

# Minutes



To: All Members of the Adult Care & Health Cabinet Panel, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services  
Ask for: Elaine Manzi  
Ext: 28062

## **ADULT CARE & HEALTH CABINET PANEL**

**FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 10:00AM**

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **MEMBERS OF THE PANEL**

N Bell; E M Gordon; K M Hastrick; D J Hewitt; F R G Hill (*Vice Chairman*); T Howard; J S Kaye; M D M Muir (*substituting for F Guest*); N A Quinton; R M Roberts (*Chairman*); A Stevenson; R G Tindall; W J Wyatt-Lowe

#### **OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

R Mills, C J White

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Adult Care & Health Cabinet Panel meeting on 7 February 2020 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below.

#### **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

N Bell, D J Hewitt, FRG Hill, T Howard R M Roberts, R G Tindall, W J Wyatt Lowe declared an interest at Item 4 of the agenda. This is outlined at 4.1 of these minutes.

R G Tindall declared an interest at Item 5 of this agenda. This is outlined at 5.1 of these minutes.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS**

.....

## PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

1.	<b>MINUTES</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1.1	The minutes of the Cabinet Panel meeting held on 17 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.	
2.	<b>PUBLIC PETITIONS</b>	
2.1	<p>A public petition was presented entitled:</p> <p><b>Reopen decision to close popular respite units - work with service users &amp; families to develop alternative proposals</b></p> <p><a href="https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=54&amp;RPID=1815086&amp;HPID=1815086">https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=54&amp;RPID=1815086&amp;HPID=1815086</a></p> <p>At the time of the meeting, the petition had received 1492 signatures verified as living or working within Hertfordshire.</p> <p>The lead petitioner, Jackie Wilks, spoke to the petition and presented the petition to the Chairman.</p> <p>The matter to which the petition related was considered by the Panel as a report at Item 3 of the agenda.</p>	
3.	<b>REVIEW OF ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES SHORT BREAKS</b>	
	<b>Officer Contact:</b> Mark Harvey, Operations Director Adult Disability and Mental Health Services (Tel: 01438 844353)	
3.1	Members received a report outlining the outcomes of recent public consultations and impact assessments regarding proposed changes to the short breaks services for adults with disabilities within Hertfordshire.	
3.2	The Panel were interested to learn that considerations with regards to the proposed changes had commenced in 2018, and were assured that if agreed, service users and their families would receive updated individualised assessments of need, and any transition of respite care would take place over a six-month period.	
3.3	Prior to discussion and debate, Members heard from Chris White, County Councillor for St Albans Central and Leader of St Albans City and District Council, speaking in opposition to the proposals.	
3.4	In response to a Member question, it was explained that at the present time, there were no plans to increase the number of short	Mark Harvey

**CHAIRMAN'S  
INITIALS**

.....

	breaks available at weekends, however should the outcome of the individual assessments with service users and their carers indicate that this was required, officers would consider options were available to support this.	
3.5	In response to Member challenge, it was acknowledged that there had been issues with the booking system used to book short breaks, and although these were being investigated, officers agreed to consider ways of working with service users and carers to ensure that all the issues were resolved.	Mark Harvey
3.6	Members were interested to learn of the changing trend with regards to respite with service users moving towards requiring alternatives to overnight care.	
3.7	The Panel discussed the fact that the overnight respite services may not be being fully utilised due to service users and carers not being fully aware of the provision or options available. In response to Member challenge, officers stated that they were confident that service users and carers were informed of all the options available but agreed to consider working with service users and carers to discuss ways of strengthening the communications to raise awareness of the options available. It was clarified that six respite centres were managed by the Council and two were commissioned. Other respite provision was sourced from a mix of 68 private or public sector organisations and charities	Mark Harvey
3.8	A Member challenge that the analysis of users at the St Michaels centre was flawed was noted. It was stressed that a number of beds at the St Michaels site had been unavailable due to refurbishment works, and this should have been considered when calculating capacity issues.	
3.9	It was also suggested by Members that the demand for respite places was increasing and not decreasing. It was further suggested that the removal of the two proposed centres would lead to an uneven provision of respite across the county. The importance of the respite service for both service users and carers was acknowledged. Officers responded that indications were that demand for respite was decreasing and the strategic view was taken to ensure that a majority of service users would have less distance to travel than previously.	
3.10	In response to a Member challenge, it was confirmed that the Tanners Wood site was able to accommodate four wheelchair users, but like other sites required refurbishments in order to comply with new fire standard regulations.	

**CHAIRMAN'S  
INITIALS**

.....

3.11	The Panel discussed the overall strategy for short breaks and respite and noted that this would be fully developed within the next 12 – 18 months. Further to Member concern, assurance was received that implementation of the transport policy for respite services would not be implemented until the service users had settled into any new respite arrangement for a year.	
3.12	In response to a Member challenge with regards to waiting lists for respite care at sites, it was confirmed that the waiting lists related to service users and carers requirements for specific days, it was confirmed that other days were available on the sites.	
3.13	Further to a Member question, it was clarified that the projection of 29 respite beds being required by 2041 was based on data received from the Office of National Statistics.	
3.14	<p>Further to discussion regarding the concerns outlined within the consultation, and by the petitioner and Panel members, regarding the timing of any proposed closures, and the need for further managed planning of the respite strategy, Cllr Ron Tindall, Lead Opposition Spokesman for the Liberal Democrat Group, suggested the following revised wording for the recommendation: (revisions are in <b>bold</b>)</p> <p>'Recommend to Cabinet that to ensure efficient use of Council finances by realigning the number of short breaks beds with usage, <b>in the coming year, officers work with parents of users to look at a strategy and sustainable cost savings proposals to build the right respite service going forward to meet the needs of service users</b>'</p> <p>Further to a vote by a show of hands, the revised recommendation was <b>rejected</b> by a majority of 8 votes to 5.</p> <p>A further suggested amendment to the recommendation by Cllr Andrew Stevenson requesting that a plan to consider closure rather than actual closure of respite centres be agreed was rejected by the Chairman.</p>	
3.15	Further to continued discussion, the Chairman invited the panel to vote on the recommendation, as outlined at Section 3 of the report. The Chairman stated that he would request a further report to update Members on the progress of the transitions be presented to Panel in approximately six months' time.	Mark Harvey

**CHAIRMAN'S  
INITIALS**

.....

3.16	<p><b>CONCLUSION:</b></p> <p>The Panel</p> <p>i. noted and comment upon the content of this Report.</p> <p>Further to a vote by a show of hands Members voted in <b>favour</b> of the following proposal by a majority of 7 votes to 5. One member abstained.</p> <p>ii. Recommended to Cabinet that in order to ensure efficient use of Council finances by realigning the number of short breaks beds with usage, Cabinet authorise the short breaks centres at Tewin Road (Hemel Hempstead), Hixberry Lane (St Albans) and Apton Road (Bishops Stortford) were closed.</p>	
4.	<p><b>INTEGRATED PLAN 2020/21 - 2023/24 ADULT CARE AND HEALTH</b></p>	
	<p><b>Officer Contact:</b> Helen Maneuf (Assistant Director Planning &amp; Resources, Adult Care Services)</p>	
4.1	<p><b>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</b></p> <p>All Members who have a disclosable pecuniary interest arising from an allowance from the County Council, another local authority in Hertfordshire, or a body to whom they have been appointed by the County Council, have received a dispensation to allow them to participate in debate and vote on the Integrated Plan.</p> <p>All Members have been granted a dispensation to participate in debate and vote in any business of the County Council relating to setting the council tax or precept when they would otherwise be prevented from doing so in consequence of having a beneficial interest in land which is within the administrative area of Hertfordshire or a licence (alone or jointly) to occupy such land.</p> <p>N Bell is on the Chessbrook Education Support Centre Management Committee.</p> <p>D J Hewitt- as he is a trustee CHECXS Charity, Cheshunt</p> <p>F R G Hill – as she is the Council’s representative on the Old Barn Day Centre which receives funding from the County Council.</p> <p>T Howard as she is the Director: CAD (Community Action Dacorum) and a Trustee of Centre in the Park.</p>	

	<p>R M Roberts as he is a trustee of Community Action Dacorum.</p> <p>R G Tindall as he is on the management committee of the Dacorum Educational Support Centre.</p> <p>W J Wyatt Lowe is an honorary trustee of Adeyfield Neighbourhood Associated, which provides room hire to various Council departments</p>	
4.2	Members considered a report outlining areas of the Integrated Plan relating to Adult Care and Health. The Integrated Plan brings together the financial impact of service plans and the available funding to resource these over the next four years. Strategic Direction summaries have been produced for each Portfolio, which set out the future direction of services.	
4.3	In response to a Member question, it was explained that at present there was no further detail on the Business Rates Retention, as outlined at point 2.5 of the report. It was confirmed that this was being considered separately to any decisions coming as a result of the green paper on the future of social care.	
4.4	Members welcomed the 2% social care precept for social care, allowing the Council to increase the pay rate for care workers, as illustrated on page 35 of the IP pack. It was confirmed that officers were working with care providers to ensure that the full increase was implemented in care worker salaries. Members noted that the increase would also be beneficial in increasing employment in this sector, which they noted had been raised as a significant challenge in previous meetings.	
4.5	Further to discussion, it was established that it was unknown whether the outcomes of the Domestic Abuse Act would result in any future funding stream.	
4.6	Further to a Member challenge, it was explained that a budget pressure regarding self funders had not yet been detailed beyond 2021/22, due to the fact that the initial sharp increase in self funders had now levelled off, and the outcomes of the green paper on the future of social care may provide further guidance in this area. Members were assured that this was an issue that officers were closely monitoring, and mid-year or future year pressures would be considered if required.	
4.7	In response to a Member question, Members received assurance that the Council were confident of achieving the efficiencies with regards to mental health residential provision, as outlined at NE1 at page 44 of the report, as the Council and the Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust (HPFT) were working closely	

**CHAIRMAN'S  
INITIALS**

.....

	together on plans to deliver this.	
4.10	<p><b>CONCLUSION:</b></p> <p>The Panel commented and approved the proposals relating to the Integrated Plan in respect of Adult Care and Health.</p> <p>The Panel considered any issues that it felt that the Cabinet should consider in finalising the Integrated Plan proposals.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>CHANGES TO DIAL-A-RIDE CHARGING</b>	
	<p><b>Officer Contact:</b>  Nadine Raenke, Deputy Head of Service – Community Commissioning Adult Disabilities, (Tel:01438844668)</p>	
5.1	<p><b>Declaration of Interests</b></p> <p>RG Tindall advised that he had been a Trade Union Officer 20 years previously and had looked after the interests of the London Dial-a-Ride Drivers who were part of London Transport.</p> <p>Cllr Tindall was permitted to stay in the room and participate in the meeting.</p>	
5.2	Members considered a report outlining proposed increase in charges to fees for Dial a Ride Services to reflect Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for the past four years.	
5.3	A number of Panel members expressed their discontent that this increase had not been phased in annually over the past four years which would have resulted in a reduced financial impact for service users than the one off increase as detailed.	
5.4	In response to this, Members received assurance that the increase was minimal and had been broadly supported through public consultation. It was acknowledged that Dial a Ride would remain a cheaper option than public transport or taxis, even with the proposed increase. Further assurance was reached that any further increases would be implemented annually in the future.	
5.5	In answer to a Member question, the Panel were advised that Dial-A-Ride did not have contactless payment facilities.	
5.6	Further to discussion, officers agreed to consider options for promoting the Dial-A-Ride Service further or streamlining the journeys in order to reduce the need to increase costs in the future.	Mark Harvey

**CHAIRMAN'S  
INITIALS**

.....

5.7	In response to a Member request, the Chairman agreed that the Panel vote separately on the two recommendations outlined at Section 3 of the report, as this would enable them to reflect their discontent at the charge increases being implemented for the first time in four years	
5.9	<p><b>CONCLUSION:</b> The Panel will be invited to recommend to Cabinet that Cabinet approves:</p> <p>I. That the current Dial-a-Ride charges are increased by 20p for the first mile of a journey and 5p per mile thereafter from April 2020.</p> <p><b>Further to a vote by a show of hands, this recommendation was agreed by the Panel by a majority of 7 votes to 5.</b></p> <p>II. That there is an annual increase in Dial a Ride charges by CPI inflation from April 2021 and every year thereafter with some flexibility to round up or down (to the nearer amount) to make payments practical for passengers and administration.</p> <p><b>Further to a vote by a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed by the Panel</b></p>	
6.	<b>OTHER PART I BUSINESS</b>	
6.1	None reported	

**QUENTIN BAKER  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

**CHAIRMAN** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHAIRMAN'S  
INITIALS**

.....