

Adult Social Care

1. What will adult social care look like in Torbay in 2015/2016 and onwards?

The strategy for adult social care continues to be that we support those people who are eligible for social care support as part of an integrated approach with the NHS. There are a number of schemes across the NHS and Social care that are part of a re-design of pathways to ensure people are supported to improve their health and well being , and that this can be achieved on the reduced amount of public taxation available to support these public services. Social care is under great pressure nationally , and that national picture is reflected in Torbay.

2. What is the current position in relation to the savings proposals which were considered in September 2014? Has consultation been undertaken? Have Equality Impact Assessments been completed? Will the savings be realised in 2015/2016?

The savings proposals are as outlined in September. Where required consultation has been undertaken and EIAs completed. As outlined in previous debate, adult social care is a statutory duty of the local authority so services can be delivered differently to achieve required outcomes, but cannot be ceased. As outlined previously there is a spectrum of risk to achieving the full savings and ensuring quality outcomes are maintained. The ASA is attached for consideration. The current outturn position for adults services commissioned from the trust is £232k over budget.

3. What has been the result of exploring “further joint working, share commissioning, new income and efficiencies” with the NHS and others? When will benefits be realised from this exploration?

This area is still under exploration. There are benefits to be realised in development of new income and further risk mitigation, through gain share or other mechanisms but requires more time. The delivery of the ICO understandably continues to be the priority for delivery in our local system. The Better Care Fund did not become a source of new monies and has been refocused by government on prioritising reductions in acute emergency admissions.

4. What is the current position in relation to the changes to voluntary sector blocks contracts which were agreed in February 2014? Which organisations are providing services and how sustainable are those services moving forward? What impacts are being felt in the community as a result of these changes?

The voluntary sector block contracts have been reduced in accordance with decisions taken in Feb 14. This has meant that access to advocacy for people with mental illness and mental capacity issues has been reduced and services which support people with complex physical and mental health needs are ending. However, the Care Act 2014 and the increase in Deprivation of Liberty applications require greater levels of statutory advocacy services to be in place . Options for meeting this requirement are being considered at present.

The impact on the system of support for adults was more impacted by the closure of some supporting people contracts. That has already been considered by scrutiny in October 14.

5. How does the Community Development Trust and the Ageing Well initiative fit with the future provision of health and social care services?

Both of these elements are a key part of our future system of health and social care. The CDT is represented on the joined up board for pioneer to ensure that Torbay's voluntary sector is at the heart of future thinking for health and care. The Aging Well initiative will allow innovation to take place in a number of areas and we know that combating social isolation is key to older people's overall sense of well being. As the project progresses there will be an opportunity to review outcomes and question how further changes can be made in the NHS and local authority provision to mainstream the benefits achieved.

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