

## **HOUSING & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel held on Thursday, 16 November 2017 at 5pm at the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

### **Present**

Councillor Darren Sanders (in the Chair)  
Alicia Denny  
Leo Madden  
Steve Wemyss

#### **15. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)**

Apologies were received from Councillors Gemma New and Colin Galloway.

#### **16. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)**

No interests were declared.

#### **17. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2017 (AI 3)**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **18. New Review Topic about the provision of Learning & Disability Accommodation (AI 4)**

Mark Stables, Service Manager Integrated Learning Disability Service explained that:

- His department supports 670 people in the city and is the third highest achieving in the South East in terms of the proportion of people in Supported Living apropos Residential Care.
- Five years ago, 60% of service users lived in residential homes and 40% received supported living packages. The proportion is currently 37/63
- The Housing Strategy sets out to address a number of critical pressures and deliver a clear set of outcomes related to people's housing and support.
- Historically the council developed many shared houses that accommodate 2-4 people with relatively complex needs. This requires intensive staffing. If members of the house cannot safely be left alone a minimum of 2 staff is often required. This is not financially sustainable. More use could be made of technology so that a member of staff is not required to stay overnight.
- One of the drivers of the review is to reduce the number of out of city placements and to be more outcome-focussed. There is no conflict between these two aims. Currently £4m is spent on the 43 people who have placements outside Portsmouth. A significant amount of work has been carried out to create capacity in the city for vulnerable people.
- The desired outcomes are to help people to be more independent and play more of a role in their community whilst reducing costs.
- Work is carried out with Supported Living providers to support the introduction of standards to support a culture of promoting independence

which will provide a sustainable approach to better outcomes and lower costs.

Jo Bennett, Commercial Property and Leasehold Services Manager and Alison Cloutman, Supported Housing Business Partner explained that:

- A mapping exercise had been carried out of each property and service user and a traffic light scheme to identify the current accommodation provision that is good, needs to be amended or which we would not want to continue to use. A shopping list was then drawn up and after consultation with the service users and their families, moves were arranged. There have been some very easy wins.
- The council can design and build any type of housing, owns lots of land and has high quality assets.
- Not all the placements for service users with learning difficulties have been successful.
- More needs to be done to build models around the needs of client groups and flexibility on the pathway.
- A challenging behaviour unit was built and is working well.
- Many people feel boxed in because of their care label.
- Models could be designed for service users from different departments including mental health services, continuing health care.
- It is very important that mixed communities are maintained so that no ghettos are created.

The panel discussed various supported living accommodation in the city and agreed that it is important that these:

- Fit in well with the neighbouring properties in terms of size, materials and design.
- There is outdoor space where possible if people want it.
- Have individual front doors so that tenants feel that it is their home.

In response to questions, the following points were clarified:

- Service users are occasionally placed outside the city in an emergency. It can be difficult to get them back sometimes. It costs approximately £4m to support the 53 who live outside of Portsmouth. Some people want to go back to their families outside the city.
- Having local services enables support and scrutiny from the integrated LD Team.
- A significant saving was made when a service user moved from a 1 bed support flat in Gosport which cost £2,500 per week to a general needs one. He was very happy with his home.
- The Supported Living Panel comprises the Contracts Officer, the Learning Services Team Manager and a manager from Housing. It considers the service user's life, work, support network, where they go and what they like to do. The panel then instructs Jo's team to create the model of accommodation that is required.
- It is important not to look at the housing provision in isolation; the support element is equally important.
- Historically, there was a reluctance to take risks and change provision. However, there have been a number of successful outcomes following

moves and changes to day care provision, with service users feeling more empowered.

- The focus is on what the service users want to be able to do or where they want to live.
- Named workers will support service users to make sure that the outcomes are systematically worked towards and achieved.
- Between April 2014 and November 2016 there was a 13% increase in demand (570 to 645 service users).
- There is on-going national growth in the number of people with learning difficulties due to people living longer than expected. Additionally, more people expect to live independently now. They have a right to lead an independent life.
- The waiting list for learning disability housing has been reduced to about 10.
- The transition from children's to adults social care at 18 could be improved.
- Services are working together more.
- The Educational Health and Care Planning process is still developing and will in time enable more intelligent commissioning of Housing and Support
- Building accommodation can take up to four years. In order to ensure capacity to meet predicted demand, work needs to happen as soon as possible.
- More services to support people who have behaviour that challenges are required to meet demand.
- The pathway needs capacity built into it as there is a broad spectrum of people with differing physical and learning disabilities.
- The council has an agreement with providers that places it has commissioned but are vacant are not to be taken by other authorities.
- Although there are 670 service users, that many different models are not required.
- A bid for funding for three posts including one occupational therapist had been submitted.
- It is felt that there is significant work to be done to develop a range of suitable housing and support options for people with mental health issues.
- Funding for their support comes from both the Clinical Commissioning Group and Social Care so service provision is more difficult to manage.
- 14 flats in a sheltered housing block were successfully let after a long period of being vacant following two simple changes to the eligibility criteria: tenants must have a lifestyle conducive to an older population and require some support.
- Autistic people do not necessarily come under the learning disabilities criteria unless there is an accompanying learning disability

Members agreed that it is important for them to understand how needs are identified, what will be required in five years' time, what are the barriers and how good practice can be transferred to other services. Meetings will be arranged with service users and a tour arranged of some of the accommodation.

The meeting concluded at 6:35pm.

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Councillor Darren Sanders  
Chair