

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care) – 7 January 2020

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Paul Cummins	Adult Social Care	Nov/Dec 2019

Good News

The Interim Director of Adult Social Care with the Commissioning Support Team led a piece of work earlier in the year to introduce a new way of funding care for people who have complex needs. This project was submitted for national recognition and we have been recently notified that we have been successful in the Local Government Chronicle awards for the work to develop individual service user funds. Councils who have been shortlisted for an LGC award are among the most innovative and their innovation helps provide the best services for residents. The award nomination is for thinking of new ways to deliver the best services and individual service user funds are a way to enable people to have choice and control over the services they receive. The winners will be announced in March 2020.

Commissioning

The Interim Director of Adult Social Services will be reviewing fee increases for the full range of Adult Social Care provision for 2020-21; this will commence early in the new year with a view to implementing a fee strategy.

Cabinet has now approved the commencement of the procurement processes and re-commissioning of Supported Living Services. The plan is for new contracts to be in place for September 2020.

A pilot has been commenced which is testing the use of assistive technology in a number of Supported Living Schemes to better understand the need for care and support services and offer people who use services a less intrusive way of receiving support. This pilot is part of a wider Assistive Technology workstream which is in place across the Liverpool City Region and is likely to be developed into a plan for future roll out.

A new Rapid Response service has been established with Sefton New Directions which will complement the Re-enablement provision and aid swift hospital discharge. It is early days but the service enables people to go straight home from hospital and have wrap around support for up to 5 days.

A Capital grant to care homes will commence in the new year, with a process being developed for applications and management of this. The capital grant will focus on improving environmental standards and a focus on dementia standards.

APPENDIX A

The Quality Team have been involved in and coordinated several multi-agency monitoring and safeguarding responses ensuring that services are being provided in safe and effective ways to vulnerable people. The quality of care homes in Sefton has continued to improve with no homes currently in receipt of a rating of inadequate, however, a focus will be maintained across homes rated 'requires improvement'.

Safeguarding

A weekly meeting has been established between safeguarding and commissioning teams to provide assurance on the quality of joint working arrangements and regular reports from both service areas in respect of performance, risks and actions required.

The group will report to the Senior Management Team, Sefton Care Governance Board and myself.

The meeting provides an opportunity to provide a clear robust framework of reporting and accountability of safeguarding and commissioning activity and where appropriate connect with other partners to facilitate continuous improvement. Communication and key messages are circulated across the workforce in a timely and clear manner with opportunities to learn from best practice.

National Safeguarding Week

Sefton, as part of Merseyside Safeguarding Board (MSAB), participated in National Adult Safeguarding Awareness Raising week. An awareness raising stand toured the Borough with stops in Netherton Activity Centre, Formby Library, Bootle One Stop Shop and Southport Hospital with lots of information given out to people. Members of Adult Social Care staff supported the awareness raising stand along with a non-operational member of staff from the MSAB Business Unit. Staff did meet members of the public that disclosed safeguarding adult concerns.

Sefton hosted an event for over 70+ colleagues from across the partnership focussing on scamming during the week, working with colleagues from Trading Standards, Merseyside Police and Santander Bank, in The Studio within the Atkinson.

Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board

MSAB will be subject to a Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review in January 2020. The Peer Review Team will include a Lead Member from Leeds City Council and senior officers from other Councils. A report will be available in February and will provide recommendations to the Board members regarding future priorities and actions.

MSAB Performance Sub Group members have recently completed an audit of Commissioning arrangements of partners with Sefton providing sufficient appropriate evidence to achieve 'Good'. There was some excellent evidence submitted from partners that, if adopted, could result in Sefton in achieving 'Outstanding' when the audit is repeated.

For a second year running Sefton Adult Social Care were required to submit a Chapter 14 audit. The evidence submitted resulted in Sefton services being assessed as 'Good'.

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Proposal

Sefton have been approached by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to assist in developing the safeguarding services and general understanding of adult safeguarding issues as they have no specific staff with the necessary skills and understanding.

Social Work England

On Monday, 2 December, Social Work England will take over from the Health and Care Professions Council as the new specialist regulator for the profession.

The purpose of Social Work England is to regulate professionals so that people receive the best possible support whenever they might need it in life. They are committed to raising standards through collaboration with everyone who has an interest in social work.

All staff are aware that they need to upload evidence of their Continuing Professional Development into their new online accounts.

Sefton Adult Social Care is already in a very strong position due to our development of an electronic CPD that can be uplifted into individual accounts from 2nd December, although only required at this point to each evidence one piece of CPD in the first twelve months and has also introduced access to Research in Practice for Adults for all staff.

Social Work England has been established under new legislation which means that Social Work will have a specialist regulator that builds and promotes confidence in the sector. Through the work of our Practice Forum, social worker practitioners have hope for a more approachable and inclusive regulator with better understanding of our profession.

Apprenticeships

The Institute for Apprenticeships has launched an integrated Social Work apprenticeship degree that has now been approved for delivery. The introduction of the Social Work apprenticeship is an exciting opportunity for Sefton Council as it offers an efficient way to utilise the apprenticeship levy as a way of moving forward the careers of internal staff working in care who possess the right values and experience to be a Social Worker but not necessarily the academic background.

Financial Update

Revenue

The October revenue budget position continues to forecast a balanced budget for the year, however, there are ongoing pressures notably within the Community Care budget where a net £3.38m deficit is currently forecast, this was an increase of £0.50m on the previous month due to increases/decreases across service areas.

Surpluses within other areas including employee vacancy turnover; reduction in specialist transport costs due to a revised split between Adults and Children's and capitalisation of community equipment, are still anticipated to go some way to offsetting the deficit on the placements and packages spend. Other service mitigations will be maximised to reduce the budget gap of £2.18m and remedial measures to enable the Adult Social Care service to achieve a balanced budget will include a range of projects to be delivered.

APPENDIX A

Work will also continue on ensuring all income collectable from the NHS for joint funding and Funded Nursing Care arrangements is pursued and ensuring joint working around Continuing Health Care and Children's Transitions. Work will also be undertaken to deliver and action a strategic commissioning plan to support the redesign of the care market.

Adult Social Care Capital

The Capital programme was reviewed in October and the opportunity taken to reprofile based on more accurate mid-year forecasts of expenditure.

The plan for the 'Wider Social Care' element of the Disabled Facilities Grant has now been revised and reprofiled to achieve a forecast capital spend of £1.6m in 2019/20 and £4.323m in 2020/21.

The planned projects are designed to support and improve service provision and maintain independence and include:

- Equipment/OT staff to support the Double to Single Handed Care project
- Community Equipment - Adults and Children
- ICT development and Transformation
- Assistive technology
- Care home improvement grant of small sums linked to improving dementia standards.
- Developing Sefton's Extra Care Housing Strategy.

The 'Core 'DFG element of the Disabled Facilities Grant agreed for 19/20 has been reprofiled and £1.82m is anticipated as the forecast outturn in 19/20 and £3.08 in 20/21.