

# ITEM 4

Time started	6.00pm
Time finished	8.39pm

## **ADULT SERVICES AND HEALTH COMMISSION 03 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Present: Councillor Marshall (in the Chair)  
Councillors Ahern, Baxter, Hird, S Khan, Leeming, Skelton  
and Webb

Co-opted Members: Elaine Jackson

### **14/07 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Pat Hill.

### **15/07 Late Items Introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items

### **16/07 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Ahern declared a personal interest in Item no. 19/07 and a personal and prejudicial interest in Item no. 24/07.

### **17/07 Minutes**

The minutes of the Adult Services and Health Commission meeting held on 16 July 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **18/07 Call-In**

There were no call-ins.

## **Items for Discussion**

### **19/07 Mental Health Services Reconfigurations**

The Commission considered a report on the proposals for the substantial reconfiguration of Psychological Therapies Services and consolidation of wards at the Kingsway site by the Derbyshire Mental Health Services Trust. The Commission members had previously felt that there had been insufficient information to conclude a review and had requested further information from the

Trust. There was additional information on the two proposals and further information submitted by the Trade Unions in response to the proposed changes to the Psychological Therapies Services.

Members raised concerns that the Trust had not carried out a consultation to ensure that services would be improved for the residents. It was also noted that the staff grading would be reduced which members were unhappy with. Letters of support for the Trade Unions position have been received from practitioners from the surrounding counties which have been should be consulted with and that the Commission.

**Resolved to agree the recommendations in the report as set out below:**

- 1. The Commission believed that both proposals were major reconfigurations as they affected a substantial number of current and future patients. The Trust had been informed of this position prior to the evidence gathering meeting held on 20 July and it reiterated this again.**
- 2. Making structural changes was not easy and could have had major implications for the services and therefore was not to be taken lightly. The Trust should seek to involve people at an early stage particularly those people who would be directly affected by the changes such as staff and patients and seek to get the structures right the first time otherwise it could result in unwanted consequences such as demoralising staff, alienating patients. The Commission therefore recommends that the Trust undertakes consultation with all its major stakeholders including the staff and seriously considers their response before adopting the final structure. Although the lead on consultation for major changes is now being taken by the Primary Care Trusts, the Trusts still has an important role to play in the process.**
- 3. The Trust has a duty under the Health and Social Care Act 2001 to consult patients and public on changes to its services separate from the duty to consult the O&S Committee. The Commission is disappointed that the Trust does not have a written consultation strategy, especially as since the Board accepted the Commission's previous recommendations contained in the Reconfiguration of Mental Health Services Report in 2005. The Commission recommends the Trust adopts a consultation strategy as matter of priority.**
- 4. The Trust needs to give assurances that the changes in the structure will not reduce the quality and access of services for people in the city below the current level.**

- 5. There is a gap in post-letting support which affects patients and their neighbours as evidenced by Derby Homes. The Commission recommends continued partnership working and regular transfer of information to minimise future problems in post letting.**

## **20/07      Derby Older People's Plan**

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Services on the Derby Older People's Plan. The plan covered seven major areas to prepare for an ageing population and set out key priorities to ensure older people lived healthy and fulfilled lives. The plan was currently going through a 12 week consultation process.

Members expressed concern over transport issues and accessibility for older people and people with disabilities when the new Westfield Shopping Centre opened. It was noted that transport was a key issue in the City and officers were looking into improving this.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## **21/07      Older Persons Housing Strategy**

The Commission considered a report from the Assistant Director of Housing and Advice Services on the Older Persons Housing Strategy. The Strategy provided a local framework for the future direction of housing and housing support related solutions for older people, regardless of tenure. The implementation of the strategy was detailed in an action plan, which would run from 2007-2010. It would allow for flexibility to adapt to changing needs, trends and legislation.

Members noted that properties with adaptations were being lived in by persons without a need for them, and consequently further adaptations were being required in more properties across the City. It was noted that the officers were currently working on a database of properties with adaptations to ensure the properties are allocated effectively in the future.

Members asked whether there were future plans to reinstate warden controlled living within the City. It was noted that as a target for the next 3 years it was intended that 240 independent living units would be built in the City which would increase the options for older people. Support would continue to be provided from the Care and Repair service for people who wished to stay in their own homes.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## 22/07 Consultation on the Proposed Closure of Bramblebrook House

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Services on the Council Cabinets option appraisal report for Residential Homes for Older People 2007/08. It was reported that the demand for residential care was falling and reduced demand meant the overall vacancy rate in the Council-owned eight residential homes was increasing. The independent sector had also reported a slowdown in demand over time. The options were considered at Cabinet on 31 July with the main proposal to seek the closure of Bramblebrook House. A consultation process was agreed which would end on 29 October.

Members expressed concerns that the need for care homes was not decreasing and that many new private homes were being built around the City. Members questioned whether the reason for selecting this site was that it would provide the most capital for the plot.

The Cabinet Lead for Adult Services commented that future trends showed less people needed traditional residential care and that unfortunately local authorities were unable to provide nursing care. It was felt that older people preferred to stay in their own homes and receive support which was becoming easier to provide with improving technology. It was noted that there had been interest received in buying the plot as a growing concern.

Members noted that as this was a sensitive issue a detailed review would take place and that the response would be available at the next meeting. The review would include the views of the users and their families of Bramblebrook.

**Resolved to carry out a review on the proposed closure of Bramblebrook House.**

## 23/07 Performance Management

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Services on the Performance Indicators falling within the remit of the Commission during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2007/08. It was reported that of the 19 indicators, 11 were green, five were amber and one was red. The Council had started a new process for monitoring and managing underperformance led by the Performance and Change Management Team. The process involved Cabinet Members reviewing the performance of a selected number of indicators within their respective remits at performance surgeries.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## 24/07 Direct Payments

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Services on Direct Payments which was considered at Cabinet on 3 July. Direct Payments was a payment that allowed service users to directly purchase and manage the care provision they required. This could be purchased from an independent care provider or personal assistant. The report detailed changes in hourly rates for people receiving Direct Payments which proposed a reduction in the hourly rate from £10.20 to £9.00 where service users employed a personal assistant and an increase from £10.20 to £10.52 where services users purchased care from a care agency.

Members noted that as Derby was one of the best performing authorities in the country in delivering Direct Payments, the reduction in hourly rates could have an adverse influence on number of users taking up Direct Payments. The increase of 32p per hour to the care agencies would most likely be absorbed by the agencies as part of their profits and any benefit of the increase was unlikely to be passed on to service users.

Concern was expressed that the savings from the reduction in the hourly rates for Personal Assistants would not have a major impact on the growing budget deficit in Adult Social Services and that other options could be considered to control the growing budget deficit.

The Commission welcomed the announcement by the Cabinet Member for Adult Services that protection would be offered to users who had already entered into contracts and could get into financial difficulty.

**Resolved to refer the Commissions comments to Council Cabinet asking Cabinet to review the hourly rates offered to personal assistants and care agencies as part of Direct Payments to make them compatible to ensure users get the service they need.**

## **25/07      Retrospective Scrutiny**

Members asked for an update on the aids and adaptations waiting list.

## **26/07      Council Cabinet Forward Plan**

There were no items.

## **27/07      Responses of the Council Cabinet/Health Bodies to any Reports of the Commission**

There were no items.

28/07      Matters referred to the Commission by Council  
Cabinet/Council Cabinet Members

There were no items.

MINUTES END