

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2017

In October 2016, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), in [annual assessment of the quality of health and adult social care in England](#), stated that adult social care is at a tipping point.

Fellow councillors,

As the former chair of Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, many of you will recall my repeated requests for openness and transparency across all matters pertaining to health and social care. As the new Executive lead for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I have no intention of retreating from that position. Accordingly, I offer this first report to Full Council in the spirit of openness and transparency – to provide you with an overview of the work undertaken to date, and an early analysis of the key issues faced across adult social care and public health.

The first priority has been to get to grips with the financial pressures affecting the portfolio and to develop the budget for 2017/18. As of the end of December 2016, Adult Social Care was projecting a £2.6 million overspend. Of this projected overspend, £1.4 million pertains to the contribution from the clinical commissioning group (CCG) to the Better Care Fund (BCF) that we were informed, several months ago as it turns out, would not be forthcoming. The remaining £1.2 million projected overspend pertains to two key areas: an overspend of the residential and nursing home budget; and some very large direct payments. An overspend is never good – and the department has instigated very strict processes around spending approvals. The department has also recently improved its performance in completing reviews (from over 500 overdue by more than three months in December 2016 to 373 by 13 February 2017) – and this is vital in controlling the budget – although the director informs me that we still have a very long way to go.

I am delighted to inform Full Council that we have secured the services of a Better Care Fund advisor, Andrew Cozens. Mr Cozens is a former director of social services and has worked extensively on the national stage in supporting the transformation and improvement of social care and its partnership working with health. Mr Cozens will be working with ourselves and the CCG during March to develop the Better Care Fund plans for 2017/18 – and also to help us sign off the existing 2016/17 BCF.

In setting the 2017/18 budget, I have held several meetings with the director of adult social care and director of public health – and I have removed some of the potential areas of savings that had been previously identified. This includes the removal of Isle of Wight Council funded travel support to Isle of Wight patients receiving off Island treatment for cancer. As Full Council might be aware, this is not a statutory duty for the council – and I understand that we assumed financial responsibility for this funding

when our health colleagues decided to withdraw it several years ago. So in retaining the council's funding for this vital service to patients, a priority will be ensuring that it is fully reconsidered by health in the coming months as the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) indicates the possibility of increasing numbers of off Island treatments. Moreover, the cost of patient/carer transport has been identified by the new administration as central to the implementation of any future STP plan (I have met and raised this matter with the Transport Infrastructure Task Force).

Secondly, I have also met with representatives from Mencap, visiting Haylands Farm and discussing the social care elements of the proposed budget (revenue and capital) – as well as discussing the wider development opportunities included in the budget, which must be fully inclusive and benefiting the whole Island community.

With the leader, I have continued (consistent to the concerns raised in my former roles at Scrutiny and Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny) to seek clarification of the investments made by My Life A Full Life, and I have attended sub-group meetings to see the programme in action: and we have met with health colleagues to secure further information. I am delighted to inform Council that the first Integrated Locality service goes “live” at the end of this month - and I am clear that I will use my Executive lead role to promote greater pace of implementation elsewhere across the programme: it is long overdue.

I am also pleased to confirm to council that we have secured additional Vanguard funding for 2017/18 of £3.3 million. We will receive £1.7 million in the initial instance and be subjected to a mid-year evaluation undertaken by the New Care Models team to assure them that we have made good progress with implementation and impact of the many different schemes – only then will we received the second £1.7 million.

I have also had regular briefings on the forthcoming CQC report on the Isle of Wight NHS Trust, and recognise the director has given this a priority, providing support to our health colleagues, as we commission many services from the trust and we have shared interest in many areas of activity, for example mental health. We are working pro-actively to support the trust's implementation of its action plan

I have also attended a meeting of the trust board; had a briefing on Extra-Care Housing initiatives; attended the hospice's 35th anniversary launch; met with Healthwatch and service users; contributed (with Councillor Hutchinson) to the Local Government Association Peer Review of Learning Disability Services on the Island and attended the feedback session with other stakeholders (this has also helped inform the budget process); visited British Heart Care projects in Ryde, Newport and Shanklin with fellow councillors; supported a health promotion launch in Newport; submitted a motion to support the national MND Charter; met staff at a 'Big Conversation' event; and attended the recent meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-committee.

In advance of the next meeting of the Health and Well Being Board in March, it is important to acknowledge the contribution of Dr John Rivers, the retiring chair of the

CCG, for his work both as an Island GP and as chair of the CCG during a time of major change and financial challenge - his leadership and counsel will be much missed.

In preparation for the meeting, I have had briefings on the areas of joint work and commissioning, including recruitment of a new Assistant Director for Integrated Commissioning, and briefings on Better Care Fund and CQC Report on the trust have been reported elsewhere.

I attended a meeting of the Joint Commissioning Board with the CCG, giving an in depth insight to the approach to joint commissioning: one area of focus was alcohol support services, and this will be an agenda item, as will My Life a Full Life.

Given the events of recent weeks, I'd like to thank council staff for the support given to myself and colleagues, in particular in respect of the budget process and addressing the unprecedented challenges facing health partners – hopefully, this report addresses the immediate issues and begins to set out a way forward. Thanks again to colleagues who have helped make the transition of administration as effective as it has been.

Councillor Richard Priest
Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health