



Minutes of a meeting of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday, 3 March 2015.

PRESENT

Mrs. R. Camamile CC (in the Chair)

Mr. M. H. Charlesworth CC

Mr. P. G. Lewis CC

Mr. S. J. Hampson CC

Ms. Betty Newton CC

Mr. D. Jennings CC

Mr. R. Sharp CC

Mr. J. Kaufman CC

68. Minutes.

The minutes of the meetings held on 13 January 2015 and 20 January 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

69. Question Time.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 35.

70. Questions asked by members.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

71. Urgent Items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

72. 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.

Ms Newton CC declared a personal interest in item 9 Quarter 3 2014/15 Performance Report as her daughter was a Nurse Practitioner at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust.

73. Declarations of the Party Whip.

There were no declarations of the party whip.

74. Presentation of Petitions.

The Chief Executive reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 36.

75. Preventative Mental Health Services in Leicestershire.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities, the purpose of which was to provide an update on the new model of preventative mental health services for the citizens of Leicestershire. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 8' is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting the Cabinet Lead Member for Adult Social Care, Mr. D. W. Houseman MBE CC. Mr Houseman advised the Committee that under the previous arrangements there had been issues regarding access to 'drop-in' Mental Health Services both in relation to the geographical spread and in relation to certain minority groups. However, since the Richmond Fellowship had won the contract for Leicestershire initial feedback appeared to indicate that access to services had improved.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised;

- (i) Work was ongoing to raise awareness of mental health issues in Leicestershire and further embed services amongst communities.
- (ii) The Richmond Fellowship had won the contract for all the 6 available areas in Leicestershire. The areas did not correspond exactly with district boundaries. The areas of Blaby and Oadby and Wigston were merged together into 1 area.
- (iii) Overall, for the first quarter under the new system 515 people used the preventative mental health services, as compared to 456 previously.
- (iv) Census data had been used to assess the percentage of people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities using mental health services in Leicestershire. Improvements had been seen in the number of BME people accessing services. Prior to the Richmond Fellowship obtaining the contract, 66 individuals from BME communities in Leicestershire were using the service, whereas under the new service the figure was 132.
- (v) There would be a more outcome led approach to assessing the effectiveness of the mental health services which would include monitoring the progress of individuals. However, it should be recognised that the Richmond Fellowship were not providing a crisis response service but rather a preventative service which would make assessing their effectiveness more difficult.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report and the generally positive initial feedback be noted.
- (b) That the Director be requested to provide further information to members on the performance of this contract.

76. Quarter 3 2014/15 Performance Report.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities, the purpose of which was to provide an update of performance at the end of quarter 3 of 2014/15. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 9' is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman read out a statement from the Cabinet Lead Member for Heritage, Culture and Arts, Mr. R. Blunt CC regarding the performance of the cultural services provided by the Communities and Wellbeing Service. The statement noted the increase in visits to

heritage sites, and decrease in use of libraries. A copy of the statement is filed with these minutes.

Mr Houseman MBE CC introduced the report and referred to comments by members at the previous meeting regarding how the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) ratings were assessed. He pointed out that an explanation of how the assessments were made was provided in Appendix 2 of the report. Members welcomed the changes to the RAG rating system.

The Director advised that in setting targets the Department had sought to maintain these at previous levels or set improvements. This had proved a challenge especially at a time of increasing demand pressures and diminishing resources. In setting future targets the Department would need to have regard to this.

The Director reminded the Committee that the purpose of this report was to highlight performance in key areas and it was not intended to provide a comprehensive analysis of the department's activities. He went on to state that the information requested on the range and usage of the heritage service would be provided.

With regard to specific performance issues the Committee was advised:

- (i) Supporting people with Learning Disabilities had been given an amber rating because it was believed that this was an issue with recording the data, rather than poor performance.
- (ii) Whilst there had been some issues regarding delayed discharges due to difficulties with commissioning domiciliary care, the majority of the delays were due to the NHS not undertaking timely assessments, particularly for Continuing Healthcare. However, this needed to be seen in the context of unprecedented demands on the NHS and social care. An action plan had been developed to address the issues and the additional funding of £520,000 in a grant from the Department of Health would have an impact. The Director was confident there would be an improvement in performance at year end.
- (iii) A Development Plan was in place to provide safeguarding assurance across Leicestershire and Rutland which would sit under the Safeguarding Adults Board. Additionally, independent research had been commissioned from The Ann Craft Trust to investigate numbers of safeguarding referrals and provide a reasonable benchmark on which to assure performance across Leicestershire.

RESOLVED:

That the report and information now provided be noted.

77. Date of next meeting.

RESOLVED:

It was noted that the next meeting of the Commission would be held on 2 June 2015 at 2:00pm.

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