

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **the IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PEOPLE** held at County Hall, Matlock on 9 July 2014.

PRESENT

Councillor S Freeborn (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs G Birkin, J Frudd, D Walton and B Wright.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs D Charles, B Lewis and R Mihaly, and Mrs C Tattersfield.

20/14 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 May 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

21/14 **DISCUSSION WITH CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE**

Councillor C Neill, Cabinet Member for Adult Care gave an update on recent consideration by Cabinet of reports on the outcome of consultations and changes to services in order to contribute to the required budget cuts. She also referred to the matters that would be considered by Cabinet over the coming months.

In discussing the change in threshold changes, the Cabinet Member agreed to circulate details of the Care Act guidance which set out the tasks that should be assessed in determining the eligibility threshold.

The Cabinet Member also agreed to provide information to the Committee on the current level of staff absences within Adult Care and the steps being undertaken to address this.

22/14 **HEALTHWATCH DERBYSHIRE** Ms H Hart presented a progress report on the work of Healthwatch Derbyshire.

The report provided information on current work and the engagement activity being undertaken, the Enter and View programme and reports that were pending and which would be reported at a future date.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

23/14 **ELIGIBILITY THRESHOLD CHANGES** The Committee was to undertake a review of the Adult Care Threshold Changes from High-Moderate to Substantial.

Cabinet had agreed to the recommendation to increase eligibility thresholds on 17 June 2014. The Council's proposals that were subject to consultation would take place with immediate effect. The scope of the review would focus on the scrutiny of implementation and the monitoring of the impact on individuals. The review would have the following lines of inquiry:

- **Eligibility for Social Care: impact**

The Committee to receive reports every quarter on the numbers of people in the Higher Moderate category who have been assessed. The report to include the outcomes of the assessment (how many stayed the same, moved up or down) and if they remained in the Higher Moderate category or fell, what alternative support was offered?

What are the impacts on other local authority / public agency services (eg NHS, voluntary and community sector, Police, Fire) for those people who remained in the Higher Moderate category? This would involve the working group requesting information about people who are no longer eligible and their contact with other services.

- **Financial impacts**

The Committee to receive reports every quarter on the financial reports to ensure the Council meets its income/savings expectations.

- **Human Resource impacts**

How is the change in eligibility threshold impacting on the capacity of social workers? How are social workers managing the assessment process? What are the numbers of people being assessed by social workers?

- **Fairer Charging (Co-funding)**

The Committee to receive reports every quarter on the numbers of people who have been re-assessed and the impact on the cuts programme.

The authority would start to assess relevant people on their eligibility straight away and a programme board has been established to oversee the implementation. It was anticipated the review would start in September 2014. The review included regular updates on the implementation and impacts of the changes to eligibility of social care and it was proposed that this becomes a standing item on the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – People agenda from September 2014.

RESOLVED (1) that the scoping report for the Adult Care Threshold Changes from High-Moderate to Substantial scrutiny review be approved;

(2) that Members receive quarterly reports on the outcomes and the financial impact of the threshold changes to eligibility; and

(3) that a Member working group be established to undertake the review of the impact on other local authority / public agencies and social workers of the threshold changes to eligibility; the group to comprise the Chair and Vice Chair together with Councillors B Wright and 1 Conservative member; and Councillor R Mihaly to be also invited to join the working group.

24/14 UPDATE FROM SUB GROUPS Members gave an update on the work undertaken by the Equality and Diversity/Recruitment and Selection Sub Group. Draft reports were anticipated for the next meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Frudd reported on on-going visits to children's homes and a forthcoming visit to the Gateway Centre at Kirk Hallam.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

25/14 ADULT CARE BUDGET UPDATE RESOLVED to receive copies of the Budget Monitoring reports that had been presented to the Cabinet Member for Adult Care.

26/14 WORK PROGRAMME RESOLVED to note progress on the Committee's work programme.