the current pricing system. Another provider had subsequently made contact regarding setting up a service. They acknowledged that people had been concerned about the affordability of the services that the private sector would provide. However, no private sector services would be involved with the 13 complex needs service users as these would all be looked after in-house.

Examples were given of other areas where large old buildings had been used and the services had now moved to smaller buildings that were either purpose built and could easily be adapted.

A Member queried the cost of the Management structure to provide this service. The Officer agreed to find out the cost and report back. The Members questioned whether these options had been brought forward and the consultation on the premise of saving money. The Officer explained that it was not just about saving money but being more cost effective; to provide better outcomes for people; sharing the accountability and valuing people.

The Officers were excused from the meeting and thanked for their time.

The Members discussed the relative merits of the consultation and the three options that had been presented. The Members agreed to Option three being the preferred option with a caveat that the service should be reviewed after six months and reported back regularly there after:

RESOLVED

That Option 3 was the preferred option with the caveat that the service should be reviewed after six months and reported back to the Committee regularly there after.

20. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted the date of the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 17 December 2013.

The meeting closed at 6pm

CHAIRMAN