

ADULT CARE AND WELL BEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 21 MARCH 2018

LEARNING DISABILITY REPLACEMENT CARE SERVICES: PRE-CONSULTATION ENGAGEMENT ON OPTIONS FOR FUTURE DELIVERY

Summary

1. The Panel is to be briefed on Replacement Care Services for adults with a Learning Disability, in particular the planned pre-consultation engagement with service users, carers, staff and stakeholders on options for future provision of replacement care for adults with a learning disability.
2. The Council's Strategic Commissioner of Adult Services and the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care have been invited to this meeting, as well as Speakeasy N.O.W, a self-advocacy charity for people with learning disabilities.

Background

3. The Panel will be aware that Cabinet recently approved a period of pre-consultation engagement on how learning disability replacement care services should be delivered in the future, with engagement planned to take place with individuals using replacement care services, family carers, professionals and wider stakeholders. The report to Cabinet on 8 February 2018 is available on the Council's website [here](#)
4. Replacement care is the support provided to an individual due to a carer having a break from their usual caring role. It was previously known as "respite" from caring or "short breaks" for carers. The change in terminology is in line with the Care Act 2014. It is the support offered to people needing help in fulfilling their caring commitments without putting themselves under unnecessary pressure or stress, and usually involves overnight care for one or more nights. These can be planned breaks or short notice in emergency situations.
5. Planned replacement care is identified in an individual's needs assessment and support plan for people who are eligible for Council-funded services under the Care Act. The support plan sets out the number of nights of replacement care required for that individual per year. To meet these needs, the majority of replacement care provision is commissioned by the Council on a block purchase basis (from both internal and external providers), and therefore at a fixed cost. This means that if the number of nights included in the contract are not all actually used, the cost is still incurred.
6. The Council currently commissions fixed cost replacement care for people with a learning disability in the following settings:

- In-house provision at Worth Crescent in Stourport and Pershore Short Breaks unit, provided by the Council's Adult Social Care Provider Services
- Osborne Court in Malvern and Church View in Bromsgrove via a contract with Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust
- Lock Close in Redditch via a contract with the external provider HF Trust Ltd.

7. Currently, around 175 individuals receive a regular replacement care service funded by the Council within the services listed above. Recent analysis has shown that there are currently over 1,800 nights purchased but not used per annum across the county (equivalent to 5 beds). This represents an approximate spend on empty beds of £450,000, based on the average unit cost per night.

8. The total 2017/18 budget for all Learning Disability Replacement Care provision is £2.6 million. This includes all of the block-contracted provision and Council-provided services as well as a small amount of provision in external care homes and specialist units via individual spot purchases (for example, where individuals choose to access provision in other settings). Some replacement care is also provided by Shared Lives carers through the Shared Lives scheme.

9. Following Cabinet approval, a comprehensive programme of engagement is being arranged to include staff, service users, carers and other stakeholders. The engagement is scheduled to start on 27 March 2018 and to run until the end of April 2018. A report on the findings of the pre-consultation engagement, including equality impact assessments as required and recommended next steps, will be presented to Cabinet in June 2018.

Scrutiny to Date

10. Although many Panel members are new, following the May 2017 County Council elections, the Panel has maintained oversight of services available for adults with a Learning Disability, including Day Services and support for having a job.

11. At its last meeting on 22 January 2018, the Panel discussed the Directorate's plans for pre-consultation engagement on options for future delivery of Connect short-term service and Council-provided Day Services. The Panel recommended that all Councillors were made aware of the informal engagement meetings planned, with a view to attending as an observer and providing feedback to the Scrutiny Panel. The background papers provide a link to this discussion.

Purpose of the Meeting

12. Panel Members are asked to:

- Determine whether any further information or scrutiny is required at this time
- Agree any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Member regarding engagement on future provision of Replacement Care Services for adults with a Learning Disability.

13. In doing so, Panel members may look to consider:

- plans for engagement
- learning from other recent engagement and how this will be incorporated
- any initial emerging messages from engagement activity so far

- the potential accumulated impact of any changes to service provision, alongside engagement taking place around Day Services for adults with a Learning Disability.

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and Minutes of Cabinet on 8 February 2018 (Agenda item 5: Future Provision of Replacement Care for Adults with a Learning Disability) – available on the Council's website [here](#)
- Agenda and Minutes of the Adult Care and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 22 January 2018, 16 March 2017 and 23 May 2016 – available [here](#)
- Agenda and Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on 6 December 2017 – available [here](#)