

Health Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2018

Present:

Councillor Farrell – in the Chair
Councillors Battle, Curley, Midgley, Reeves, Siddiqi, Smitheman, Stone, Wills and Wilson

Councillor Craig, Executive Member for Adult Health and Wellbeing
Councillor B Priest, Deputy Leader
Councillor Flanagan, Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources

Apologies: Councillors Mary Monaghan and Webb

HSC/18/09 Updated Financial Strategy and Directorate Budget and Business Plans 2018-2020

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive and the City Treasurer that provided Members with an update on the Council's financial position and set out next steps in the budget process, including scrutiny of the draft Budget proposals and Directorate Budget and Business Plan reports and accompanying delivery plans by this Committee.

The Committee received:-

- An Executive Summary of the Adult Social Care Budget;
- The Adult Social Care Directorate Budget and Business Plan 2018-20 Health and Social Care;
- The Adult Social Care Directorate Budget and Business Plan 2018-20 Health and Social Care Homelessness and Delivery Plans 2018/19- 2019/20; and
- The Manchester Health and Care Commissioning Joint Financial Plan 2018 - 2020.

The Committee had been invited to comment on the report prior to its submission to the Executive on 7 February 2018.

In addition to the written reports considered the Members also received a presentation that provided an overview of the reports presented to Committee.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were:-

- The impact of the unfair central government cuts on Local Authority Budgets;
- The impact of welfare reform on local residents and the impact that this had on the physical and mental health of residents and the implications on the number of homeless across the city, and what was being done to respond to this challenge;
- What were the impacts on Manchester of the Homeless Reduction Act;
- Staff training budgets, in particular for front line staff responding to the issue of homelessness;
- The future plans for Extra Care Housing schemes.

The Executive Member for Adult Health and Wellbeing informed the Committee that a three year budget had been agreed in 2017 and that the reports provided an update on the delivery and spend of those budgets. She said that Manchester residents were living longer, often with complex health needs, and that despite the financial cuts imposed by central government over the previous years Manchester remained committed to retaining and delivering services to improve the health and wellbeing of residents, including the delivery of the Extra Care housing schemes. She said that Manchester continued to lobby central government for a fairer financial settlement for the city.

The Executive Director for Strategic Commissioning and Director of Adult Social Care Services said that the programme of organisational change, that included delivery of the Single Hospital Service, the Local Care Organisation and the Single Commissioning Function represented a programme of investment to save by pooling Adult Social Care and Health budgets together to deliver a balanced budget and improve the health outcomes of residents. She said that the final budget position would be subject to the agreement of the funding requests which have been put forward. Should there be a requirement for further resources to be identified as a result, these would need to be met from a combination of changes to business rates and commercial income, commissioning decisions, efficiencies and a further review of budget requirements, and that Members would be kept informed and consulted on these decisions.

The Deputy Leader said that the challenges of homelessness were significant in Manchester. He said that the contributing factors to this were the impact that Universal Credit and other welfare reforms has had on residents. He said that despite the financial pressure on budgets the Council remained committed to responding to this issue effectively. He said the preventative intervention work of the service was very important to reduce the number of people who were homeless.

The Director of Homelessness informed the Committee that people who had experienced or were experiencing homelessness were involved in the design of services to assist homeless people. She said that the opening of the Longford Centre in Chorlton had provided bed space for 38 people where wrap around services could be delivered. She made reference to the presentation that described how the additional £1.750m in homeless services had been spent on innovative services. She said that Greater Manchester had recently secured additional funding to develop a Housing First model of care that would be administered by the housing charity Shelter.

The Strategic Lead, Homelessness and Migration said that the Homeless Reduction Act placed additional duties on Local Authorities. She said the Prevention Duty required services to work with people 56 days before they became homeless and this included people who did not have a local connection. She said that a briefing note would be circulated to all Members regarding the implications of the Homeless Reduction Act. She said that a lot of work was being delivered to prevent people becoming homeless. She said this was being delivered through information and housing options advice, especially for those in the Private Rented Sector being available and accessible on the Council's website. She said that £150K new funding from central government had been awarded to implement the Homeless Reduction

Act, however this would not meet the additional pressures that the Act would place on Manchester.

The Executive Member for Adult Health and Wellbeing said that staff were valued for the important work that they undertook on behalf of the residents of Manchester and a Workforce Strategy was established.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources said that the safety and training of staff was taken very seriously and the issue raised by the Member regarding a specific budget to invest in technology to assist front line staff would be considered by the Human Resources Sub Group.

Decisions

1. To endorse the Adult Social Care Directorate Budget and Business Plan 2018-20 Health and Social Care; Adult Social Care Directorate Budget and Business Plan 2018-20 Health and Social Care Homelessness and Delivery Plans 2018/19-2019/20 and the Manchester Health and Care Commissioning Joint Financial Plan 2018 -2020 reports and recommendations to the Executive.
2. To request that the Human Resources Sub Group scrutinise the Adult Social Care staff training budget to explore the options available to provide assistive technology to front line staff.