



Meeting of the People Services Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 22nd September, 2015 at 6.00pm

In Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

Agenda - Public Session

(Meeting open to the public and press)

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To report the appointment of any substitute members serving for this meeting of the Committee.
3. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct.
4. To confirm and sign the minutes of the People Services Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 6th July, 2015, as a correct record.
5. Public Forum
6. Additional Item for Inclusion in the People Services Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2015/16 (Pages 1 - 3)
7. Falls Service (Pages 4 - 7)
8. Integration of 0-5 Services with focus on Health Visiting and Children's Centres (Pages 8 - 13)
9. Implementation of the Care Act (Pages 14 - 18)
10. To consider any questions from Members to the Chair where two clear days notice has been given to the Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation) (Council Procedure Rule 11.8).



Strategic Director (Resources & Transformation)

Dated: 14th September, 2015

Distribution:

Members of the People Services Scrutiny Committee:

Councillor M Mottram (Chair)

Councillor M Attwood (Vice Chair)

Councillors N Barlow, C Baugh, R Body, P Bradley, D Hemingsley, C Perks, G Simms, S Tyler and D Vickers; Mrs M Ward and Reverend A Wickens; Mr A Qadus and Mr D Tinsley.

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- Elected Members can submit apologies by contacting the officer named below. The appointment of any Substitute Member(s) should be notified to Democratic Services at least one hour before the meeting starts.
- The Democratic Services contact officer for this meeting is Helen Shepherd, Telephone 01384 815271 or E-mail helen.shepherd@dudley.gov.uk

Minutes of the People Services Scrutiny Committee

Monday 6th July, 2015 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

Present:

Councillor M Mottram (Chair)
Councillor M Attwood (Vice Chair)
Councillors N Barlow, C Baugh, R Body, P Bradley, D Hemingsley, C Perks, G Simms, S Tyler and D Vickers; Reverend A Wickens and Mr A Qadus.

Officers:

P Coyne (Chief Officer – Planning and Economic Development) (Acting Lead Officer), T Oakman, Strategic Director (People Services), M Bowsher (Chief Officer - Adult Social Care), D Harkins (Chief Officer – Health and Well Being) and H Shepherd (Democratic Services Officer) (Directorate of Resources and Transformation).

Invitees:

Claire Burgess – LGA Children's Improvement

1 Apology for absence

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Mrs Ward.

2 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct were made by the following Members:-

Councillor R Body – All matters in relation to YMCA and homeless young adults
- Non-pecuniary interest as a YMCA Host caring for homeless teenagers.

Councillor M Attwood – All matters in relation to Short Stay Schools – Non-pecuniary interest as a Governor of the Short Stay Schools – Dudley Management Committee.

3 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the former Children's Services Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 12th March, 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed.

4 **Public Forum**

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

5 **Terms of Reference for the People Services Scrutiny Committee**

A report of the Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation) was submitted on the terms of reference for the People Services Scrutiny Committee for the 2015/16 municipal year.

Resolved

That, the terms of reference for the People Services Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the appendix to the report submitted, be noted.

6 **Annual Scrutiny Programme 2015/16**

The Committee considered a report of the Lead Officer and Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation) on the items proposed for inclusion in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for detailed consideration during 2015/16, these being:

- Falls Prevention Service/Strategy
- Care Act Implementation
- Safeguarding Children Annual Report/Child Sexual Exploitation/MASH
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Annual Safeguarding Report
- 0-5 Offer (Update re: Nurseries/School Nurse Health Visit Contract)

The Strategic Director (People Services) gave a brief summary of each topic and identified specific areas for scrutiny.

Following the presentation of each item, the Strategic Director (People Services), suggested a further topic for inclusion in the Annual Scrutiny Programme, relating to School Improvement and Performance Data, which was an area of significant importance that warranted closer scrutiny. The Chair and Members agreed to recommend to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that this item be included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2015/16, for consideration towards the end of the municipal year.

Concerns were raised by Members with regards to Safeguarding and the exploitation of children and young adults and the need to improve communications with the public. Members expressed the need for telephone contact numbers to be readily available for the public to report any concerns or incidents witnessed.

The Strategic Director (People Services) stated that work was currently being undertaken to develop more efficient working relationships with partners such as Schools, West Midlands Police and the NHS. It was envisaged that the implementation of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) would create a one 'front door' approach. He also stated that a CSE event, to promote the issue, would be arranged to take place during the Autumn.

A member referred to the training provided to Councillors and Officers in relation to Safeguarding issues and child exploitation, but suggested that this type of training needed to be expanded to incorporate the general community. Clarification was also requested as to what action was being taken to raise awareness of child exploitation in schools; How were children advised on the issue; Were teachers aware of current issues; What prevention mechanisms were in place; What provisions were in place other than those in Schools i.e. Churches and Mosques.

The Strategic Director (People Services) confirmed that these were all relevant areas to be scrutinised under this topic and that awareness in schools was undertaken in many different ways including drama productions which were considered powerful ways to interact with children.

Claire Burgess, Local Government Association (LGA), Children's Improvement, gave a brief introduction with regards to her role at the LGA and suggested ways in which the Committee could ensure that the Council met its statutory requirements regarding scrutiny of the functions of People Services, particularly focusing on safeguarding and looked after children and how the LGA could support the Committee during the Scrutiny process.

In response to a question raised by a Member in relation to how the Committee could be assured that true information would be provided, Claire Burgess advised that the key to ensuring that information provided was genuine was for Members to ask the right questions and to obtain relevant and applicable evidence to support that information. It was considered important that not just one piece of evidence should be taken into consideration, but that four or five on the same topic should be provided for Members to be assured. Members were also encouraged to meet with key groups and people and to listen to the children themselves. This did not necessarily mean in person, but could be via pre-recorded video or video link.

The Strategic Director (People Services) also gave assurance that all information provided would be genuine and factual so that Dudley's strengths and areas of improvement could be identified and discussed fully.

The Chief Officer - Adult Social Care referred to forthcoming Safeguarding training sessions and encouraged all Members to contribute positively to the sessions. The presentations and relevant documents would be circulated electronically to members after each event to ensure that those unable to attend could be updated.

The Chair, on behalf of Members of the Scrutiny Committee, thanked Claire Burgess for attending the meeting and for her support during the scrutiny process.

Resolved

- (i) That, the items contained in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for the 2015/16 municipal year, as referred to in paragraph 3 and Appendix 1 of the report submitted, be endorsed.
- (ii) That, a recommendation for an additional item in relation to School Improvement and Performance Data be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for inclusion in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for this Committee during the 2015/16 municipal year.
- (iii) That, an informal meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, in partnership with the Local Government Association, be arranged relating to scrutiny and assurance around children safeguarding.

The meeting ended at 7.15pm.

CHAIR

People Services Scrutiny Committee – 22nd September, 2015

Report of the Lead Officer

Additional Item for Inclusion in the People Services Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2015/16

Purpose of Report

1. To note the inclusion of an additional item into the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2015/16.

Background

2. The Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2015/16 was approved at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 10th June, 2015.
3. The topics identified for scrutiny were reported to individual Scrutiny Committees during June/July. On 6th July, the People Services Scrutiny Committee considered a report of the Lead Officer to the Committee on the People Services Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2015/16.
4. At that meeting, following the presentation of each item included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme, the Strategic Director (People Services) suggested a further topic for inclusion relating to School Improvement and Performance Data, which was considered an area of significant importance that warranted closer scrutiny.
5. The People Services Scrutiny Committee resolved to request the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to consider the proposal to include the additional item, as referred to in paragraph 4, in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2015/16.
6. A report was submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for consideration on 3rd September, 2015 and it was agreed for the additional item in relation to School Improvement and Performance Data to be included in the People Services Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2015/16.
7. The proposed timetabling of the topics scheduled for consideration at future meetings of the People Service Scrutiny Committee are:-

18th November, 2015

- Budget Scrutiny

28th January, 2016

- Adult Safeguarding Annual Report
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS)

10th March, 2016

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Children's Safeguarding Annual Report
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- School Improvement and Performance Data

Finance

8. The costs of operating the revised scrutiny arrangements will be contained within existing budgetary allocations.

Law

9. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.

Equality Impact

10. Provision exists within the recommended scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny to be undertaken of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendations

11. That the Scrutiny Committee notes the inclusion of an additional item in relation to School Improvement and Performance Data in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2015/16.



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Matt Williams (Lead Officer)

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List of Background Papers

- Reports and minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board dated 10th June, 2015.
- Report and minutes of the People Services Scrutiny Committee dated 6th July, 2015.
- Report and minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board dated 3rd September, 2015.

People Services Scrutiny Committee – 22nd September 2015

Report of the Chief Officer Health & Wellbeing

Falls Service

Purpose of Report

This report aims to describe the magnitude of falls among older adults in Dudley and suggest mechanisms to address the problem. Also it proposes questions to scrutinise the progress of preventing falls in the short and longer terms.

1. Background

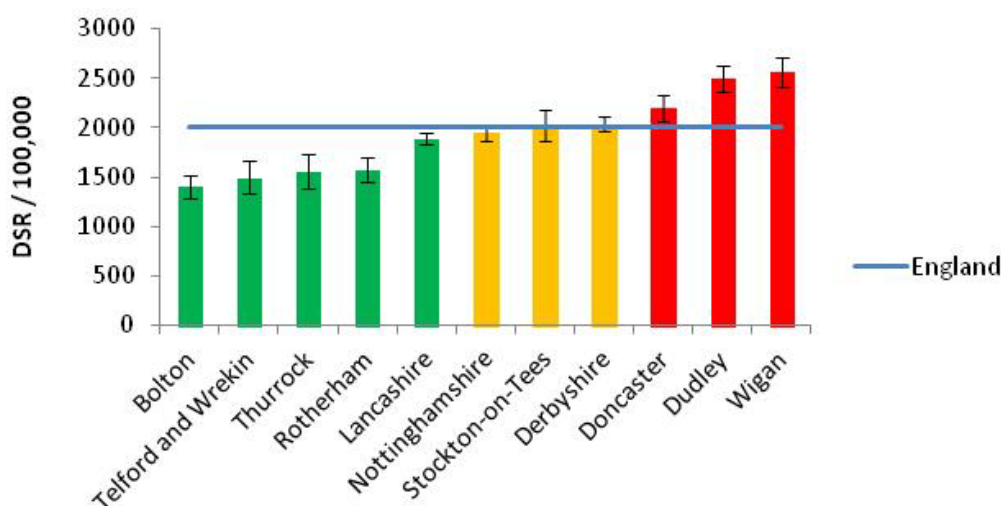
Falls are a major cause of disability and the leading cause of death caused by injury in people aged over 75 in the UK. One-third to one-half of people aged over 65 will fall each year.

A fall can lead to considerable physical and psychological harm, resulting in a poorer quality of life. It results in longer stays in hospital, and therefore an increased cost to the health and social care systems. Falls are one of the leading reasons for admission to residential care.

2. Falls in Dudley

Falls prevention needs assessment for the population of the Dudley Borough has shown the following:

In 2012/13, Dudley had the highest rate of falls per 100,000 people aged 65 or over, compared to similar Councils, the other West Midlands Councils and to the national average



Two-thirds of all Accident and Emergency (A&E) admissions due to falls in the 65+ population occur in females. In 2013/14, 70% of admissions were female.

Two-thirds of all A&E admissions due to falls occur in the 80+ year old population. In 2013/14, 67% of admissions for falls were aged 80 or older.

A third of all deaths caused by accidental and unintentional injuries in the Borough were due to falls.

3. Dudley MBC Falls Service

The public health element of the Dudley Council Falls service was commissioned historically by PCT. Commissioning responsibilities transferred to Council with the transfer of public health in April 2013. It is delivered and co-funded by the Council's Adult Services Division.

There are a number of organisations providing falls prevention services to Dudley residents:

- Dudley Community Falls services – the main aim of which is to assess the risk of falls and develop management plans accordingly
- Osteoporosis service - delivered by Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust, the aim of which is to diagnose and manage cases of bone problems, including osteoporosis
- The Public Health team commissions a number of preventative services that contribute to preventing falls. These include the Leap Over 50 programme delivered by Age Concern Dudley in the Healthy Hubs located in four parks across the Borough. The service provides gentle exercise sessions, health walks, food growing in community allotments, yoga, tai chi, cycling and walking groups.
- Age UK are a key partner within Dudley's 'Living Well Feeling Safe' programme. They provide three key services for the older population of Dudley, which include 'Staysafe', 'Leap over 50', and 'Springboard'. Staysafe provides health promotion advice, while Leap over 50 and Springboard provide ways to maintain postural stability and enable older people to get out of the house to connect with others and reduce loneliness.

4. Rationale

The falls needs assessment identified the following challenges:

- Dudley's performance on falls prevention is poor compared to both national and local average.
- There is no system wide approach to falls prevention across the Borough

- Falls services are fragmented and there is limited synergy between services provided in the community, general practice and hospital, and by the voluntary sector.

To address this problem, it is suggested that the following action is needed:

- The development of a system wide approach to falls prevention, starting from encouraging the whole population to improve their bone health from early age, through physical activity and healthy eating, to early detection of people at risk of falling and enabling them access to appropriate interventions in a timely way
- Further development of the community falls services, to ensure appropriate advice and support are given, and appropriate referrals made

5. What are we asking from the Scrutiny Committee?

To support the development of a system wide approach to falls prevention, it is suggested that this approach be scrutinised by asking the following questions in the short term:

- Are we adopting an evidence based life course approach to falls prevention?
- Are all agencies working together effectively to maximise outcomes in relation to bone health and falls prevention?
- Are the right people receiving the appropriate fall reduction interventions?
- Are the pathways in place to signpost referrals into other prevention services or other appropriate services?

Question to be asked in the long term is:

- Are we seeing a reduction in falls, and in illness, disability and deaths caused by falls?

Consider resource implications.

- Do we have the necessary resources to roll out a falls awareness campaign across all age groups?
- Do we have the resources to improve the capacity of our falls prevention services to meet increased demand and be able to deliver fall risk reduction interventions in a timely manner?

Consider the role of the Council and our partners in falls prevention.

- Can we more effectively embed falls prevention as part of the Vanguard?
- How well is falls prevention embedded in the rest of the Council?

- Do the falls prevention services have effective exit routes into other services to help maintain the impact of falls service interventions and continue to prevent falls in the longer term?

Consider the development and content of a Dudley Falls and Bone Health strategy and action plan.

6. Finance

- The People Directorate expenditure on falls prevention is (£214, 660) annually; Health and Wellbeing Division funds Community Falls prevention services (£140k) and postural stabilisation service (£29,280K)
- Adult Social Care contribution is (£45,380K), distributed across transport, premises and supplies.
- The Health and Wellbeing Division currently spends £64,000 on physical activities for over 50 years old. This fund will be utilised to develop the primary prevention aspect of the system wide integrated care pathway for falls prevention.
- Dudley CCG funds osteoporosis services as part of its block contract with Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust

7. Law

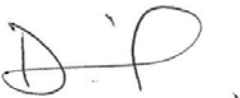
No legal implications identified

8. Equality Impact

None identified

9. Recommendations

For PLT to support the proposed developments in falls prevention and the scrutiny mechanism mentioned above



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List of Background Papers

People Services Scrutiny Committee – 22nd September 2015

Report of the Chief Officer Health & Wellbeing

Integration of 0-5 services with focus on Health Visiting and Children's Centres

1. Purpose of Report

To update the committee on the 0-5 integration work stream and planned approach to providing 0-5 seamless services to children and families in Dudley.

For the Scrutiny Committee to contribute to the policy and development needed to deliver an integrated 0-5 offer with a key focus on Children's Centres and Public Health programmes that span the 0-5 range and champion the transformational changes that will be required.

2. Background

From 1 October 2015 the responsibility for commissioning public health services for children aged 0-5 will transfer from NHS England to local authorities. One of the benefits of councils commissioning health visitor and family nurse services is that it offers opportunities to link with wider systems; this has the potential to provide a more joined-up, cost effective service built around individual needs, paving the way to deliver across a wider range of health and wellbeing issues

There is evidence that where there is high-quality integration of health services, Children's Centres function better and get better outcomes. The smooth transfer and integration with local authority services, is an important step towards provision of high quality care for every child and their family. It requires investment and commitment from all Council departments.

3. 0-5 Integration - Aims and Objectives

- To investigate the potential for closer integration between the Healthy Child Programme and the Early Years Foundation agendas
- To contribute to the delivery of successful Early Help
- To agree services and pathways that can be integrated to deliver better value
- To pilot an agreed partnership approach in one Children Centre cluster, and following external evaluation, develop roll out of pilot across cluster groups.
- To scope current activities, commissioned services and core functions to identify duplication and areas where co-production could improve services for families and offer efficiency savings
- To identify the appropriate skill mix in the 0-5 workforce and develop a model of reform to enable a seamless transition for families.

- To have a standardised method of performance management with the 0-5 workforce and for contract management to ensure best practice and cost effectiveness
- To create a workforce development plan to ensure that the services around the family are fit for purpose.

4. Local Context

While there has been a history of good joint working between the NHS, public health and children's services, there are further opportunities to integrate and avoid duplication of service provision. Integration of the current provision (detailed below) presents a unique opportunity for local authorities to transform and integrate health, education, social care and wider council services, to create coherent services and to focus on improving outcomes for young children and their families. With shared resources, intelligence and improved communication, it is proposed that efficiencies can be realised.

4.1 Current Service Provision

Health Visiting Service - unlike the previous public health transfer it is the commissioning responsibility that will transfer from the NHS to the Council, not the workforce. Health Visitors and Family Nurses will continue to be employed by their provider organisations. The transfer will join-up commissioning for children and young people aged 0 to 19 (and up to 25 years for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and will improve continuity for children and their families.

The Health Visiting service is a workforce of specialist community public health nurses who provide expert advice, support and interventions to families with children in the first years of life, and help empower parents to make decisions that affect their family's future health and wellbeing. The service is central to delivering public health outcomes for children.

Children's Centres cover three themes: Community support development, child & family health improvement, and learning and skills. There are 5 clusters of Children's Centres in Dudley.

The core purpose of children's centres is to improve outcomes for young children and their families, with a particular focus on those in greatest need. They offer support to parents and work to make sure all children are properly prepared for school. They play a key role in ensuring that needs are identified in a timely way and families are supported to access the services they need.

Public Health and Children's Services provide and commission a range of services in Children's Centres which focus on the wider determinants of health, addressing issues of social exclusion, access to services, healthy eating and physical activity, work related skills and information and advice. There has been a recent alignment of public health resource to Children's Centres which has provided an opportunity to broaden the range of services delivered through the clusters and allow for efficiency savings.

4.2 Current performance and outcomes

Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2011-2015 set out a call to action to expand and strengthen health visiting services by October 2015. Local targets have been met with Health Visitor numbers increased from 57 in 2010 to 72 Health Visitors across the Dudley Borough.

In December 2013, NHS England published a National Health Visiting Core Service Specification for 2013/14. This document set out what all families can expect from their local Health Visiting service. This included:

Mandated elements of the Healthy Child Programme

- Antenatal health promoting review (new)
- New baby review
- 6-8 week assessment (separate to GP assessment)
- One year assessment
- 2 to 2.5 year review

Priorities for demonstrating success and building sustainable services post 2015:

- Transition to parenthood and the early weeks
- Maternal mental health (including identifying and supporting women with post natal depression)
- Breast feeding (initiation and duration)
- Healthy weight to include nutrition and physical activity
- Health and wellbeing at aged 2 (development of the child two year old review and support to be ready for school)
- Managing minor illness and reducing accidents (reducing hospital attendance/admissions)

The provider (Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust) has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting and developing the workforce to meet the new contract requirements and Key Performance Indicators in readiness for the transfer of the contract to the Council. Benchmarked against neighbouring areas, the service has demonstrated a vast improvement in achieving the targets for mandated elements of the programme set in the contract and in most areas are on target.

The provider has also been held as a beacon of good practice for the antenatal health visiting review. The performance of the service forms a strong foundation to enable the 0-5 integration agenda to progress.

Children's Centres are defined by law as a place or group of places:

- managed by, or on behalf of, an English local authority, with a view to securing that early childhood services are made available in an integrated manner
- through which early childhood services are made available – either by provision of services on site, or by the provision of advice and assistance in gaining access to services elsewhere
- at which (some) activities for young children are provided on site.

Mandated Elements of the Early Years Framework

- every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured;
- children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships;
- children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers; and
- children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Priorities for demonstrating success and building sustainable services post 2015

- Early Years and School Readiness
- Health and Wellbeing
- Parenting Capacity and Relationship Support

5. Progress with 0-5 integration

A multi-agency planning group has been established with key partners from Children's Services, Health Visiting, Children's Centres, Maternity Services, Family Nurse Partnership and CCG. This group meets on a monthly basis to scope, plan and review how to best to integrate 0 to 5 services based upon best outcomes for children and their families.

Scoping work on mandatory elements for Children's Centres and Health Visiting services are currently being reviewed to identify duplication or areas for joint working.

Desktop research has been completed on local and national integrated models to ensure best practice and lessons learned are incorporated within Dudley's approach.

0-5 profiles are being developed to help identify and prioritise resources and services to areas with greatest need.

The planning group recently attended a site visit to Coventry to learn how their "Acting Early: An integrated model of care for children in Coventry" was developed and embedded.

Smaller 'Task and Finish' groups (for example Health Visiting Community Offer Development Group) have been set up to work with service staff to best position them for the potential of new ways of integrated working.

The Health Visitor contract places an obligation on the provider (Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust) to support integration and explore opportunities for co-location in Children's Centres and the Public Health team is working with the Health Visitor workforce to develop their community offer and locality leadership role.

6. Future plans

The multi agency planning group has developed plans to improve outcomes and improve service user experience. These include:

- Pilot of co-location of midwifery services, health visiting and family support in one or two Children Centre in Dudley which has been agreed.
- Explore the possibility of the antenatal review as the 'early help' front door tool
- Hold a weekly locality multi-agency safeguarding group at the pilot Children Centre to include children's services, to discuss new cases to facilitate early intervention, ensure referrals into children's social care services are appropriate and empower team members to hold risk safely in a supported environment.
- Explore the registration of new births at children centres to increase the numbers of vulnerable families crossing the threshold and accessing vital services.
- Use the scoping exercise of current service delivery to remove duplication of services and explore the most appropriate skill mix and re-commission services to reflect this.
- Use the Children Centre Advisory Boards to govern and direct the work of the 0-5 workforce based on local need.
- Following formal evaluation of the pilot, roll out co-location and safeguarding group to all children centres.

7. Finance

The 0-5 public health allocation for part year October 2015-March 2016 is £2,453,000.

It is unknown what the allocation will be for this service going forward. A separate formula will be applied nationally to calculate the 0-5 public health grant allocation for 2016/17. It is expected that the 0-5 integrated work stream will contribute to efficiency savings through co-location, reduced duplication, changes to the workforce. The full financial implications will not be clear until this work has progressed.

8. Law

Any clinical risk / clinical supervision / clinical registration within the Health Visitor service is owned and managed by Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust.

9. Equality Impact

It is envisaged that integration of services will impact positively on the most vulnerable families, as services will be more accessible, delivered by trusted and approachable staff in their local community. The Children Centre Advisory Boards will be consulted on integration of services and should have parent representatives. There are Parent Panels in place in most localities. The scoping will identify where

there are gaps in public involvement. We are seeking parental representation on the 0-5 integration group and where appropriate in task and finish groups.

The local community, to include children and young people, will be involved in the co-production of the pilot Centre and will be fully engaged in the process from the outset. We plan to engage Council Community Champions as partners in this process and will utilise the Community Council approach by consultation with the community and engagement with the voluntary sector.

An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken with the pilot before further rollout

10. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee contributes to the policy and development needed to deliver an integrated 0-5 service and champions the transformational changes that will be required.

The Committee is asked to consider how it would like to scrutinise the integration of 0-5 services. It may want to consider:

- Examining the current service delivery and draft proposals for integration and consider examples of good practice and benchmarking information to determine key lines of enquiry.
- Requesting timely updates on the progress of the integration
- Receiving written and oral evidence from officers; partners; expert external witnesses; community witnesses.
- Synthesising evidence received and making recommendations



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List of Background Papers
N/A

People Services Scrutiny Committee – 22nd September, 2015

Report of the Chief Officer for Adult Social Care

Implementation of the Care Act

1. Purpose of Report

To update the committee about progress in implementing the 2015-16 aspects of the Care Act in Dudley

For the Scrutiny Committee to review and challenge evidence provided and consider recent changes to Care Act Implementation in 2016-17

2. Background

From 1st April 2015 the Care Act (2014) came into force. Implications arising from the Care Act were considered by Members through the DACHS Scrutiny Committee in 2014-15. Key legislative changes were as follows:

- (a) Introduction of a new national level of care and support needs to make care and support more consistent across the country and an expectation that care needs should be “portable” for people moving across the country
- (b) The right to request deferred payment agreements for care costs
- (c) The right for Carers to have an assessment of their needs

3. National Eligibility for Care and Support

From the 1st April local people are eligible for care and support if they meet the new national minimum criteria:

- (a) the adult's needs arise from or are related to a physical or mental impairment or illness;
- (b) as a result of the adult's needs the adult is unable to achieve two or more of the outcomes specified in below and
- (c) as a consequence there is, or is likely to be, a significant impact on the adult's well-being.

The specified outcomes are—

- (a) managing and maintaining nutrition;
- (b) maintaining personal hygiene;
- (c) managing toilet needs;
- (d) being appropriately clothed;
- (e) being able to make use of the adult's home safely;
- (f) maintaining a habitable home environment;
- (g) developing and maintaining family or other personal relationships;
- (h) accessing and engaging in work, training, education or volunteering;
- (i) making use of necessary facilities or services in the local community including public transport, and recreational facilities or services; and
- (j) carrying out any caring responsibilities the adult has for a child.

Dudley offered a rolling programme of assessment and support plan training to all staff involved in assessment across 2014-15. The assessment process and documentation (MASP- My Assessment and Support Plan) has been re-drafted to ensure Dudley is fully compliant with the criteria specified above. This criterion applies to local residents as well as people moving in to the Borough to ensure consistency and that the portability requirements of the Act are met.

4. Deferred Payment Agreements

From April 2015, deferred payment agreements are a requirement of councils across England. A deferred payment agreement is an arrangement with the council that will enable people to use

the value of their homes to help pay care home costs. If you are eligible, the council will help to pay your care home bills on your behalf. The threshold is currently set for people who have less than £23,250 in savings excluding the value of a property. You can delay repaying the council until you choose to sell your home, or until after your death.

Deferred payment agreements will suit some people's circumstances better than others'. Councils may charge interest on the amount owed to them, and there may be a fee for setting this arrangement up. This is to cover the costs the council incurs in setting up a deferred payment agreement, and not to make a profit.

A deferred payment agreement means that people should not have to sell their home in their lifetime to pay care home bills.

This process has been fully implemented in Dudley and not seen a significant variation in numbers of deferred payments, in 2014 there were 68 new cases, a figure which has remained fairly consistent in comparing with preceding years.

5. Carers Assessments

From April 2015, a carer's right to an assessment was enshrined in law.

A 'needs assessment' is an assessment of an adult who may need care and support. A 'carer's assessment' is for someone who gives care and support to an adult family member or friend. Caring can include lots of different things, like helping with their washing, dressing or eating, taking them to regular appointments or keeping them company when they feel lonely or anxious. In Dudley there are in excess of 38,000 carers supporting people with care needs.

Carers may now be eligible for support, such as a direct payment to spend on the things that make caring easier; or practical support, like respite care/short breaks and signposting to peer support networks.

A carer's assessment considers the different ways that caring affects people. The assessment must focus on the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of the individual carer. Dudley MBC is now statutorily required to offer advice and guidance to help local people with caring responsibilities. Support is available irrespective of whether or not the person cared for receives a funded package of support from the Council.

Since the onset of the Care Act we have seen a growing demand for carers assessments from 64 in April to 128 in July, representing a 100% increase and a total to date of 406, this compares to 121 in the same period in 2014/15. In June and July of this year there was a significant increase in the number of referrals, which is likely due to the awareness work that has been undertaken. We continue to monitor waiting lists and are looking to further commission external independent and voluntary organisations to undertake assessments; this is part of an approach to encourage the market and increase the involvement of the third sector and will also assist the council in using scarce resources more effectively.

With regards to young carers, Dudley Children's Services currently commissions a young carers service. The current contract holder is Spurgeons and information relating to activity, referral and support is available via that organisation:- www.spurgeonsyc.org/dudley. In Quarter one of 2014/15, 22 new referrals were made to the service and in the same period for 2015/16 there were 10 new referrals, it is felt that through undertaking further promotion and raising awareness more young carers and supporting agencies will be encouraged to utilise the support on offer.

The following wider pressures are also of note:

- Adult social care supported 15, 502 people in 2012/13 which rose to 16, 278 in 2014/15.
- Safeguarding concerns are up by 54% since 2012/13 with safeguarding investigations increasing by 18% from the same period.
- The number of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) assessments have risen by over 300% in the last 12 months.

6. Changes to the 2016-17 “Care Cap.”

On the 1st April 2016 two key changes were due to come into effect. Currently individuals with less than £23,250 in savings receive social care funded by the local authority. That figure was due to rise to £118,000 on the 1st April. Secondly the amount of money younger adults with disabilities and over-65s could pay for social care was due to be capped at £72,000.

The two changes have been cancelled by the government and will not be reconsidered until 2020. The cancellation was in part due to pressure from the Local Government Association about the additional cost pressures arising from the Act and the significant reduction in funding for social care from 2010 onwards. Please refer to the list of Background Papers to see a letter from Alastair Burt MP confirming the delay.

7. Finance

Financial implications from the changes articulated above will be provided in the Scrutiny Meeting.

8. Law

The Care Act of 2014 contains all relevant legislation to this scrutiny topic.

9. Equality Impact

The Adult Social Care scrutiny committee previously considered the impact of the Care Act on the people of Dudley and was provided with expert witnesses to consider provision for carers, the quality of information and advice and the financial implications of the Act.

The ethos of the Care Act in considering people's well-being will facilitate an increased focus on ensuring diverse needs are responded to from a wide range of services.

10. Recommendation

That the Scrutiny Committee reviews the demand arising from the Care Act, the robustness of local processes and financial and capacity requirements arising from implementation of the act.



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List of Background Papers

Changes to the 2016-17 provisions of the Care Act – Letter from Alastair Burt MP to the LGA:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/446309/Cap_on_care_acc.pdf