

At a meeting of the ADULT SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2008 at 2.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Timmins in the Chair

Councillor G. Hall and Leadbitter

Also Present:-

Neil Revely	-	Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services
Graham King	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Pauline Blyth	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Joanne Thynne	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
John Fisher	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Norma Hardy	-	Children's Services
Martin Barry	-	City Solicitor's
Debbie Burnicle	-	Sunderland TPCT
Tricia Doyle	-	Headlight Mental Health
Alan Patchett	-	Age Concern
Carol Harries	-	City Hospitals
Paul Smith	-	
Gill Charman	-	Physical Disability Alliance
Lesley Lane	-	ESPA

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P. Watson, Councillor Anderson, Julie Gray, Russell Patton, Ernie Thompson, Andrew Stewart and Ailsa Martin.

Receipt of Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

14. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Board held on 17 September 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

The Case for Change – Sunderland’s Response

At the last meeting of the Board, Members received a presentation on the Green Paper ‘The Case for Change – Why England needs a new care and support system’ and discussed how they might respond to the consultation.

A draft response had been drawn up and circulated to Members for comment and this had been amended to include the views of the Board. Comments could be submitted for a further week and then a final version would be distributed to the Board Members.

It was hoped that the response would accurately reflect the work done and discussions which had taken place. The Council’s Health and Well-Being Review Committee had also established a sub-group to look at the Green Paper. The Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services advised that he had also fed some comments in through discussion with the new Minister for social care, Phil Hope and the Department of Health at a recent regional event he chaired.

Neil Revely also commented that it would be useful to get younger people involved in the consultation process as the implications of the Green Paper would fall on future generations. Councillor Timmins agreed that it would be very useful to talk to young people about the document.

Councillor Hall stated that the response was very good and covered a lot of areas. He drew particular attention to the issue of finances and commented that it was not helpful to create an environment where people disposed of their savings before they needed to access care services. Councillor Timmins added that the 15 year plan was about prevention and it supported this point. It was about helping people to be both physically and financially healthy.

Following discussion, it was:-

15. RESOLVED that subject to any further comments from Members of the Board, the response be agreed and submitted as part of the national consultation.

50+ Strategy Consultation

Pauline Blyth, Head of Business Support and Workforce Development and Alan Patchett of Older People’s Partnership Action Group made a presentation to the Board on ‘Looking Forward to the Future: A Strategy for the 50+ Population of Sunderland’.

Phase 1 of the Strategy had set out the Council’s contribution to the 50+ agenda as a community leader, a deliverer and commissioner of services and as a major employer. The second phase has been the development of a full strategy with the following purpose:-

- To contribute to achieving the vision for Sunderland, by setting out a citywide approach to responding to the needs and aspirations of the 50+ population in Sunderland;
- To recognise and promote with partners the contribution that this age group can make to the health, social and economic well-being of the City;
- To address the inequality and discrimination that the 50+ population experience on the basis of their age and improve their quality of life;
- To challenge and change the perception that older people are a burden to society and instead see them as a source of wisdom, experience and talent; and
- To support the City in its ambition to become an Age Friendly City.

The 50+ Strategy will link in with the aims of the Sunderland Strategy and many aspects of it feature directly or indirectly in other Council strategies. Alan Patchett added that the Older People's Partnership Action Group did not have the ability to take forward the agenda alone and it needed to be done in partnership. Financial security was very important to enable people to plan for later life so they could be self reliant and it was hoped that the strategy would help individuals and organisations to take this forward. The strategy would also be important for breaking down the barriers between generations and the development of an age friendly City would be positive for every citizen in Sunderland.

Graham King highlighted that Joanne Thynne had done a lot of work to link the 50+ Strategy with the 15 Year Strategy and Three Year Delivery Plan so that the work was complementary.

Councillor Hall made reference to volunteering and that older people could bring a wealth of experience and discipline to the role and welcomed the Strategy as a means of engaging older people.

Norma Hardy highlighted some of the similarities with the Children and Young People's Plan and suggested that it may be useful to link discussions together around the accountability of the Local Strategic Partnership for the aims set out in the documents.

Following discussion, it was:-

16. RESOLVED that the draft 50+ Strategy be received and noted.

World Class Commissioning – Update

Debbie Burnicle, Assistant Head of Commissioning and Reform, Sunderland TPCT presented a report updating the Board on the World Class Commissioning (WCC) Programme recently launched by the Department for Health (DoH).

The DoH has set out an ambitious vision for commissioning to help people live longer and have a better quality of life. The outcomes to be achieved are:-

- Better health and well-being, e.g. living longer;
- Better care for all, e.g. more personable care;
- Better value for all, e.g. informed investment decisions.

WCC will be achieved by giving practitioners the skills, behaviour and knowledge to commission effectively. Commissioning will be assured by reviewing three key areas of health outcomes and quality, competencies and governance. A scorecard will be produced at the end of the assurance process but will not be published by the DoH in the first year. The expectation is that few, if any, PCTs will score highly in the first year as this is an ambitious programme with high standards. As PCTs progress, the standards will be raised in order to stretch performance and raise ambitions. The assurance will take place every three years with annual reviews.

The Commissioning Team and Board is responsible for keeping an overview of the programme and work is being undertaken with other PCTs and Strategic Health Authorities where appropriate.

Councillor Timmins commented that commissioning was an important tool to achieve cultural changes and influence lifestyles. This was illustrated by life expectancy differences and how services available to men were presented. Debbie Burnicle advised that the PCT were working on some social marketing for this at the present time.

Councillor Hall highlighted that support from peers can be beneficial in encouraging men to discuss health issues and Debbie Burnicle reported that a cancer survivor pilot which helps survivors develop skills for peer support had been very successful.

In response to a query about competencies around partnership working and needs assessments, Debbie advised that it was her understanding that the information would be shared in the Sunderland locality. Councillor Timmins added that this emphasised the need for partners to talk to each other.

Upon discussion, it was:-

17. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Safeguarding Adults – Consultation

The Head of Performance, Commissioning and Change submitted a report outlining the consultation on the review of the 'No Secrets' guidance and asking the Board to consider responding.

There are three main reasons for the review of the No Secrets guidance:-

1. The major changes in the Government's vision of the kind of society it envisages for the future;

2. There are weaknesses in the implementation of the No Secrets guidance and various parts need to be reviewed and strengthened; and
3. It has been suggested that there is a need for legislative powers in the area of safeguarding.

The consultation period ends on 31 January 2009. A response is being co-ordinated by the Safeguarding Adults Team within Health, Housing and Adult Services and they will be engaging a wide range of stakeholders through the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board.

The Adult Social Care Partnership Board noted that the Safeguarding Adults Board was multi-agency and would reflect a wide range of views from partners but did not have representation from elected Members. It was felt that the Adult Social Care Partnership Board should have the opportunity to look at the response drawn up and identify if there were any gaps in it. Graham King would circulate information to the Board and arrange a workshop outside of the meeting to formulate a response.

18. RESOLVED that the Adult Social Care Partnership Board respond to the consultation on the review of the 'No Secrets' Guidance.

Carer's Strategy – Update on Progress

The Head of Performance, Commissioning and Change submitted a report presenting the draft Carer's Strategy and outlining the consultation process.

The consultation period will run from January to March 2009. Carers will be asked to comment on five key questions:-

1. Do you agree with the Vision for carers?
2. Do you agree with the 13 outcomes that we have identified to enable carers to realise an ordinary life?
3. If you do not agree with any of the outcomes, what would you like to see changed?
4. Is there anything missing in the Strategy or the outcomes that you would like to see included?
5. Do you think that it is clear how we will achieve the Vision for carers?

Following the end of the consultation period, feedback will be sent out to all those who took part and the Strategy will be updated, where appropriate. The Strategy will be formally launched during Carers Week in 2009.

19. RESOLVED that the report will be received for information and the consultation process agreed.

(Signed) E. TIMMINS,
Chairman.