

SCRUTINY ADVISORY BOARD - ADULTS

Minutes of a Meeting of the Scrutiny Advisory Board - Adults held on Thursday, 5 January 2023 at 10.00 am at Conference Room A, Cumbria House, Carlisle, CA1 1RD

PRESENT:

Mr M Wilson (Chair)

Mrs C Bowditch
Mr A Bowness
Mr W Clark
Mr D Gawne

Ms C McCarron-Holmes
Dr S Haraldsen
Mr AW Wonnacott

Also in Attendance:-

Mr A Farrar	-	Democratic Services Officer
Mr A Horrobin	-	Senior Manager - Safeguarding Adults
Ms N Phipps	-	Assistant Director - Provider Services
Mr J Readman	-	Executive Director (People)
Mr D Stephens	-	Strategic Policy & Scrutiny Advisor
Ms S Simpson	-	Senior Manager, Children, Health & Care Commissioning
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PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr GRPM Roberts, Ms C Driver, Mr A Connell, Miss D Garton, Mr S Collins and Mr P Turner. Dr S Haraldsen was substitute for Mr GRPM Roberts and Mr A Wonnacott was substitute for Miss D Garton.

44 MEMBERSHIP

There were no changes to membership to note.

45 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

46 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that the press and public not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

47 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2022 be agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

48 ASC POSITION

The Executive Director – People commented that the challenges for Health & Social Care are national and local authorities are managing them Cumbria is also managing Local Government Reorganisation. Cumbria County Council is not unusual in this situation. Cumbria was holding the situation and holding it well. The Cabinet investment to support the care market for recruitment and retention.

The Senior Manager - Children's Commissioning remarked that Cumbria County Council was doing all it could to support the independent sector.

The Assistant Director - Provider Services noted that Cumbria Care was utilising bed spaces in different ways with a focus on rehab and was working alongside independent providers but recognising the pressures to maximise resources.

A member commented that Cumbria County Council had a very committed workforce who worked very hard and was there anything else that could be done to assist adults with autism in hospital and asked for clarification on agency staff scrutiny and did individuals receive enough time for reablement.

The Senior Manager - Children's Commissioning remarked that even without the current pressures it would be interesting and acknowledged that more work could be done with providers, however providers were struggling with illness and recruitment.

The Senior Manager remarked that Learning Disability Providers were very good at providing additional support and 3rd sector support was another area to consider.

The Assistant Director - Provider Services noted that Cumbria County Council used certain agencies on a framework basis which ensured that people were DBS checked, references had been taken up and ensured a basic level of training.

The Senior Manager Safeguarding Adults remarked that Social Workers had face to face interviews and controls were in place to ensure that the work was of a high quality.

The Assistant Director - Provider Services commented that reablement was monitored and there was room for improvement. Overall, the situation was good and there was a process to see if reablement had had a positive impact.

A member noted that the Parkside Home in Maryport had not reopened.

The Assistant Director - Provider Services commented that it had been the intention to reopen Parkside in December and it was set to open on 9 January 2023.

A member remarked that staff were so important and how was staff morale.

The Assistant Director - Provider Services noted that staff morale had been impacted and work was done to focus on staff wellbeing. Cumbria care worked closely with trade unions and tried to recognise and value staff at every opportunity.

A member sought clarity on the proportion of staff vacancies for Cumbria Care.

The Assistant Director - Provider Services remarked that current vacancy rate was at 9% and had been at 10.7% so had been reduced. She noted that in South Lakeland and Eden it had been difficult to recruit and that since Covid the retention rate had declined. Pre Covid staff remained for approximately 12-15 years, currently 60% of staff leave within the first 2 years.

49 LGR UPDATE

The Executive Director – People gave a presentation on Local Government Reorganisation which included the following areas:-

- Achievements/Progress
- Key challenges and risks
- Coming in January & February

A member paid tribute to the amazing work that was continuing within Adult Social Care.

A member commented about the Urgent Care Team and what Local Government Reorganisation would mean for that team.

The Executive Director – People noted that the Urgent Care Team was a very specialist team. The Senior Manager Safeguarding Adults remarked that it was business as usual and there would be no change as to how the team operate currently.

A member commented that both new authorities would have different pressures.

The Assistant Director - Provider Services noted that both authorities would have different pressures and there was certainly issues with recruitment in both the Eden and South Lakes areas.

50 CQC ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

The Assistant Director - Provider Services presented the report and drew out the 4 key themes :-

- Working with people
- Providing support

- Ensuring safety
- Leadership and workforce

A member noted the written framework and queried if the data required was known.

The Assistant Director - Provider Services clarified that the data required was not known and it was anticipated that topical themes would be required.

A member queried if it would be required to acquire support to assist the process.

The Executive Director - People noted that it was hoped that support would not be required but hopefully lessons learned in the past would be appropriate.

51 SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AT RISK FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The Senior Manager Safeguarding Adults presented a report providing an update and analysis of adult safeguarding activity in the second quarter of 2022/23, briefing members on progress against key areas of performance relating to 'Making Safeguarding Personal', providing a benchmark against other local authorities and describing actions planned to strengthen and consolidate improvements in adult safeguarding in Cumbria through the Safeguarding Adults Board.

During the question and answer session that followed, a member remarked that if a person is at risk are they included in the statistics.

The Senior Manager Safeguarding Adults noted that any individual deemed at risk would be included within the statistics.

A member remarked on the dramatic increase in cases for Emotional and Psychological abuse and was there any underlying reason.

The Senior Manager Safeguarding Adults commented that there was greater awareness in society of abuse situations and investigate further into the query.

The Chair noted the current cost of living crisis and how much this was a cause of concern at this moment.

The Senior Manager Safeguarding Adults remarked that it was a concern in cases of self-neglect. He advised that people need to be professionally curious.

52 ADULT SCRUTINY ADVISORY BOARD BRIEFING

Members received a briefing paper that informed of new or updated items of significance to the Adult Scrutiny Advisory Board. Members were informed that the Scrutiny Performance Working Group had identified no specific items for consideration by the Board.

53 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Board will be held on 24 March 2023 at 10.00 am.

The meeting ended at 11.40 am