

ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES REVIEW PANEL

Meeting held on Tuesday 7 October 2014 at 5pm in Room F10,
The Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon

MINUTES - PART A

Present: Councillor Louisa Margaret (Chair);
Councillors Pat Clouder, Yvette Hopley, Margaret Mead.

Absent: Councillor Andrew Rendle (Vice-Chair)

Apologies: Councillor Andrew Rendle

A19/14 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF THE PANEL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014-15 (item 1)

Councillor Pat Clouder **MOVED** and Councillor Yvette Hopley **SECONDED** the nomination of Councillor Louisa Woodley as Chair of the Adult Social Services Review Panel for the municipal year 2014-15.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

Councillor Yvette Hopley **MOVED** and Councillor Margaret Mead **SECONDED** the nomination of Councillor Margaret Mead as Vice-Chair of the Panel. The motion was put and defeated on the Chair's casting vote.

Councillor Pat Clouder **MOVED** and Councillor Louisa Woodley **SECONDED** the nomination of Councillor Andrew Rendle as Vice –Chair of the Panel. The motion was put and carried on the Chair's casting vote.

A20/14 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chair.

The Panel was advised that a Dignity in Care report would be included in the agenda for the January 2015 meeting.

The Executive Director Adult Services, Health & Housing reassured the Panel that there were no major issues relating to the Borough's Care Homes, but a note of the few current issues would be circulated to Members outside of the meeting.

A21/14 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest were made during the meeting.

A22/14 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business

A23/14 EXEMPT ITEMS

The Panel **RESOLVED** that the allocation of items between Part A and Part B of the agenda be confirmed, as printed.

A24/14 CARE ACT 2014 – CROYDON'S APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION
(agenda item 7)

Paul Heynes, Head of Care Act Implementation Programme, gave a presentation briefing Members on the work being undertaken locally and with partners to support the implementation of the Care Act 2014 which became law on 14 May 2014.

The Panel was advised that implementation will be in two stages: the first starting in April 2015 which will impose a number of new duties on the local authority – detailed at paragraph 3.2.1 of the accompanying report – as well as the introduction of a national eligibility criterion for adult social care which covers both service users and carers. Regulations and guidance are expected in the coming weeks.

Members raised questions around the possible financial and staff workload implications of the duty to arrange care for self-funders, the extension of national eligibility criteria to include the estimated £30k carers in the borough, and duty to provide deferred payments which are currently discretionary.

The Head of Care Act Implementation outlined the local works streams covering these and other areas of the Act; some with their own project groups with designated lead Officers which come together in the Project Implementation Group. Where appropriate, for example around ICT and back office structures, work is also being undertaken with regional and national organisations to ensure the sharing of knowledge and best practice.

The Panel was advised that the second stage of implementation is scheduled to start in April 2016 and will see the main impact of the funding reforms through the introduction of care accounts and a cap system which will see the local authority assume responsibility for meeting eligible care needs once that cap – currently proposed to be £72k - is reached. The extension of financial means testing for residential care with an increase in the upper capital threshold to £118k will also see more people qualifying for local authority funding.

A consultation document on the regulations and guidance in relation to this second stage of implementation is expected in December 2014.

The Head of Care Act Implementation advised that all Councils had received a one-off grant of £125k towards early implementation tasks and Croydon expects to receive an allocation of around £2.665m in 2015/16, including £0.845m from the Better Care Fund. National Impact

Assessments for the cost of delivering the Act from 2016/17 onwards are being undertaken by the Department of Health; and local authorities are conducting their own local assessments based on a model developed by Surrey Council and subsequently revised. The outcomes are expected early in 2016 and will lead to renewed national debate.

Members were advised that Croydon has already raised the issue of the funding distribution formula, which has yet to be consulted on, and for example the impact on the Council of having a large number of residential homes in the borough which could lead to a disproportionate number of individuals requiring funding in the long term.

Going forward, the Head of Care Act Implementation highlighted the key issues as being:

- Funding – accurate cost models and whether they will be fully funded
- Service take-up, including identification of self-funders and light touch assessments of their needs
- Recruitment of staff
- System development
- Impact on the local market, eg price differentiation; and Service Commissioning
- The General Election on 7 May 2015

A25/14 CROYDON BETTER CARE FUND PLAN (agenda item 8)

In his presentation, Andrew Maskell, Strategic Projects Manager outlined the work undertaken by the Council and the Croydon Commissioning Group (CCG) in completing the revised template submission to NHS England: there was no change to the content or intent of the Plan, simply additional information, as requested.

The Strategic Projects Manager reiterated that the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan would further built on the established joint working in Croydon in seeking to develop better integration between social care and health to ensure more people receive joined-up, personalised care closer to home thereby seeking to reduce demand on acute services. The key role of social care in the delivery of this programme is explicitly recognised, both in the transferred commitments from s256 funds and the ring-fencing of the £845k for the implementation of the Care Act 2014.

Members were advised of the role of the Transforming Care Board which is co-chaired by the Executive Director of Adult Services, Health and Housing which has brought together the work of the Strategic Transformation Board and Reablement and Discharge Board.

A Better Care Fund Executive Group comprised of the Council and the CCG will monitor and seek to mitigate any risks, especially financial, in delivery of the Plan.

The Strategic Projects Manager outlined the implications of the reintroduction into the BCF programme of a 'pay for performance' condition which requires the achievement of a reduction of 3.5% in the number of non-elective emergency admissions into hospital; failure to achieve which could have a potential impact of £1.8m to the BCF budget, as well as having negative financial implications for Croydon Health Services NHS Trust. Members were advised that, to try and meet this metric, it has been agreed proactively to 'invest to save' on schemes and initiatives to address underperformance, rather than creating some form of contingency fund.

Members and Officers discussed the vital role of social workers in the delivery of this plan and how recruitment and retention packages could be used to build on the existing reduction of agenda staff.

The Strategic Projects Manager outlined the NHS England BCF Assurance progress and the nature of the questions at the assurance interview on 30th September; the final outcome will be presented to a future meeting of the Panel.

Senior Officers welcomed the opportunities provided by the BCF programme around further joint learning with the CCG, a possible rebalancing of funding between acute and community services.

Members asked to be supplied with copies of the slides from the presentation.

A26/14 WORK PROGRAMME 2014-15 (agenda item 9)

Solomon Agutu, Head of Democratic Services & Scrutiny introduced this item.

The Panel **AGREED** that the following items be considered at its meeting on 27 January 2015:

- Verbal update on the Better Care Fund
- Verbal update on Outcome Based Commissioning
- A short updating report on Dignity in Care
- The Safeguarding Adults report
- A report and presentation on the Implementation of the Care Act 2014, following expected publication of regulations

PART B - None

The meeting ended at 6.50pm