

**At a meeting of the ADULT SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY 3 MARCH 2009 at 2.30pm**

**Present:-**

Councillor Anderson in the Chair

Councillor G Hall and Timmins

**Also Present:-**

Neil Revely	-	Health, Housing & Adult Services
Graham King	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Joanne Thynne	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Marilyn Wilkie	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Julie Gray	-	Community and Cultural Services
Andy Stewart	-	City Treasurer's
Martin Barry	-	City Solicitor's
Carol Harries	-	City Hospitals
Ernie Thompson	-	Alzheimer's Society
Ailsa Martin	-	Sunderland Carers' Centre
Julie Marshall	-	Age Concern
Gill Charman	-	Physical Disability Alliance
Tricia Doyle	-	Headlight Mental Health

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Watson, Councillor Leadbitter, Russell Patton, Lesley Lane and Alan Patchett.

**Receipt of Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Minutes**

25. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Board held on 13 January 2009 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **Future of the Partnership Board – Next Steps**

Neil Revely, Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report following on from the presentation given at the meeting held on 13 January 2009 on the future of the Partnership Board.

It is proposed that the Partnership Board will be a significant partnership within the overall LSP structure. The Board will continue to be chaired by an elected Member and although the existing membership will not be changed, it will be reviewed to identify how it can be strengthened. These proposals are continuing to progress and will form part of a report to Cabinet on the future LSP arrangements. It is intended that the new arrangements will come into force for the forthcoming municipal year.

Ailsa Martin commented that she welcomed the direction in which the Partnership was developing but sought clarification on the arrangements for voluntary and community sector representation. The Director confirmed that it was intended to have voluntary and community sector members of the Board in the same way as always, but that the membership of the Board as a whole may be expanded.

The Partnership Board would have a delivery and advisory role within the LSP structure and would take responsibility for appropriate areas of the LAA, work with the Healthy City Partnership to identify the most relevant targets for delivery across the whole areas of importance to the LSP, for example, Age Friendly City.

Marilyn Wilkie commented that the Health Trust was intending to appoint a Head of Partnerships in the future which would further cement relationships and involvement across the City. Councillor Hall supported what the Director had said and added that the Board had always dealt with cross-cutting issues and the continued ability to co-opt Members onto the Board was important.

Upon discussion, it was:-

26. RESOLVED that the update be noted.

### **NHS Annual Health Check**

Graham King, Head of Performance, Commissioning and Change submitted a report outlining the process for contributing to the NHS annual health check and asking the Board to consider making a Third Party commentary.

From April 2009, NHS Trusts will be preparing the declaration part of the annual health check which informs the Healthcare Commission how they have performed against the 24 core standards that describe a minimum level of services patients have the right to expect. As part of the process, trusts are responsible for inviting 'third parties' to comment on their performance.

The Health and Well-Being Review Committee would be considering the health check and if the Board wished to do so, comments would have to be made by the end of March 2009. Local Involvement Networks are invited to submit commentaries but as the Sunderland LINK is still in its infancy, it is not in a position to contribute this year.

The Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services outlined two potential options for the Board to comment on the health check. As the timescale was short, individual responses could be collated by the Council and then circulated as a matter of urgency to all Members for further comments, or a small task and finish group could be established to respond on behalf of the Board overall.

Carol Harries of City Hospitals advised that the annual health check was similar to the Local Authority CPA in that it would form the basis for ratings published later in the year. However, she queried where the opportunity lay for the Board to respond to this. Graham King highlighted that the statutory guidance had now been broadened to include third party responses and it was felt that the Health and Well-Being Review Committee would welcome comments from the Partnership Board.

Consideration having been given to the process for contributing to the annual health check, it was:-

27. RESOLVED that the report be received and a session organised for those partners who wished to contribute to the annual health check.

### **National Dementia Strategy**

Neil Revely, Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report to the Board summarising the recently published document 'Living Well with Dementia: A National Dementia Strategy'.

The aim of the National Strategy is to ensure that significant improvements are made to dementia services across three key areas: improved awareness, earlier diagnosis and intervention and higher quality of care. The Strategy outlines 17 objectives and how they will be delivered and the case for change relating to each one.

The report also outlines how Sunderland is responding to the National Dementia Strategy. The Older People's Mental Health Group is a multi-agency group with the remit to inform the commissioning of mental health services for older people. The Group is undertaking an audit of Sunderland's position against the recommendations outlined in the Strategy and once the audit is complete, the Group will develop a plan to implement the National Dementia Strategy in Sunderland.

The National Dementia Strategy was launched in the same week as the Health and Well-Being Review Committee had held a seminar on dementia. The Director stated that he felt Sunderland were well placed on this issue and the OSC's thoughts and representations on this would be welcomed for further work on the Strategy.

A workshop day had also been arranged for elected Members and it was hoped that by late Summer/early Autumn, the multi-agency group would be in a position to hold a formal launch for their response.

The Chairman paid tribute to the work of the Health and Well-Being Review Committee in highlighting health issues for the local area and local people and commented that the Director's report was an excellent summary of a lengthy document.

Ernie Thompson reported that the Older People's Mental Health Group had met to discuss the audit and had already identified gaps in early diagnosis and intervention where investment may be needed. Carol Harries commented that there was an awareness that people in acute hospitals with dementia did not always get the best care and welcomed the involvement of hospitals in the audit.

Councillor Hall noted that the Comprehensive Area Assessment would show which areas were doing better or worse in this area and examples of good practice would be highlighted.

Having been informed that they would receive progress reports as the response to the National Dementia Strategy was developed, the Board:-

28. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted for information.

### **Sunderland Carers Strategy**

Graham King, Head of Performance, Commissioning and Change submitted a report presenting the draft Carers Strategy and seeking comments as part of the formal consultation process. The consultation period would end on 31 March 2009, prior to the formal launch of the Strategy in June.

Responses to the consultation were being co-ordinated by Joanne Thynne and she advised that positive feedback had been received so far but some small changes were to be considered. Ailsa Martin reported that the Carers' Centre had been trying to get people to respond, even if they felt the Strategy was right, and to identify if there was anywhere where aspirations could be higher. Responses had been hugely positive although there was a smaller group of carers who felt it was not worth commenting because nothing would change and the Centre was trying to elicit responses from those individuals. Ailsa expressed her admiration for the work that had gone into the Strategy.

Councillor Timmins commented that strategies like the Carers Strategy and Dementia Strategy broke the mould when it came to talking about life and its realities. He stated that now it had to be considered how knowledge and understanding could be spread as the more initiatives like this could be publicised, the fewer hard to reach people there would be.

The Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services thanked Graham and Joanne for the work they had put in to get the Strategy to this stage and emphasised the need to have targets and milestones so that the Council could be accountable for development of the Strategy. He stressed that it was important to encourage those who had bad experiences to respond so that the service could learn from that.

Gill Charman commented that it had been a really good experience and everyone had pulled together in producing the Strategy. Ailsa Martin added that at regional carers events it had been clear that the Sunderland Carers Strategy was a lot broader than most strategies and reflected the depth of partnership working in the City.

Councillor Hall noted that all people in the City would benefit from the Carers and Dementia Strategy.

In conclusion, the Chairman stated that the Strategy was a document of real meaning and would provide a clear way to move forward. As a Board, it was felt that there was no further response which could be made, but Partners were asked to encourage others to respond to the consultation.

It was:-

29. RESOLVED that the draft Carers Strategy and consultation process be noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

(Signed) F ANDERSON  
Chairman

