

**Cambridgeshire County Council
Community and Adult Services
Adult Support Services
Supporting People**

Commissioning Body

1:30pm; Wednesday 27 July 2011, Scott House, Huntingdon

Present

**Alan Carter (AC)– Cambridge City Council
Anne Chandler (AEC) – Supporting People (Minutes)
Mike Davey (MD) – Cambridgeshire County Council
Julie Fletcher (JF) – South Cambridgeshire District Council
(Representing Stephen Hills)
Sarah Gove (SG) – Fenland District Council (Representing
Dan Horn)
Melanie Gray (MG) – Supporting People Commissioning
Manager
Jane Hollingworth (JH) – East Cambridgeshire District
Council
Joseph Keegan (JK) – Supporting People Strategic Planning
Manager
Robert Nicholls (RN) – Cambridgeshire County Council
(Chair)
Richard O’Driscoll (RO’D) - NHS Cambridgeshire
Steve Plant (SPI) - Huntingdonshire District Council
Graeme Seddon (GS) – Cambridgeshire Probation Service
(Representing Alison Hancock)**

1.0 Apologies

Claire Bruin (Cambridgeshire County Council); Alison Hancock (Cambridgeshire Probation Service); Stephen Hills (South Cambridgeshire District Council); Dan Horn (Fenland District Council)

1.1 Introductions

Robert Nicholls is the Interim Head of Commissioning (Mental Health and Supporting People) and is chairing the meeting.

Action

2.0 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 May 2011 and Matters Arising

2.1 Accuracy

Item 4.1 Accommodation Project – Homeless Families

The following is to be added:

- SPI said that Floating Support is suitable for some but not all homeless families. It is not suitable for all those with chaotic lifestyles, for example, so there is a need for other types of service.

2.2 Matters Arising

- Item 2.1.2 Matters Arising – Juniper House There has been a meeting of the Enablers Group and they are considering using it for brain injury clients. The proposal needs Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) support but it will be a very costly scheme. The five authorities have been asked to include the scheme in their top five priorities for HCA funding.
- Item 2.1.2 Matters Arising – Radical Efficiency MG previously put a bid together for the development of Community Wardens. It was to start in South Cambridgeshire District and later to be rolled out across the county. This is now not going to be treated separately but will be included in the broader Older People's work.
- Item 8.0 - Governance Arrangements Clarification is required on where decisions on the SP programme are made. This subject needs input from Claire Bruin so it will be put on the agenda for the next meeting and will include reviewing the Terms of Reference for the CB and link it in with the new Health and Wellbeing Board.

MG

3.0 Quarterly Finance Report

MG presented the report covering the projected spend for the next four years, the Handyperson spend, Older Peoples funding and progress on the savings target.

- MD and RO'D felt that Table 1 was not straightforward and did not give enough information for the group to make informed decisions. MG drew the group's attention to Appendix 1, which provided more detail.
- MG and RN are to work with Finance to present the figures in a different way to show the budget position more clearly. They are to include a comparison of spend to date to allocation and a variance.
- MG reported that she consulted with Corporate Finance regarding the financial carry forward and they confirmed any surplus at the end of the year will go back to the Adult Services budget.
- AC felt that the CB should send a strong message back to the County Council that it is not happy to give up the excess.
- SPI said that the grant was originally ring-fenced and that

MG/RN

savings had been made by Providers. It was not fair to penalise the SP programme by taking funding back.

- RO'D suggested that the SP team should present options for spending the surplus to the CB but should try to carry it forward into next year to buy time for the re-modelling of services.
- MD suggested that the Integrated Planning Process (IPP) might be used. It is a 5 year process, and may be a way of keeping the surplus within the SP programme. MG is to clarify the carry forward position and investigate the use of the IPP.
- The CB acknowledged the savings made to date, noted the risks identified and proposed mitigating actions and noted the current financial position and projections.

MG

4.0 **Operational Update**

MG presented the report which updated the CB on the main workstreams of the programme being delivered by the Supporting People Team. She put forward some key recommendations for decisions to enable progress to be made.

4.1 **Accommodation Services – Mental Health**

- SP are working with Mental Health Commissioning, taking account of all resources and adopting a whole system approach. This was endorsed by the CB.
- The services are to be defined by 4 tiers:
 - **Tier 1** - Residential Care –Registered Care homes. Spot placements in designated care homes funded by the Mental Health Individual Service Placement budget.
 - **Tier 2** Intensive mental health accommodation/ and rapid move-on services (e.g. Vicarage Terrace). This will be defined by higher staffing levels, dealing with more complex needs with the capability for sleep-ins and 24 hour support if required.
 - **Tier 3** Visiting Support: to self contained units usually in clusters with staff visiting depending on need.
 - **Tier 4** Support in the persons own accommodation by Floating Support.
- This was endorsed by the CB.

4.2 **Accommodation Services – Socially Excluded and Domestic Violence**

- It is proposed to reduce beds in 222 Victoria Rd and re-model the service. Around £100k is required from ECHG's services. This was agreed.

- It is recommended that the Stonham move-on service in Cambridge City be discontinued when the contract ends in April 2012, saving £40k. This was agreed.
- It is proposed to discontinue the Luminus Offenders scheme in Fenland, saving £62k. Offenders beds will be provided by the newly modelled Octavia View scheme. This was agreed.
- Full impact assessments for all decisions above have been developed and considered carefully. These will continue to be reviewed.

4.3 Older People

- Existing contracts for sheltered housing services end in March 2012. CBr is looking to see if the SP team can have more time for tendering. RO'D and MG are working on a paper to go to Cabinet to gain a year, so that tendering can be done in a way that will enable changes to be made and it will give more time to look at different models. The work needs to be linked in with all services such as HIAs, Alarms and Homeshield.
- AC asked if there was an alternative plan if the extension was not granted. RO'D is reasonably optimistic that Cabinet will agree but even if they do it will be a real challenge to complete the work in the extended timescale. He is seeking Project Management support to help with the task.
- MD pointed out that Cabinet will be looking at what is the cheaper option.
- SPI asked if Providers knew about the timescales outlined in the report. MG/JK are to do a briefing for the Districts to highlight what is known and what is not.

MG/JK

5.0 HIA Update

MG presented the paper, updating the CB on the Commissioning of HIA services.

5.1 Current Situation in Cambridgeshire

- SPI pointed out that Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils agreed in principle to the shared service solution with delegated authorities to work through the detail.

5.2 Issues to be addressed

- MG has been advised by the County Council's legal department that the shared service arrangement is not

exempt from tendering under the Teckal ruling as it is receiving funding from the County and NHS Cambridgeshire who have never provided the service.

- SPI pointed out that the District legal advice was that they are exempt from tendering.
- RO'D and MG explained that arrangements have been agreed to allow the Shared Service to continue to be set up within the existing timescales. A funding arrangement for 2 years can be put in place, whereby funds are granted to the service. For the service to be Teckal exempt a separate entity would need to be established with a Management Board set up to include representatives from the NHS and the County Council. Even then, the County Council's legal department state it would not be exempt from tendering as these are not services ever provided by the County Council
- AC registered concern about these last minute changes as he felt they were significant and it was late in the process.
- RO'D pointed out that a solution was available and that it wouldn't halt progress.
- MG agreed to continue to speak with the Legal team to clarify the situation and it was decided that a separate meeting should be convened to discuss the matter and agree the way forward.

MG

6.0 Performance Report

JK presented the report explaining that Quarter 1 performance data is not available yet as the CB meeting was moved forward by one week due to Annual Leave. The information will be circulated as soon as possible.

JK

DCLG are no longer collecting performance data relating to Supporting People services. SITRA have conducted a consultation on the appetite for developing an alternative approach to evidence the value of housing support on behalf of DCLG. Meanwhile, the SP team are working on a locally produced framework which will include data collection on outcomes.

The CB noted the work being carried out.

7.0 Commissioning Strategy

RN suggested that members of the CB should look at the Draft Strategy away from the meeting and comment back to MG directly. This was agreed.

All

8.0 Any Other Business

- 8.1 The DWP have issued the consultation paper on the reform of Housing Benefit. JK is looking at it from the County Council perspective. The Districts are looking at it separately.

The meeting closed at 15:40