

At a meeting of the ADULT SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD held in the CIVIC CENTRE (COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 1), SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY 12 JULY 2011 at 2.30 pm.

Present:-

Councillor Dave Allan (Chairman)	- Sunderland City Council
Councillor Tony Morrissey	- Sunderland City Council
Karen Graham	- Office of the Chief Executive
Nicola Morrow	- Health, Housing and Adult Services
Graham King	- Health, Housing and Adult Services
Ailsa Martin	- Voice for Carers
Gill Charman	- Disabilities Alliance, Sunderland
Don Stronach	- Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
Gill Lawson	- Health, Housing and Adult Services
Julie Marshall	- Age UK, Sunderland
Tricia Doyle	- Headlight

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P. Smith, Trueman and P. Watson and Victoria French Carol Harries, Graham Burt, Sandra Mitchell, Jean Carter, Gillian Gibson, Alan Patchett, Neil Revely and Martin Barry.

Minutes

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Fairer Care Funding: The report of the Commission on Funding of Care and Support

The Board considered a report by the Head of Strategic Commissioning to provide a briefing on the Commission's report into funding of care and support.

Graham King introduced the report and advised that the Commission on Funding Care and Support was set up by the Government to make recommendations on how to achieve a fair, affordable and sustainable system for funding adult social care in England. It proposes a partnership model in which costs are shared between the state and individuals who have sufficient means.

The review made the following main recommendations.

1. A cap on the lifetime contribution of individuals to their social care costs (residential or home care) – the review suggests a range between £25,000 and £50,000 and proposes £35,000. Once they have paid this amount, individuals would be eligible for full support from the state.
2. For residential care, the level of assets which people should be able to retain while being eligible for full state funding should increase from £23,250 to £100,000.
3. People with care and support needs from childhood cannot be expected to plan for their future care needs and should be eligible for free state support.
4. Universal disability benefits for people of all ages should continue, but the government should consider how to align benefits with the social care funding system and Attendance Allowance should be re-branded to clarify its purpose.
5. People should contribute a standard amount to cover their food and accommodation in residential care - £7,000 to £10,000 a year is proposed.
6. Eligibility criteria for service entitlement should be set on a national basis with an improved framework. In the short term the report suggests a national minimum threshold of 'substantial'.
7. The Government should invest in an awareness campaign to inform people about the new system and encourage them to plan ahead.
8. The Government should develop a major new information and advice strategy to help people when care needs arise.
9. The report supports the Law Commission's proposals to give carers new legal rights to services and to improve assessments.
10. The Government should review the scope for improving the integration of adult social care with other services in the wider care and support system, particularly health.

Mr King also detailed the six tests that any reform would have to meet.

Ailsa Martin, Voice for Carers commented that the proposed changes to Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance was causing anxiety amongst carers. The proposed changes could have devastating consequences for older people as the implications were that these benefits would reduce for this particular group.

Mr King advised that when reading the new benefits legislation it suggested that over 65's would be no better or worse off if the changes were implemented and it would primarily affect people of working age who were not in employment.

Mr King proposed that Joan Reed, Strategic Change Manager and Richard Elliott, Advice Services Manager are invited to a future meeting to provide the Board with an update of how the proposed changes could potentially affect families.

Ailsa Martin advised that a lot of older carers were not eligible to claim Carers Allowance due to them being in receipt of a pension.

Julie Marshall, Age UK, Sunderland commented that many older people were reluctant to claim benefits in the first place.

Nicola Morrow advised that the biggest change would be around the assessment process itself. Tricia Doyle advised that it was disappointing that the Government had not provided comprehensive details of what the changes would be.

2. RESOLVED that

- i) Joan Reed, Strategic Change Manager and Richard Elliott, Advice Services Manager be invited to a future meeting to provide the Board, and
- ii) the contents of the report be received and noted for information.

Establishment of an Early Implementer Health and Wellbeing Board

The Board considered a report from the Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services which set out the proposals for the establishment of an Early Implementer Health and Well Being Board.

Graham King outlined the report that had been agreed by Cabinet on 22 June 2011.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, health and well-being boards would be established from 2013, running formally in shadow form from 2012, with 2011/2012 as a transitional year.

The terms of reference for the board would need to be developed but the board would allow early focus on a number of key issues that are required to be developed

- To assess the broad health and wellbeing needs of the local population and lead the statutory joint needs assessment (JSNA)
- To develop a new joint high-level health and wellbeing strategy (JHWS) that spans NHS, social care, public health and potentially other wider health determinants such as housing
- To promote integration and partnership across areas through promoting joined up commissioning plans across the NHS, social care, public health and other local partners
- To support lead commissioning, integrated services and pooled
- To ensure a comprehensive engagement voice is developed as part of the implementation of Health Watch.

For Sunderland it is proposed that initial board membership comprises:

- Elected member membership including the Leader of the Council as chair, the Cabinet Secretary (including deputising role), the Portfolio Holder for

Health and Wellbeing, the Portfolio Holder for Children and Learning City and an Opposition elected member.

- The Director of Health, Housing and Adults
- The Director of Children's Services
- The Director of City Services
- Director of Commissioning Development at NHS South of Tyne and Wear
- Locality Director of Public Health, Sunderland TPCT
- Chair for Sunderland's GP Commissioning Consortia and other representatives as appropriate
- Chair of NHS South of Tyne and Wear

It was proposed to include the Chair of NHS South of Tyne and Wear to provide initial support and engagement in relation to the future of health watch and providing independent support.

It is proposed that an officer working group provide support to this interim board in the short term. It is also proposed that work streams are developed in relation to the key issues that the board will consider.

Mr King advised that the Board will be small in terms of membership.

Ailsa Martin advised that she agreed that the Health and Wellbeing Boards should be "lean and mean", but there was still a lack of clarity regarding how people feed in and where. There were broad concerns in relation to the role of Healthwatch. Voice for Carers had found their membership on Adult Social Care Partnership Board to be very useful and helpful to the organisation and she feared that Healthwatch would take over as the single voice of the Voluntary and Community sector.

Mr King advised that the decision to co-opt Sue Winfield, - Chair, Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust on to the Health and Wellbeing Board was a clear signal that engagement would be much wider than Healthwatch.

3. RESOLVED that the report as agreed by Cabinet regarding the proposals for establishing the Early Implementer Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2011 with initial membership as set out be received and noted.

Carers Demonstrator Site: Carers Breaks and Opportunities Fund

The Board considered a report from the Head of Strategic Commissioning to provide a progress update to the Board regarding the Department of Health carers demonstrator site project.

Nicola Morrow, Healthy Cities Officer presented the report and addendum report.

The carers demonstrator site project - the Sunderland Carers Breaks and Opportunities Fund has been operational since January 2010. This project was funded by the Department of Health until March 2011 to test out new ways of offering personalised breaks to carers.

The final local evaluation of the project showed that:

- 590 breaks were accessed during the life of the project by 573 carers
- 99% of carers were 'at least' very satisfied with the break/opportunity provided at the first review and 98% felt they had achieved the outcome goals which were defined at the time of their application during the second review.
- 10 carers from BME communities accessed breaks, this equates to 1.7% of all carers applying for breaks.
- The key benefits reported by carers were: allowing carers time for themselves, providing a break from the same routine and the cared for person/caring role, providing relief from stress, relaxation and the opportunity to do something for themselves rather than the person they care for.
- The Demonstrator Site feels very different to any other support and services previously or currently available to carers and this is one of the positive aspects of the project. For example this is particularly around the flexibility of the service which has allowed things to be done that aren't normally possible

Nicola Morrow then provided an overview of the mid project report regarding the Demonstrator Site Project nationally.

Ailsa Martin informed the Board that new money was being received from the NHS for the scheme; the extra investment would help to reach people more broadly.

Ailsa Martin advised that weekly or fortnightly holidays were extremely beneficial, however this benefit wore off quickly and carers gained a great deal from complementary therapies and gym membership.

Councillor Morrissey queried the statistics that were outlined in paragraph 2.5 to the main report which stated that 590 breaks were accessed during the life of the project by 573 carers and sought clarity around these figures.

Nicola Morrow agreed to seek further information.

4. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

Strategic Plan for Welfare Rights Advice (2008-2011) Update

The Board considered a report by the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services to update it about;

- The welfare rights advice development activity undertaken over the last three years linked to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Welfare Rights Advice (SAP).
- The council's intended approach to developing this further, including improved financial inclusion provision, over the next few years.

Graham King presented the report and advised that it was for information.

Ailsa Martin advised that carers were receiving mixed messages about the Government's welfare rights reforms. Measures to get people of working age back to work must be sensitive to carers' needs.

She stated that any carers in receipt of benefit provide high levels of care meaning that work is sometimes difficult or impossible to undertake. Carers currently have the discretion not to undertake work because it is recognised that caring for a disabled or older person is a huge task and one the state would have to provide otherwise – often at great cost. It is vital that legislation takes account of carers needs and there needed to be greater dissemination of this message as there was a great deal of uncertainty.

Nicola Morrow enquired how the message could be communicated and it was suggested that the Adult Social Care Partnership Board would be a good place to initiate discussion.

Graham King suggested that Liz St Louis, Head of Customer Service & Development at Sunderland Council be invited to attend a future meeting of the Board to inform them of the current work taking place about how information is being communicated.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the contents of the report be received and noted
- ii) Liz St Louis, Head of Customer Service & Development at Sunderland Council be invited to a future meeting of the Board

Signed D. Allan,
 Chairman.