

Time started 6.00pm
Time finished 8.49pm

**ADULT SERVICES AND HEALTH COMMISSION
29 OCTOBER 2007**

Present: Councillor Marshall (Chair)
Councillors Ahern, Baxter, Hird, Hussain, Leeming, Skelton, Turner
and Webb
Pat Hill and Elaine Jackson

29/07 Apologies for Absence

Cllr S Khan

30/07 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items

31/07 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Webb declared a personal interest in Item 36/07 and Councillor Ahern declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Items 38/07 and 42/07.

32/07 Minutes

The minutes of the Adult Services and Health Commission meeting held on 3 September 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

33/07 Call-In

There were no call-ins.

Items for Discussion

**34/07 Derby Hospitals Foundation Trust Performance
Rating**

The Adult Services and Health Commission received a presentation from Di Prescott and Kay Fawcett on the Foundation Trusts Performance Rating. It was noted that the annual rating was made up from several elements and that the existing standards had been met and an excellent rating had been gained for resources.

Members raised concerns that there were no childcare facilities on the site. It was noted that there were currently two nurseries but a larger site was planned when the City Hospital was fully developed.

Members thanked the representatives for attending and for the good work.

Resolved to note the presentation.

35/07 Adult Social Services Budget Review

The Adult Services and Health Commission considered a report from its Chair that identified increasing pressures on the Adult Social Services Budget and the projected overspend for this year to exceed £3m. The Commission also considered a financial report from the Corporate Director, Corporate and Adult Social Services which explained:

- the financial pressures currently facing Adult Social Services
- how and why these pressures have risen
- the comparison information in terms of budget and performance
- the actions currently being taken to control the pressures
- the projected outturn and likely impact in 08/09 and 09/10.

It was reported highlighted 3 key pressure areas, Home Care Services with projected overspend of £2.254m, Residential Care – Adults with Mental Health Needs with a projected overspend of £647,000 and staffing with a projected overspend of £563,000.

It was stated that Derby is the second lowest spending Council on Adult Social Services in their comparator group but despite one of the lowest levels of funding they are one of the best performers in terms of performance indicators.

The Senior Assistant Director, Corporate and Adult Social Services reported that a key point about the future was that there was a change in peoples expectations and most people wanted to stay at home for which there needed to be a good level and quality of service. An important area that needed further funding was dementia support, which needed priority over and above the service currently being provided and a standstill budget would potentially mean a deterioration in the service being provided.

Members raised concerns about the level of dementia care that could be provided in people own homes. It was noted that that as part of the budget strategy there should be a plan to address the growing needs of dementia care.

Members noted that Derby was not getting its full allocation of Government grant due to Damping system. It was recommended that the Council should encourage

the Local Government Association to support its case for fair allocation of funding and also to lobby government to increase funding for older people services.

It was reported that in previous years the budget had been balanced by the whole authorities under spend, which did cause concern for the future.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Services welcomed the Commissions comments but reported that the Commission needed to recognise that no-one had been denied a place in a care home and that the Cabinet were pressing the Government for further assistance as it was noted that additional resources were needed.

Resolved to request that Cabinet:

- 1. makes Adult Social Services a high priority and funds the service appropriately;**
- 2. investigates reintroducing charges for home care services;**
- 3. does not raise the eligibility threshold from moderate to substantial to address the budgetary pressures;**
- 4. seeks support from the Local Government Association to minimise the effect of the Damping system and lobby's the Government to make more resources available for adult social services;**
- 5. Reviews the Adult Social Services staffing budget and moves toward setting the budget on actual costs in line with other departments of the Council rather than on mid point salary scales.**

36/07 Day Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities

The Adult Services and Health Commission considered a report from its Chair in response to a letter from a member of the newly formed Derby Families and Carers of Adult Persons with Learning Difficulties group. The letter suggested the Council has a different interpretation of the Government White paper on Day Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities and asks members of the Commission to investigate how the modernisation of the Learning Disability Day Service in Derby is being conducted. The Commission received a report of the Head of Learning Disability Services.

Resolved to note the report.

37/07 Progress report on Developing Links

The Adult Services and Health Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services regarding the development of local involvement networks. It was noted that LINKs formed one aspect of the

government's plans to widen and strengthen patient, user and citizen engagement. The timescale to procure a host was limited and funding would not be disclosed until later in the year

Resolved to support the planned development of the local LINK in Derby City.

38/07 Consultation on the Proposed Closure of Bramblebrook House

The Adult Services and Health Commission considered its final report in response to the possible closure of Bramblebrook House. The Commission had received evidence from variety of sources including older people and relatives of the residents of Bramblebrook House. Evidence shows that older people increasingly want to live independently with dignity, and prefer to have on suite facilities, freedom to cook what they like and when they like and to have complete control to their front doors. The Commission felt that none of our existing residential homes provided all of these facilities and were therefore not fit for purpose. The Commission found that a significant numbers of older people and in some cases up to 50% of the residents in our homes have signs of dementia but we have only 12 places in our secure unit. There are other gaps such as no extra care and insufficient respite care and with the continued increase in older people's population the Commission felt that we need to reorganise services to meet this growing need.

The Commission accepted that there was a case for the closure of one home but did not believe that Bramblebrook should be the first to close. The Commission heard that vacancies in residential homes tend to fluctuate and in September 2007 there were a total of 97 vacancies. However, of these there were only 34 vacancies in care homes without nursing both in the in-house and independent sector combined. It felt that whichever home closes, it will have significant impact on its residents.

The Commission felt that the consultation on the closure of Bramblebrook was premature as it is not convinced that this should be the first home to be closed. Bramblebrook has recently been modernised and there are other homes which are in far worse physical condition which should be considered first.

The Commission felt that should the Council Cabinet decide to close a home, the closure should not be carried out quickly. Anecdotal evidence shows that closure places great amount of stress on the residents affected which can be exacerbated by placing a deadline and rushing people to move on.

Resolved to report to Cabinet that:

1. **The Commission accepts there is a case for closure of one home but does not believe this should be Bramblebrook as it has recently been modernised and there are other homes in far worse condition;**
2. **Should the Council Cabinet decide to close a home, this should not be carried out quickly because closures place great amount of stress on the residents affected who should be given the time and support they need to find suitable alternative homes;**
3. **The Council should retain a strategic level of in-house provision as experience shows that fees in the independent sector can rise dramatically if there is no competition;**
4. **There seems to be significant nervousness in people wishing to be placed in the independent sector and therefore Council should work alongside care providers to promote the positive attributes of independent sector.**

39/07 PPI Forum referral - Dentistry

The Commission considered a referral from the Derby PCT Patient and Public Involvement Forum on public lack of access to dental services. According to the Forum majority of the cases dealt with by the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) involve patient inability to access NHS dentists. A letter from the PPI Forum stated that 61% of enquires relate to the difficulty in accessing NHS dentists. Members were reminded that the following a request Commission had received a presentation a Consultant in Dental Public Health for Derbyshire in July 2005. The Commission had asked for information how NHS dental services including:

- Oral health of the residents in the city and how it compares with other cities in the region
- Dental health of children and vulnerable groups
- Promotion of oral health and preventative work being carried by the PCT's
- Access to NHS dental health services in the city for routine, occasional and out of hours treatment
- Number of dental practices offering NHS services and those accepting new patients.

Resolved to undertake a short review of public access to dental health services in the city

40/07 Identify items for Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items identified.

41/07 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

There were no items.

42/07 Responses of the Council Cabinet/Health Bodies
to any Reports of the Commission

The Adult Services and Health Commission noted the response of the Council Cabinet.

43/07 Matters referred to the Commission by Council
Cabinet

There were no items.

MINUTES END