

SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
28 JANUARY 2013

Minutes of the meeting of the Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Monday, 28 January 2013

PRESENT: Councillor C. Ellis (Chair)

Councillors: M. Bateman, P. J. Curtis, S. Jones, B. Lloyd, M. Lowe, D. Mackie, H.G. Roberts, D. Wisinger.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor R. Jones and Councillor A. Woolley

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: V.Gay, C. Hinds and H. McGuill

CONTRIBUTORS:

Chief Executive, Cabinet Member for Social Services, Director of Community Services, Head of Finance, Head of Adult Services, Resources Service Manager, Fieldwork Manager and Finance Manager.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

66. BUDGET CONSULTATION FOR 2013/14

The Chairman welcomed the contributors to the meeting.

The Head of Finance explained that revenue issues only would be covered at this meeting and the Committee were invited to attend the Corporate Resources Capital Programme Meeting on 31 January at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber.

The Chief Executive explained that a presentation about the Council Fund Budget Strategy and Financial Overview budget was to be provided for each Overview & Scrutiny Committee with the budget proposals for the specific area covered by each Committee detailed at the meetings.

The Chief Executive explained that he and the Head of Finance had made a similar presentation earlier in the week to each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Thereafter, officers from Community Services would present on directorate specific aspects of the budget. The main features of the presentation were as follows:-

- Council Fund Budget Strategy
- Financial Overview
- National Context
- Local Context
- 2013/14 Budget Strategy
- Budget Process
- Financial Overview _ Position at December
- Financial Overview – Assumptions and Principles
- Work ongoing to balance the budget

The officers continued with the directorate specific contents of the presentation as follows:

- Budget Proposals – Pressures/Investments
- Budget Proposals – Efficiencies
- Live issues for this Committee – Out of County Placements
- Investments
- Key Service Issues for Social and Health in the Medium Term
- Next Steps

During the debate, Members requested further information on:-

- Overall spend for Social Care

The comments and questions which were raised by Members of the Committee, and the responses given are attached at Appendix 1.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the presentation be noted;
- (b) That the Committee receive details of the Overall spend for Social Care.

67. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 11.40 a.m.

68. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the public or press in attendance.

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Chair

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No.	Comments and Questions:	Responses:
1.0	<u>Social & Health Comments / Issues</u>	
1.1	<u>General Comments / Issues</u>	
1.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will equality impact assessments be completed before any changes are made to the service e.g. review of Supported Living service? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes. Equality impact assessments will be completed prior to any changes being made to services.
1.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What impact will Welfare Reform have on the current budget proposals, what provisions are being made, and will current charges have to increase? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There will be impacts particularly for services where charges are made. Where families are on reduced income or benefits in particular there will be an impact. Although no specific provision is being made for the direct impacts, Social & Health service managers are working closely with the corporate team looking at the impacts of Welfare reform for the whole of the Council, and a holistic approach will be taken to help families. Provision is being made for additional staff to help with preventative work liaising closely with families and the Welfare Rights team. There will also be intensive training for all staff dealing at the front line with clients affected by the impacts of welfare reform. There is also the wider perspective of the Council's work with the Welfare Reform Board involving a cross-directorate approach and also engaging with other stakeholders and representatives from other support networks. No increases will be made to charges as a consequence and there is a ceiling of £50 per week.

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No.	Comments and Questions:	Responses:
1.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A concern was raised about provision for clients with dementia conditions. The concern related to possible future impacts on Flintshire of decisions made by the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) resulting in additional burdens being placed on the Council for clients with dementia care needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This was acknowledged to be a major risk area. Urgent review will be a key priority, including a meeting with representatives from BCUHB. It is a national issue and there are UK studies on sustainability. It is also intended to hold a forum of representatives from Flintshire and neighbouring Authorities to discuss the risks as the extent of impacts is unclear. There was expected to be an additional demand on services. Acknowledgement was made of the level of support within Flintshire for dementia related services including extra care facilities and Living Well. Retaining people within local communities is considered to be the best solution.
1.1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarification was sought on the quoted figure of £1.9m for investment in protection of key front-line Social Care services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The figure reflects the value of new pressures and efficiencies in 2013/14, impacts of previous years budget decisions, provision for possible pay awards and non pay inflation.
1.1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A concern was raised about future increases in population putting pressure on Council services recognising that there are major new housing developments currently under way within Flintshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation was given that population growth has been factored in for future years.
1.1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New charges for Mental Health service users - who will this impact upon? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historically mental health service users have not been charged. This brings mental health service users in line with other service users but will not affect individuals supported under Section 117.

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No.	Comments and Questions:	Responses:
<p>2.0</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p>	<p><u>Pressures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An explanation was requested regarding the increase in the pressure amount from £0.138m in 2013/14 to £1.506m in 2015/16 for Transition to Adulthood. ▪ Disabled Facility Grants - the pressure amount of £0.046m rising to £0.062m in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seems a small amount considering the increasing number of referrals month by month. ▪ Mental Health (Additional Social Work support) £0.032m as a result of policy / legislative changes made by Welsh Government - has any additional funding been made available to support this pressure ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The budget process is a three year cycle. The figures don't reflect investment already approved in previous years, but the additional growth requirement in 2013/14 as a result of new factors and influences on service demand which couldn't have been foreseen previously. ▪ The pressure bid will provide additional Disability Support Officer provision for ½ post per locality area which should release capacity in the case load for the occupational therapists. Work is also progressing to encourage clients to be signposted to support their own low level adaptation needs. ▪ No additional funding has been allocated from Welsh Government. There is an overall accumulation of additional costs to the Council as a result of the introduction of Welsh Government measures.
<p>3.0</p> <p>3.1</p>	<p><u>Efficiencies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of the Supported Living Service (£0.350m) - This is a very large efficiency - how will this be achieved ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changes proposed include reviewing the management structure, applying organisational design principles to the in-house supported living service, reviewing care packages to ensure consistency with other services and further use of telecare as appropriate.