

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

A meeting of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel was held on Wednesday, 1 September 2021.

PRESENT: Councillors J Platt (Chair), G Wilson (Vice-Chair), D Coupe, D Davison, D Jones, G Purvis, D Rooney and J Walker.

OFFICERS: S Bonner, C Lunn and E Scollay.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Z Uddin.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

MINUTES - ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - 7 JULY 2021

The minutes of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 7 July 2021 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

INTEGRATION OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE - VERBAL UPDATE

The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration provided Members with an update regarding the integration of Health and Social Care. Particular focus was given towards work currently taking place nationally around the transformation of NHS structures; the following points were made:

- Locally, Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) would be dissolved and a new Integrated Care System (ICS) implemented next year. Middlesbrough would fall under the North East and Cumbria ICS, a much larger geographical footprint than at present. It was highlighted that this presented opportunity and very good relationships with partners had been developed to date. Reference was made to a recent multi-agency meeting that had been held to discuss potential operation of the system across the Tees Valley area once implemented. It was highlighted that the appointment of the Chair of the ICS had had a very positive impact on opening up improved communications with partners.
- Work on the local footprint and determining the most appropriate operational methods was paramount. This work, which would look at key governance arrangements, would be undertaken with partners across the Tees Valley. Meetings were being established by the Managing Director of Redcar and Cleveland Council in supporting this work. The key question for Local Authorities and partners to ask concerned the types of issues where control, at local level, would be most sought. Additional work, looking at such matters as work force, finances, etc., was taking place in parallel to this.

During the discussion that followed, Members raised a number of queries with the Director. In response, the following information was provided:

- In terms of the types of issues that Local Authorities would wish to exert control, it was explained that there was a little uncertainty around this at present. Consideration had been given to economies of scale and the operation of services as part of a wider geographical footprint. It was felt important to retain as much control as possible over the direction of funding locally. Reference was made to preventative work and ensuring sufficient investment within this area in order to build resilience and tackle long term challenges. Ensuring a good and formal relationship with the Primary Care Network (PCN) was also a key objective. Some matters would be determined statutorily by Ministers and others at ICS level. The importance of ensuring a collective position and voice for the Tees Valley with negotiations / the ICS was highlighted.
- In terms of Member representation on associated Boards / Committees, the Panel was advised that there would be discussion regarding Local Authority representation

in due course. It was commented that working relationships with the Directors of the CCGs was excellent and the success of this initiative would depend on the quality of relationships going forward. Negotiations were currently taking place, but the feeling locally was that progress had been positive.

- With regards to local representation on a regional scale and ensuring that the ICS was representative of all areas of the North East, it was unknown at present as to what the arrangements for regional headquarters would be; resources would be spread across the patch. It was commented that the ICS was concerned with how funding could be expended more effectively within the NHS. Work was currently being undertaken to determine how the Tees Valley could be best represented, and to identify local area priorities in relation to the overall priorities of the NHS. Mention was made of the health and social challenges currently being faced within the Tees Valley.
- In terms of the resources available to support the work currently taking place, Members heard that, at present, a relatively small number of individuals were involved locally, but it was working well.
- In respect of engagement with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), it was explained to the Panel that the VCS was an important component of the ICS and would enter into the planning process later; statutory partners were being discussed at present. It was felt that the VCS held data that could support the ICS well.
- Regarding responsibility and decision-making for individual care arrangements, Local Authorities would still have pre-existing duties under the Care Act for such matters as assessment, arranging and charging for care. Consideration was given to individuals receiving NHS support through Continuing Healthcare and the roles of the local CCGs and North East Commissioning Support (NECS) within that both now and in the future. With regards to high cost care placements and dispute resolution, it was unclear at present as to which body would need to be approached initially in terms of the appeals process. The importance of preparation and planning to meet the needs of local people, and effective working with other authorities to strengthen the voice of the Tees Valley, was reiterated to Members.
- In terms of the impact of the changes on local scrutiny arrangements, further information in respect of this was awaited. A Member referred to the current South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee arrangements and queried how these would integrate into the new ICS. The view was that health scrutiny arrangements would not be impacted by the reforms; in terms of joint scrutiny, it was felt that further consideration would need to be undertaken in due course.

The Chair thanked the Director for the information presented.

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ADULT DAY CARE SERVICES - VERBAL UPDATE

The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration provided Members with a verbal update regarding adult day care services / provision; the following points were made:

- The Council operated a number of forms of day care, which was a purposeful activity provided in response to identified / assessed social care needs.
- Day care for younger individuals acted as a dual function in that it provided purposeful activity for the individual, whilst also providing respite for parents / carers to allow them to attend work, etc.
- Two streams of day care were currently operated: in-house day care and specialist provision. In-house day care was delivered by Local Authority staff in Local Authority facilities and there were three aspects to this:
 - Community Inclusion – support was currently provided at Cumberland Resource Centre (learning disability provision), the Pavilion at the Park (learning disability provision) and Sandringham House (autism provision);
 - The Orchard, which was a partnership between the Local Authority and Tees, Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) Mental Health Trust, provided specialist day care primarily for younger adults; and
 - North Ormesby Resource Centre, which provided an older persons day centre and a dementia focused day centre.

- With regards to the private sector, the Council currently contracted ten providers to support individuals, predominantly in respect of learning disability provision.

In terms of service provision and the impact of COVID-19, the following points were made:

- During the initial stages of the pandemic and upon entering the first spike in cases, decisions concerning the closure / suspension of day care services were taken in response to the statistics provided by the government.
- Since this time, all efforts have been made to remain as flexible as possible. For example: in instances where individuals could not enter day care services, staff provided support in domestic settings to ensure that both purposeful and social contact was maintained.
- There had been periods of opening / closing facilities in line with government directives, but day care provision had now resumed and was operating well. Reference was made to the progress achieved in terms of operational changes, including in relation to risk assessments, PPE, operation of bubbles and lateral flow and PCR testing, which had been implemented with assistance from infection control experts, Contracts and Commissioning officers and others.
- In some of the units, operating capacity had reduced relatively slightly. Some individuals had opted not to return to day care; others had sadly passed away during the period, although this was largely related to the turnover of individuals utilising day care and dementia and older peoples' units, as opposed to necessarily being a direct consequence of COVID-19.
- The next step would be to resume services for those individuals living in residential care and attending day care in different settings.
- In terms of statistics, it was highlighted that there had been a marginal reduction in the number of individuals on the roll accessing day care across community settings. Prior to the pandemic there were 259 people on the roll; this currently sat at 190. In terms of capacity to accept individuals across the various sites per day, prior to the pandemic this number was 172; currently this was 141. It was indicated, however, that this was not causing any acute problems.

During the discussion that followed, Members raised a number of queries with the Director. In response, the following information was provided:

- Transport services had now resumed.
- With regards to the ten contracted providers, these were predominantly Middlesbrough-based and were as follows: Aapna Day Care Service for Older People – Milan; Autism Matters; Camphill Village Trust; Earthbeat Theatre Company; Just a Job; The Robin Centre; Teesside Ability Support Centre (TASC); Tees Valley Asian Welfare Forum Limited (TVAWF Ltd); Yatton House Society; and Young Persons Activity Group at Community Integrated Care.
- Regarding the statistics provided, it was explained that some individuals attended day care once per week, others three days and in some instances five days, although five days was unusual. There were limitations on numbers at the present time owing to COVID-19 restrictions.
- In terms of the fluidity of the COVID-19 situation, Members were advised that guidance was in place; advice provided by the government would be carefully monitored and responded to accordingly.

The Chair thanked the Director for the information presented.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD UPDATE

The Chair provided a verbal update on the matters that were considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 28 July 2021.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 13 OCTOBER 2021

The next meeting of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel had been scheduled for 13 October 2021.

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