

Minutes

SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

18 January 2017



**Meeting held at Committee Room 6 - Civic Centre,
High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW**

Committee Members Present:

Councillors Wayne Bridges (Chairman), Jane Palmer (Vice-Chairman), Shehryar Ahmad-Wallana, Teji Barnes, Peter Davis, Beulah East, Becky Haggar, Phoday Jarjussey and Peter Money.

Co-Opted Member:

Mary O'Connor.

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Tony Eginton (Councillor Phoday Jarjussey substituting).

Officers:

Gary Collier (Health & Social Care Integration Manager), Nina Durnford (Head of Social Work, Adult Social Care Services), Sunita Ghudial (Benefit and Governance Manager), Tony Zaman (Corporate Director of Adults, Children & Young Peoples Services) and Khalid Ahmed (Democratic Services Manager).

37. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2016

Agreed as an accurate record.

38. TO CONFIRM THAT ALL ITEMS MARKED PART I WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC AND THAT ANY ITEMS MARKED PART II WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

It was confirmed that all items on the agenda would be considered in public.

39. BUDGET PROPOSALS REPORT FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING SERVICES 2017/18

The Operational Finance Manager introduced the report.

The Committee was informed that the budget proposals had been developed to support a ninth successive Council Tax freeze for all residents, and an eleventh year for over 65s, whilst avoiding implementation of the Social Care precept and maintaining frontline Council services.

This represented a significant achievement in light of continuing cuts to government funding for local government, estimated at 17% in 2017/18 alone, alongside a growing population, driving an ever increasing demand for locally provided services.

The Committee was informed that savings had been developed under five broad themes, which focused on maintaining the existing service offer: Zero-Based Reviews; Preventing Demand; Service Transformation; Effective Procurement; and Maximising Income.

Members were asked to note that the draft budget report did not include the impact of the recent Local Government Provisional Settlement, which would be addressed in the budget report to February Cabinet.

Corporate Position

Members were informed that the final funding settlement for 2017/18 would not be available until February and so the budget had therefore been drafted on the latest estimated position.

The Committee was informed that the principal challenge in delivering a balanced budget for 2017/18 was the development of significant savings, with the savings requirement for 2016/17 originally being estimated at £18,464k. This had since been revised upwards to £19,388k, primarily as a result of increased inflationary pressure on the cost of Social Care placements. Taking account of the planned drawdown of £5,000k from General Balances, this had left a net savings requirement of £14,388k.

The budget proposals presented to Cabinet in December 2016, showed a £11,314k projected reduction in Government funding, being off-set by increased Council Tax and Business Rates receipts of £4,638k, to reduce the net reduction in resources to £6,162k.

Inflationary pressures and growth in demand continued to drive up the savings requirement, with savings proposals of £14,388k presented in this draft budget.

Savings

The Committee was provided with details of the savings proposals across the Council for 2017/18, which totalled £14,388k. This included £1,669k of full year effects of prior year savings. The total savings included in the draft budget for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Housing Services/Group totalled £3,837k and were made up of the following.

Adult Social Care

Transformation - £1,627k
Zero Based Reviews - £1,106k

Action By:

Action By:

Preventing demand - £407k
Effective procurement - £305k
Income generation - £210k

Housing

Members were informed that savings which fell under the remit of this Committee, which would be delivered within Residents Services, totalled £182k. This figure comprised of £131k for reviews of Housing/Homelessness functions and £51k from Zero Based reviews.

Capital Programme

The Committee was informed that the draft capital programme would need to be revised once the final impact of the settlement was known, as this would impact on the affordability of the programme.

Members were provided with a summary of the draft capital programme which fell within the Committee's remit:

- The development of a new Dementia Centre.
- The development of a housing project at 1 & 2 Merrimans.
- The Belmore Allotments Housing Development - This was a housing development in Hayes under a range of tenures including a proposed 30 units for Discount Market Sale, to be financed through the General fund.
- The development of a programme for the Disabled Facilities Grant.
- The development of a programme for the Private Sector Renewal Grant / Landlord Property Renovation Grant.

Reference was made to the proposed savings in Social Care staffing which would result in efficiency savings. The Corporate Director of Adults, Children & Young Peoples Services explained that the proposed savings would not impact on front line services, but would delete some of the vertical management posts.

The Committee was informed that inflationary pressures were causing an impact on social care costs and the Council was looking at different models of delivery. Recruitment and retention of social workers had improved as the Council was more competitive in terms of salaries, and conditions of service.

Having considered the budget proposals, the following comments were asked to be submitted to Cabinet on the budget proposals:

Action By:

	<p>The Committee noted the budget proposals and the continuing budgetary pressures, particularly in social care. Officers were thanked for their work in social care under the financial pressures which they faced, and for providing first class services to residents.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the continuing success of the Right to Buy Scheme and the use of the proceeds to support the construction or purchasing of 335 new properties.</p> <p>The Committee also welcomed the merging of Adult and Children's Social Care Teams which would improve efficiencies.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>1. That the budget projections contained in the report be noted and the comments made by the Committee be submitted to Cabinet.</p>	<p>Khalid Ahmed</p>
<p>40.</p>	<p>MAJOR REVIEW - HOSPITAL DISCHARGES</p> <p>The Committee was provided with a summary of the evidence received for the three witness sessions for the Committee's review into Hospital Discharges.</p> <p>The Council's Health & Social Care Integration Manager reported that the key themes which came out of the review were that services were required to be in place to enable elderly patients to be discharged quickly from hospital. Improvements were required in communication between all agencies, to keep the patient and their families informed.</p> <p>Discussion took place around the themes of the review and it was agreed that communication to the patient was the key. The involvement of families, advocates, and Age UK for example, was very important.</p> <p>The Committee noted that for many elderly patients admitted to hospital, it was a traumatic experience, so maintaining their mental health was very important. Keeping the patient and their families updated, with clear and consistent information was important in terms of keeping patient's positive, and enabling them to be discharged quicker from hospital.</p> <p>Support was also required when the patient had been discharged from hospital to their home.</p> <p>The Corporate Director of Adults, Children & Young Peoples Services explained to the Committee that the Council had a statutory duty to make assessments on individuals' social care needs. However, a balance had to be made in terms of the care package the individual needed, and what was available in the market. Cost considerations had to be taken into account, as part of the decision reached, and the care package offered.</p>	<p>Action By:</p>

Subject to further discussions with officers and the Chairman of the Committee and the Labour Lead, the following suggested draft recommendations of the review were agreed:

1.
 - a) That clear information about the discharge process is developed for and with people admitted to hospital and their families so that they know what to expect.
 - b) That this information is provided to patients on admission as agreed through a joint working policy.
2.
 - a) That a joint working policy across all partners involved in the hospital discharge process is developed to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the appropriate teams within each organisation and to ensure consistency of approach.
 - b) That the joint working policy is formally endorsed by each organisation.
 - c) That briefings with staff across organisations on the content of the agreed joint working policy are undertaken.
3. That partners explore options for delivering a more integrated intermediate care service that ensures that people admitted to hospital are supported to go home by the most appropriate professional first time and that the number of hand-offs between different organisations is reduced.
4. That partners explore affordable options to enable people who are medically fit for discharge are able to step down from hospital without the need to be admitted to a care home.
5. That partners explore affordable options that will ensure an appropriate supply of care home places to address the needs arising from Hillingdon's changing population.
6. That partners explore affordable options for ensuring that people admitted to hospital and their families have access to advocacy to support them in making informed decisions about how their future care needs will be met, including the care setting.
7. That Healthwatch be requested to undertake a further review of the patient experience of the discharge process at Hillingdon Hospital in a year's time.
8. That a progress report be provided to the Cabinet Member for Social Services, Housing, Health & Wellbeing (and then to the Social Services, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee) that includes an update on the above recommendations as well as:

Action By:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number/% of Delayed Transfers of Care in Hillingdon Hospital attributed to patient/family choice; • % of Continuing Healthcare assessments taking place in a hospital setting; • Number/% of patients discharged before midday 7 days a week. <p>The Committee thanked officers for their support during the review, together with the witnesses who had helped the Committee form the recommendations.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the information provided at the meeting, together with the draft suggested recommendations, be noted, and be taken forward as part of the review. 2. That approval of the draft final report be agreed by the Chairman of the Committee and the Labour Lead, in consultation with officers. 	<p>Gary Collier / Khalid Ahmed</p>
<p>41.</p>	<p>SECOND MAJOR REVIEW - IMPLEMENTATION OF BENEFIT CHANGES AND THE IMPACT ON RESIDENTS</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Committee that after discussions with officers, it was suggested the Committee's second major review of the Municipal Year should be looking at how the Council was implementing the benefit changes and the impact of the changes on residents.</p> <p>The Council's Benefit and Governance Manager attended the meeting and provided the Committee with a summary of the recent changes made to benefits.</p> <p>Reference was made to Universal Credit which was the new Department for Work and Pensions benefit which had been designed to provide the support needed to prepare individuals for work, move into work or earn more. This replaced income based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income based Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Housing Benefit.</p> <p>Members were informed that Benefit Cap changes had come into effect in August 2013. The Benefit Cap was a limit on the total amount of income from certain benefits, a working aged household, aged 16-64 could receive. If they had received more than the benefit cap allowed, then their Housing Benefit or Universal Credit would be reduced to the cap.</p> <p>Details of the further reductions in the benefit cap were provided and the resultant impact on the affected 369 households in the Borough.</p> <p>Another change was Housing Benefit changes for tenants who</p>	

	<p>were under-occupying social housing. This rule only affected people of working age and reductions in housing benefit would reduce by 14% if there was one extra bedroom, and 25% if they had two or more extra bedrooms.</p> <p>Reference was made to Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP), which were short term emergency payments to help with the shortfall in rent. The aim of the payment was to give claimants time to move or reassess their finances.</p> <p>The Committee was informed that to help local authorities manage the impact of Housing Benefit reforms which were announced in the summer budget in 2015, the overall DHP funding nationally would be £150 million for 2016/17.</p> <p>The Committee was also informed that as part of the joint Fraud and Error Strategy, the Department for Work and Pensions and HRMC, had launched a Real Time Information (RTI) bulk data matching project. This project looked at the data held on six social security benefits, which included Housing Benefit and looked to identify cases where claimants had either failed to declare, or had under declared earnings and non-state pensions.</p> <p>The impact on Hillingdon was that the overpayments generated as a result of RTI changes equated to £10m in 2015/2016.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>1. That the information provided at the meeting be noted and officers be asked to draft a scoping report on the topic for the next meeting of the Committee, and to invite relevant witnesses to start the review.</p>	<p>Sunita Ghudial / Neil Fraser</p>
<p>42.</p>	<p>DRAFT FINAL REPORT - STROKE PREVENTION REVIEW</p> <p>The Committee noted the progress made in drafting the final report and it was agreed that the Chairman of the Committee and the Labour Lead, in consultation with officers, be given approval to agree the draft report, before its submission to Cabinet.</p>	<p>Action By:</p> <p>Dr Steve Hajioff / Luke Taylor</p>
<p>43.</p>	<p>FORWARD PLAN</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
<p>44.</p>	<p>WORK PROGRAMME</p> <p>Members noted that the Chairman of the Adult Safeguarding Board would be invited to attend the Committee's meeting on 21 February 2017 to present the Board's Annual Report.</p>	<p>Action By:</p> <p>Neil Fraser</p>

	In addition for the February meeting, there would be an item on the Council employment of people with disabilities. Noted.	Neil Fraser
	Meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 8.10pm Next meeting: 21 February 2017 at 7.00pm	

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Khalid Ahmed on 01895 250833. These minutes are circulated to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.