

COUNCIL
13 JULY 2023

REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021-2022

1. Professor Keith Brown, the Independent Chair of the Adults Safeguarding Board, attended the Cabinet meeting and presented the Board's annual report for 2021/22. The Annual Report provides an overview of the activity of the Board during the year. This includes the safeguarding activity that took place to protect people in Worcestershire with care and support needs at risk of harm during this period.
2. Professor Brown emphasised the progress made by the Council in the development of the Complex Adult Risk Management (CARM) framework and noted that the Council was at the forefront of dealing with adults with complex needs
3. The Exploitation Strategy was currently out to consultation with the final completion expected shortly. The Board had undertaken a lot of work developing a meaningful approach to the engagement with people with a lived experience. The Board continued to review its policies, particularly to speed up the process of Safeguarding Adults Reviews. .
4. Cabinet has received the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021-2022 and any actions resulting from it.

Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training and Automated External Defibrillators (AED) across the County

5. In 2022 the Council passed a Motion calling for an audit of the availability of CPR training and AEDs across Worcestershire, including in schools. The motion also recommended work to increase access to CPR training and AEDs.
6. Cabinet has noted the audit of CPR training and AED availability conducted by the Public Health team and presented within the report. Cabinet has agreed that all WCC staff and elected members are encouraged to undertake online CPR training.
7. Cabinet has agreed the proposed promotional work by Public Health aimed at increasing awareness of CPR training and community located AEDs; to include Public Health providing signposting and support to community organisations in obtaining funding for AEDs (as set out in paragraph 34 of the report).
8. Cabinet has agreed that Public Health create a grant scheme to assist local organisations to purchase AEDs where alternative sources of funding could not be accessed and where specific criteria are met.

Developer Funded Highways Infrastructure Scrutiny Report

10. Cabinet has deferred consideration of the scrutiny report to a future Cabinet meeting to allow more opportunity for discussion between the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and the Chairman of the Scrutiny Task Group together with officers in the development of a response.

Consultation outcome in relation to charging for care and support

11. On 2 February 2023, Cabinet authorised the Strategic Director for People to carry out a public consultation on the proposals in relation to charging for care and support. The consultation commenced on 23 February 2023, following the Cabinet decision to proceed, and lasted for 90 days, and ended on 24 May 2023.

12. In relation to changes to the Assessment for Replacement Care, a total of 205 letters were sent to recipients of replacement care, or their carers; in addition to key stakeholder. 33 responses were received to the consultation and the outcome demonstrated that 24 of the responses (73%) were in favour of the proposals with 5 being against it and 4 not indicating a preference.

13. In relation to charging for Double Handed Care Calls, a total of 638 letters were sent to recipients of domiciliary care including those currently in receipt of double handed care, or their carers; in addition to key stakeholder organisations. 126 responses were received, of which 48 are in favour of the proposals. This figure rose to 64 following once those requesting additional information were contacted via phone (51%) and 56 (44%) are against it. The additional 6 responses failed to indicate a preference

14. Cabinet has noted the outcome of the consultation in relation to the proposed change for charging for replacement care and double handed care.

15. Cabinet has agreed the proposed amendments to the County Council's current charging policy for Adult Social Care Services in respect of the following: i) Changes the financial assessment criteria for Replacement Care from a residential service to a non-residential service and makes the distinction clearer for service users; and ii) Implements charges for both carers when two carers are required to attend a home care visit (double handed care).

Resources Report – Provisional Financial Results 2022/23

16. Cabinet has endorsed financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2023 and the unaudited Annual Financial Report and Statement of Accounts 2022/23. Cabinet has also approved the transfers to and from earmarked reserves and general balances and considered the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23. Final approval will be sought from the Audit and Governance Committee.

17. The Council position for 2022-23 is a net overspend of £7.316m on a £373.2m budget (1.96% of net revenue expenditure). Overspends in all the demand led areas, Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and Home to School Transport were partially mitigated by underspends in other service areas and in central budgets. The wider economy CPI inflation in the UK has created some of these pressures since the budget

was set in February 2022. The Council's financial controls have enabled us to mitigate this position where earlier in the year a £13 million overspend was anticipated.

18. The overall outturn position is broadly in line with the Quarter 3 forecast position for services that was presented to Cabinet in February, with the Council's overspend decreasing slightly due to an underspend in corporate budgets.

19. This position is after the use of budgeted reserves, capitalisation and grants. The majority of grants received were awarded for a specific purpose and a significant proportion these grants relate to Adult Social Care have been allocated to providers. The £7.316 million overspend for 2022/23 is recommended to be funded from adults and children's earmarked reserves. Cabinet has noted the capital outturn for 2022/23.

Transfer of coroners officers to Worcestershire County Council

20. Coroners are independent judicial officers who are appointed and funded by local authorities. They inquire into deaths reported to them which appear to be violent, unnatural or of sudden and unknown causes. Coroners are judicially independent and as such determine how they discharge their functions within the statutory framework.

21. Worcestershire is designated as a Coronial area and as such is required to have a Senior Coroner appointed (not employed) by the Local Authority and agreed by the Chief Coroner and the Lord Chancellor. This Council has significant statutory duties in respect of the coronial service.

22. Coroners are supported by Coroners Officers, who are in many respects the mainstay of the administration of the coronial system. Within Worcestershire, these roles have historically been provided and funded by West Mercia Police (WMP), but are not considered core policing roles, and the current division of accountability does not sit well with a modern Coroner's Service. These roles do not require the exercise of any police powers, hence the request to transfer to the County Council.

23. Cabinet has approved the proposal to transfer the management and future funding of Coroners Officers from West Mercia Police (WMP) to Worcestershire County Council (WCC). Cabinet has also agreed that permanent recurrent funding is sought from the County Council's budget, on a tapering basis, for 2024/25 onwards to fund the transfer of staff. Cabinet has authorised the Strategic Director for People, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities to agree the detail of the transfer of staff and function with a target date of 1 October 2023.

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and background papers for the meetings of the Cabinet held on 25 May and 29 June 2023:

[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 25th May, 2023, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 29th June, 2023, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)