



Notes of evidence

Name of meeting	POLICY COMMISSION FOR CARE HEALTH AND HOUSING
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2008 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Commission	Cllrs Erica Oulton (Chairman), William Burt, Margaret Webster, Colin West.
Cabinet	Cllr Dawn Cousins
Other Councillors	None
Officers Present	Sarah Mitchell, April Ross, Simon Wiggins
Stakeholders	Margaret Pratt (IW NHS PCT), Helen Shields (IW NHS PCT)
Apologies	Cllr Deborah Gardiner

1. Notes of Evidence

1.1 The Notes of evidence arising at the meeting held on [1 October 2008](#) were agreed.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Cllr Margaret Webster declared a personal interest in Items 6 and 7 due to the fact that she was the Older Persons Champion.

3. Public Question Time

3.1 No public questions were received

4. Directors Update

4.1 The Director of Community Services provided an update on the Transforming Social Care Report which contained a clear drive to transform care to a more personalised approach and a move towards individual budgets.

- 4.2 Members were advised that work to look at the local implications was progressing well with input being provided by members of the Isle of Wight NHS PCT (IW PCT), Public, Voluntary and community groups and through this a number of working groups had been formed.
- 4.3 It was noted that a Resource Allocation System (RAS) would be used to determine the level of need for those requiring care and this would then determine the amount of funding allocated to their individual care budget. Transforming the care provided would be challenging as while it must be geared to increasing independence it must provide elements of safeguarding against abuse whether that be financial or other types of abuse.
- 4.4 The Commission was told that the Director had recently accompanied Councillors Cousins and Oulton to the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) Conference and that the Director had been one of 10 directors who were introduced to the new Minister for Care Services, Phil Hope. During that meeting the minister had re-iterated that the Transforming Social Care Paper was going to cause the biggest change to care since the 1948 National Assistance Act.
- 4.5 National Publicity regarding the changes in the way care was to be provided was raised as an issue and whilst locally work was taking place to implement those changes little may be known about the changes on a national scale. Whilst it was recognised national publicity campaigns were ran on stopping smoking and excessive drinking further efforts were required to increase awareness of independent choice and control in Social Care.
- 4.6 A clear assessment had been provided in the report to the Cabinet on 21 October 2008 and it was noted by the Commission that the transformation of Social Care would require vast change management.
- 4.7 The Interim Chief Executive of the IW PCT told the Commission that the method used for making direct payments to support peoples care packages were more liberal for local authorities than those that were in place for the PCT but that whilst this did not provide a level playing field, working in partnership whilst remaining within any legal implications was the best method to make progress.
- 4.8 Work continued to make progress on Learning Difficulties and the Director advised the Commission that two service managers had recently been appointed in order to provide further capacity in moving that work ahead.
- 4.9 The Director of Community Services provided the Commission with an update on recent work and developments in regard to housing issues on the Island.
- 4.10 It was noted that at a large amount of work had been done in the housing area including interest in the Home Buy scheme assisting both first time buyers and others in housing need.
- 4.11 Good work on bringing empty properties back into use had been achieved, although no current figures could be provided. It was also noted that the rent deposit scheme was also having an impact and including the Credit Union within the scheme was being researched.
- 4.12 The current national finance situation could also become a factor in regard to housing and would require monitoring to gauge the effect of repossessions and a number of

schemes were being extended to deal with debt advice to support people based on the perceived increase in those requiring assistance.

4.13 The Land Swap with the Salvation Army to enable the construction of a Hostel at Green Street Car Park, Ryde had recently been signed in accordance with the decision made at the Cabinet on 26 June 2008.

5. Cabinet Member Update

5.1 The Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Community Wellbeing raised their concern surrounding the age of parents supplying ongoing care for children.

5.2 The Commission were told that Age Concern had recently released a report regarding the acute depression and loneliness felt by those suffering from dementia.

5.3 The Cabinet member commended the good work that had taken place in regard to housing issues island wide and informed the commission that a date was to be forthcoming shortly which would allow the members to visit some of the housing that was being provided. This invitation would also be extended to the stakeholders within the IW PCT.

6. Continuing Care Enquiry

6.1 It was noted that an extensive amount of evidence had been provided in support of this enquiry into Continuing Care to ensure that the quality of care to older people was to a high standard.

6.2 The criteria had changed since the enquiry had taken place, with the IW PCT having to provide an increased amount of the funding towards continuing care, while taking into account the current economic situation and ensuring the correct balance of services were still offered. The Interim Chief Executive of the IW PCT reported that this would be particularly challenging for the Island owing to demographics of the population.

6.3 The Director of Community Services informed the Commission that it was not possible to ascertain how much funding was provided by the authority through social care as the authority did not directly fund continuing care. However, £376,000 was thought to be the amount that would be transferred to the IW PCT through savings and this was being continually tracked through the budget although this figure did include some cases of those with Learning Disabilities.

6.4 The Commission were told that there remained misunderstandings over the size of the issue faced by local providers and the pressures in providing a correct balance of services. It was further noted that owing to the lack of publicity to the general public the perception remained that the care provided would incur no cost to those receiving Continuing Care.

RESOLVED

THAT the Recommendations in the Policy Commission Blue paper on Continuing Care be adopted

7. Funding of Older People's Care Enquiry

- 7.1 The Director of Community Services informed the Commission that an evidence gathering conference was taking place on the 11 December 2008, with invitations being issued to members of the Policy Commission, members of the Cabinet, leaders of the other political groups and other key groups. This would allow there to be an opportunity for an island debate to take place and to raise issues that would then be fed into the enquiry.
- 7.2 Addressing the conference would be a number of key speakers including Professor Jon Glasby, of Birmingham University's Health Services Management Centre who would be discussing the origins of the issues surrounding the funding of future care and methods of funding future care through Taxation and National Insurance.
- 7.3 A number of models were being used throughout Great Britain and Europe and these would also be explored at the conference and in support of this the Director told the Commission that she would be visiting Denmark in December to study more closely the model they had in place around the world.
- 7.4 Other guest speakers would be Andrew Cozens CBE, Strategic Advisor for Children, Adults and Health Services who would be addressing the conference to provide the governments position, explaining how fairness would be brought into the system and the issue of the decreasing numbers of those available through employment to provide the anticipated levels of care required for an ageing population. Professor Caroline Glendinning would also attend and she would be giving a briefing on the various models that were currently in place.
- 7.5 The Commission were told that before the date of the conference a fact gathering exercise would take place on the Island which would involve members of the public answering a number of questions regarding Continuing Care and the results of this would be discussed at the conference and fed into the enquiry.
- 7.6 It was noted that elements of the impact of the perceived increase in demand for Continuing Care could be decreased through the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and well being to combat the ageing process. It was further noted that the current older Island generation did not seek assistance through applying for benefits to which they may be entitled and research was taking place to try and encourage those entitled to claim for different types of funding that was available through the introduction of a 50 plus strategy.
- 7.7 The Department of Health website was a useful resource for providing background information on care and support issues. Visiting the site was recommended by the Director at www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk

8. Members' Question Time

- 8.1 There were no Member questions received

CHAIRMAN