



Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at County Hall, Glenfield on Monday, 18 July 2016.

PRESENT

Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC (in the Chair)

Mr. R. Blunt CC	Mr. I. D. Ould CC
Mr. Dave Houseman MBE, CC	Mr. B. L. Pain CC
Mr. J. T. Orson JP CC	Mr. E. F. White CC
Mr. P. C. Osborne CC	

Apologies

Mrs. P. Posnett CC and Mr. N. J. Rushton CC

In attendance

Mr. G. A. Hart CC, Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC, Mr. R. Shepherd CC

453. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2016 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

454. Urgent items.

The Chairman advised that there were two urgent items for consideration. The first was a joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Public Health entitled "Children's Heart Surgery at Glenfield Hospital", regarding the announcement by NHS England that it intended to cease the commissioning of children's heart surgery at Glenfield Hospital. The second was a report of the Director of Children and Family Services entitled "Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children", further to the publication of the "Interim National Transfer Protocol for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children 2016-17".

The reports were urgent because the issues had arisen after the agenda for the Cabinet meeting had been published and the implications needed to be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

With the agreement of the Cabinet these reports were taken under item 13 on the agenda (minutes 465 and 466 refer).

455. Declarations of interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting. No declarations were made.

456. Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities concerning the responses to the consultation exercise on the Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020 and seeking approval of the revised Strategy. A copy of the report, marked '4', is filed with these minutes.

The Cabinet noted comments from Mr. M. Charlesworth CC, for the Liberal Democrat Group, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Blunt CC said that the services were much valued and he hoped that by adopting a more strategic approach to their delivery and involving local communities they could be continued whilst meeting the savings requirements agreed by the Council.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the results of the consultation on the Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020 be noted;
- (b) That the Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020 attached as Appendix A to the report be approved;
- (c) That it be noted that the Director of Adults and Communities will develop an Implementation Plan for the Strategy;
- (d) That the Director of Adults and Communities be authorised to take action as necessary in accordance with the Implementation Plan referred to at (c) above to realise the Strategy subject to further reports being made to the Cabinet and the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The revised Communities and Wellbeing Strategy will enable a new model for the delivery of services to be implemented over the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) period 2016/17 to 2019/20. The Strategy has been developed to fulfil statutory duties, meet budgetary requirements and efficiency targets detailed in the MTFS and to provide a basis for the planning, commissioning and delivery of services.

The views of customers and stakeholders have informed the revised Strategy and will be used to develop a detailed plan for its implementation.

457. Community Life Choices Framework 2017-20 and Consultation on Future Delivery.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities concerning the strategic review of Community Life Choices (CLC) services and requesting permission to consult on two proposals for future delivery, and explaining how the new CLC model and related proposals could ensure that savings were achieved. A copy of the report, marked '5', is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Houseman MBE, CC stressed that each individual's circumstances would be considered carefully and it was accepted that there might need to be some exceptions to any agreed delivery model.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Community Life Choices Framework 2017-20 (the new model for Community Life Choices services) be noted;
- (b) That the Director of Adults and Communities be authorised to commence the consultation on the two delivery proposals outlined in paragraphs 34-49 of the report;
- (c) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in October 2016 on the outcome of the consultation, together with final recommendations for the delivery of the new model.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

The new delivery model will support an outcomes-based approach to commissioning, deliver a progressive model of support in line with the principles set out in the Adult Social Care Strategy 2016-20, and deliver savings set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

During a recent review it was noted that a number of service users who were living in residential care (receiving support on a 24/7 basis), were also accessing CLC provision during the daytime. Although it is accepted that this may be appropriate in specific circumstances there is no clear policy or guidance regarding this, and current practice does not represent a cost-effective approach to commissioning individual support.

The review also highlighted the potential to reduce the number of weeks of CLC-commissioned services in order to deliver efficiency savings and that in many circumstances this would have a minimal impact on service users, although exceptions would need to be considered for those who would require replacement care.

458. Integrating Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Points of Access.

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Adults and Communities regarding the Business Case which had been developed for Integrating Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Points of Access across health and social care partners. The Business Case proposed a new way of working to allow better access to health and social care for professionals and service users. A copy of the report, marked '6', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the overall vision and direction of travel as set out in the Business Case for the development of Integrating Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Points of Access (attached as the Appendix to the report) be approved;

- (b) That the County Council progress with the developments to operational readiness and standardisation of process as outlined in paragraph 28 of the report;
- (c) That a maximum contribution of £211,000 as the County Council's share of the cost of phase 1 of the Business Case be approved;
- (d) That the Director of Adults and Communities in consultation with the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to agree the scope of phase 1 of the Business Case and the County Council's actual share of the cost of phase 1 up to a maximum contribution of £211,000;
- (e) That the Director of Adults and Communities in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to enter into a Gateway Review process at the end of phase 1 and to determine whether the Council should continue with phase 2 of the Business Case.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Care Act 2014 requires local authorities and NHS bodies to develop integrated services tailored to the needs and preferences of those needing care and support, carers and families. Integration at the point where services are first accessed provides a platform from which further integrated service delivery can be developed.

459. Integrated Commissioning of Mental Health Recovery and Resilience Services.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities seeking permission to consult on the proposed integrated commissioning of mental health recovery and resilience services to develop locality-based hubs across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. A copy of the report, marked '7', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft proposals for integrated health and social care commissioning of countywide mental health recovery and resilience support services be approved for consultation;
- (b) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in November 2016 regarding the outcome of the consultation exercise and the proposed service model.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The views of customers and stakeholders are necessary to inform the new model and to determine how this can be best achieved.

A strategic review of the Mental Health Social Drop-in and Inreach services by the Adults and Communities Department concluded that the current service model only partly matched future commissioning aspirations, would be unlikely to achieve the desired future outcomes, and could be delivered more efficiently.

The new model of integrated preventative mental health services will support outcome-based commissioning and delivery in line with the principles set out in the Adult Social Care Strategy.

460. Corporate Asset Management Plan 2016/17.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources regarding the draft Corporate Asset Management Plan 2016/17 which set out the strategic direction for the use, management and development of the County Council's corporate property resources over the next financial year. A copy of the report, marked '8', is filed with these minutes.

Comments of the Scrutiny Commission were circulated separately and a copy is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Pain CC emphasised the importance of the Plan, which dealt with the property assets of all the Council's Departments. He said that delivery against the ambitious and challenging targets for 2015/16 had been impressive.

The Chairman reminded members that Elisabeth Carter, Strategic Property Manager, would be leaving the Authority shortly and on behalf of the Cabinet he thanked her for all her work for the County Council.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission be noted;
- (b) That the Corporate Asset Management Plan 2016/17 and the delivery of the implementation plan contained therein be approved.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To enable the implementation of the Corporate Asset Management Plan 2016/17.

461. 'Signs of Safety' Policy and Practice Framework for Work with Children and Families.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services regarding the development of a practice framework to support direct work with children and families, based on the 'Signs of Safety' model. A copy of the report, marked '9', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the approach for working with children, young people and their families as set out in the policy and practice framework attached as Appendix A to the report be approved;
- (b) That the progress made to date by the Children and Family Services Department to implement the Signs of Safety model be noted;

- (c) That the next steps for embedding and extending the model through the policy and practice framework to other areas of direct work with children, young people and families across the Children and Family Services Department be supported.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The adoption of a clear policy and practice framework with an evidence-based methodology for work with families across the continuum of need will help ensure continued high quality practice and good outcomes for children and young people. The framework will underpin all direct work with children, young people and their families. It will help to ensure the care provided to families is coherent and consistent as their needs change and they move between different departmental services.

462. Remodelling of Stop Smoking Service Provision.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Public Health concerning the outcome of a consultation exercise on the remodelling of the Stop Smoking service and seeking approval for the redesign of the Service. A copy of the report, marked '10', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the results of the consultation be noted;
- (b) That a new Stop Smoking Service as set out in paragraph 21 of the report be approved;
- (c) That the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources, be authorised to commission smoking cessation services for the remodelled Stop Smoking Service as set out in the report.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The responses to the consultation indicated support for the proposed changes to the Service.

The way smokers want to access stop smoking support is changing and users have expressed interest in more technological (phone, text, online, etc.) support. Services also need to address the use of electronic cigarettes which have significantly increased in popularity.

The re-commissioned Service will enable the Public Health Department to make the necessary savings of £1.1 million.

463. Annual Treasury Management Report 2015/16.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources regarding the action taken and the performance achieved in respect of the treasury management activities of the Council in 2015/16. A copy of the report, marked '11', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Authority's full adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice for treasury management requires an annual performance report for 2015/16 to be considered by both the Cabinet and the Corporate Governance Committee before the end of September 2016.

464. Items referred from Overview and Scrutiny.

There were no items referred from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

465. Urgent item - Children's Heart Surgery at Glenfield Hospital.

The Cabinet considered an urgent joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Public Health concerning NHS England's intention to cease the commissioning of children's heart surgery at Glenfield Hospital. The report was urgent because the announcement was made by NHS England after the agenda for the meeting had been published and a response needed to be made at the earliest opportunity. A copy of the report, marked '13', is filed with these minutes.

It was noted that since the report was circulated the NHS had published a rationale for its decision and further communication from the NHS was expected.

Mr. White CC said that NHS England's decision was simply wrong. Glenfield had excellent services and, he believed, would be able to demonstrate some of the best clinical outcomes in the country. He paid tribute to local MPs and Cllr. Palmer (Deputy Mayor of Leicester City Council) who had also voiced concerns. Mr. White said the County Council clearly wished the highest quality services to be provided and evidence showed that Glenfield Hospital was doing this. He reminded members that the County Council could refer such issues to the Secretary of State and noted that the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee would consider the matter at its next meeting.

Mr. Ould CC, as the Cabinet lead member for children and young people, added his full support for the recommendations as amended.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the intention of NHS England to cease the commissioning of children's heart surgery at Glenfield Hospital, which will have serious local and regional implications and to do so ahead of NHS England's previously published timetable to address standards by 2021 is deplored;
- (b) That the failings of the communications used by NHS England to inform families, staff and stakeholders of its intention that children's heart surgery will no longer take place at Glenfield are to be regretted;
- (c) That the Cabinet does not believe there is evidence to substantiate NHS England's claim that to cease commissioning is "in the best interests of patients with congenital heart disease and their families";

- (d) That the rebuttal letter sent by the Chief Executive of the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust to NHS England is supported totally;
- (e) That full support is offered to the NHS Trust in fighting NHS England on this matter, if necessary through the courts, and in establishing robust local opposition to NHS England's proposal which, if implemented, would see the end of a world class service;
- (e) That the resolution of the Cabinet be conveyed to local MPs and that their already stated concern at the proposal from NHS England be welcomed;
- (g) That the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider a report on the implications of the announcement on both the Glenfield Hospital and the wider NHS at its meeting on 14th September 2016.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To note the announcement made by NHS England, which will have implications on the wider health and care economy of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, as well as the East Midlands as a whole.

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the responsibility for scrutinising the exercise by health bodies of functions which affect the County and is also able to make reports and recommendations to relevant NHS bodies.

The Director of Public Health has a responsibility to advise the County Council on matters relating to health and he is in agreement with the position taken by UHL.

466. Urgent item - Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children.

The Cabinet considered an urgent report of the Director of Children and Family Services concerning the Council's new duties with regard to Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). The report was urgent because the Interim National Transfer Protocol for UASC had recently been published and members needed to be advised of the implications for the Council. A copy of the report, marked '13', is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Ould CC referred to the County Council's financial difficulties which had been cited on several occasions during the meeting. He said that the Council took its responsibilities as corporate parent very seriously and he was concerned about its ability to care for the children as the Government grant was quite inadequate. Councils already struggled to provide enough care placements and if they needed to use independent providers or out-of-area provision the costs would rise further. He regretted that the Council had been placed in this position and had spoken to the relevant Minister about this.

Other members of the Cabinet spoke in support of the points made by Mr. Ould, emphasising the Council's commitment to helping the children.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the County Council's statutory obligations for Looked After Children are taken seriously and all will be done to ensure the County Council cares for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children who will have endured terrible experiences in their homeland;

- (b) That the Cabinet, regretfully, does not believe that the consequences of the Interim National Transfer Protocol for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children have been thought through by the Government in terms of accommodation, the provision of services, and cost;
- (c) That the Cabinet believes it is correct to place on record that the County Council will have increasing difficulties in fulfilling its statutory obligations in this area, for example in regard to finding and funding appropriate placements for children in and out of Leicestershire;
- (d) That the dialogue with the Government be continued to ensure that the full costs of accommodation and service provision in respect of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children are met by the Government, encouraging the Local Government Association and the County Councils Network also to impress on Government that full cost recovery is necessary;
- (e) That this resolution be drawn to the attention of local MPs.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To note that under the Transfer Scheme, it is the Home Office's intention to initiate transfer of UASC from other authorities, Syria, and camps from 1 July 2016. The quota for each local authority is 0.07% of its existing child population; based on this Leicestershire will be requested to care for a further 74 UASC. These children and young people are not in the care of a family member. As such, they will transfer as Looked After Children (Section 20 Children Act), to the County Council, which has a statutory and corporate parenting responsibility.

To place on record the considerable financial and logistical difficulties faced by the County Council in looking after UASC and the inadequacies of the Interim National Transfer Protocol.

This page is intentionally left blank