

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:**                   **THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013**

**REPORT BY:**           **FLINTSHIRE LOCAL VOLUNTARY COUNCIL**

**SUBJECT:**               **PROVISION OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES, BY THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS IN FLINTSHIRE**

**1.00   PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.01   To update committee and demonstrate the range of health and social care services in Flintshire provided by third sector organisations.
- 1.02   To inform committee of third sector involvement in commissioning of health and social care services.

**2.00   BACKGROUND**

- 2.01   The third sector refers to community associations, self help groups, charities, faith groups, voluntary organisations, social enterprises and housing associations.
- 2.02   Across Flintshire, third sector organisations provide an extensive range of health and social care services and activities, which contribute significantly to the management of specific health conditions; support carers; support vulnerable people; provide home care and support; befriending; advocacy; counselling; self help; provision of health related information and advice; volunteer development.
- 2.03   With increasing demand across social services, alongside a difficult financial outlook for all public services, social service policy and legislation is, seemingly, heading in a direction of change to make social services sustainable.
- 2.04   There is increasing expectation on public and third sector organisations to deliver more with less, thus requiring effective pooling of existing resources.

**3.00   CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.01   With a duty on social services and the NHS to collaborate in the delivery of integrated services, including the expectation of the use of

pooled budgets and other flexibilities, third sector organisations are well placed to respond.

- 3.02 There are a number of third sector organisations (currently approximately 20), in Flintshire, commissioned by Flintshire County Council and /or Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) to deliver health and social care services.
- 3.03 There are a large number of organisations who do not receive funding from the public sector, which provide a range of health and social care related activities.
- 3.04 Locally based third sector organisations are fundamental to the provision of a range of accessible and appropriate services to enable individuals to maintain independence within the community.
- 3.05 A small number of third sector organisations have effective working links and provide services which support both the FCC re-ablement team and Crisis Intervention team. This joint working is crucial to enable individuals to remain at home, avoiding nursing care or hospital admission.
- 3.06 The third sector is involved in the planning and intended delivery of Enhanced Care across Flintshire.
- 3.07 The presentation slides (available at meeting) provide an overview of third sector provision of health and social care services across Flintshire.
- 3.08 Much of the third sector provision of health and social care services in Flintshire contributes to the effective implementation and delivery of strategic plans such as Flintshire Carer's Strategy, Together for Mental Health, Families First.
- 3.09 Third sector service provision also enables the local authority and BCUHB to meet statutory requirements such as the mental health measure and the undertaking of carer's assessments.
- 3.10 Commissioning is the process of specifying, securing and monitoring services to meet people's needs at a strategic level. This applies to all services, whether they are provided by the local authority, NHS, other public agencies or by private or voluntary services.
- 3.11 Commissioning is essentially a cycle which starts with identifying needs and leads to securing the services that most appropriately address the needs and wishes of the individual service user. Services are monitored and reviewed and the results feed into the next cycle of planning and delivery.

- 3.12 In very recent years, third sector involvement and contribution to commissioning of health and social care services across Flintshire and North Wales has varied greatly.
- 3.13 A consistent approach to the involvement of the third sector, in the commissioning of health and social care services is lacking with variations apparent, across organisations and departments.
- 3.14 This presents a number of challenges for the sector which impact negatively on the opportunity to develop the optimum model of service delivery.
- 3.15 Voluntary organisations, as a sector, are well placed to provide meaningful contribution to the full commissioning process including planning, service development, purchasing services and monitoring and evaluation.
- 3.16 There are existing mechanisms and networks in the third sector to enable some elements of this to happen.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 The contribution and provision of health and social care services by third sector organisations across Flintshire, is noted.
- 4.02 The committee supports the recommendation from FLVC to develop and adopt, with appropriate officers from Flintshire County Council, guidance for involving the third sector in commissioning, in its broadest definition.
- 4.03 FLVC provide an annual overview of third sector health and social care service provision, to the scrutiny committee.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 The development and implementation of County commissioning guidance will influence the most effective and resourceful allocation of funding.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 Third sector organisations provide services to and support the most vulnerable people in our society. As highlighted in the attached presentation some services and activities exist due to the number of people experiencing poverty and it is the aim of the organisation to prevent people becoming further impoverished and to support them to increase their income.

## **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 N/A

## **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 Third sector organisations provide services to and support the most vulnerable people in our society. As highlighted in the attached presentation some services and activities exist to support people who may be experiencing difficulties due to a disability, race, or gender

8.02 There are a number of third sector organisations which exist to positively promote and lobby on behalf of particular population groups. Their aim is to have a positive impact on equality.

## **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None arising from this report.

## **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None

## **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 'Realising the Potential' research report into commissioning of third sector by BCUHB, April – September 2011

11.02 Third sector role in Enhanced Care January 2013

11.03 Falls – Third sector provision in Flintshire February 2013

11.04 Flintshire Third sector forum February 2013 - Third sector involvement in public sector commissioning.

## **12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 None.

A presentation – Third Sector Provision of Social Care Services, in Flintshire will be delivered at the meeting.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

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