

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND INTEGRATION TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2016

As usual, integration has dominated the agenda in Adult Social Care as we move inexorably towards a system of health and social care which better serves the people we represent by creating joined up pathways involving NHS, local authority, the police, the voluntary sector, the independent sector and our communities themselves in delivering health and well-being solutions. Discussions are well underway regarding the journey towards fully integrated commissioning and provision for health and adult social care across the trust, the clinical commissioning group and the local authority. Following recent recommendations from the Employment Committee, we are currently investigating the real possibility of shared senior posts in these areas. This has potential not merely to reflect a clear intent to operate differently, but to deliver much needed savings in an area of high cost across the sector.

Members will appreciate that the budget has occupied a great deal of the time and attention of Executive members over the past few months. The proposals put forward by the Independent administration reflect our desire to protect the most vulnerable in a climate of huge financial pressure. I have been in numerous discussions with representatives of groups concerned about the future funding for services which have a direct impact on vulnerable service users.

Given the size of spend in Adult Social Care it is naturally seen as an area where the most significant savings might be found, however, this fails to take into account the growing numbers and more complex needs of the population. Unless something can be done urgently to resolve our funding shortfall I do not believe we can survive beyond this year in anything resembling our current incarnation.

Councillor Steve Stubbings
Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Integration