

**ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES REVIEW PANEL**

**Meeting held on Wednesday 23 April at 5pm in Room F9,  
The Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon**

**MINUTES - PART A**

**Present:** Councillor Margaret Mead (Chair)  
Councillors Jane Avis (from 6pm), Pat Clouder and Adam Kellett

**Absent:** Councillor Eddy Arram (Vice-Chair)

**Apologies:** None

**A11/14 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that, with the correction to Councillor Kellett's first name, the minutes of the meeting on 4 February 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chair.

**A12/14 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

No disclosures of interest were made during the meeting.

**A13/14 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business

**A14/14 EXEMPT ITEMS**

The Panel **RESOLVED** that the allocation of items between Part A and Part B of the agenda be confirmed, as printed.

**A15/14 CAMERA RESOLUTION**

The Panel **RESOLVED**, with the Chair moving the resolution and its being seconded by the other members of the Panel, that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the next item on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or proceedings to be conducted, that there will be disclosure of confidential or exempt information falling within paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

SUMMARY of proceedings of exempt part B proceedings  
(Section 100C(2) LGA 1972 requires a summary to be provided without disclosing the exempt information where in consequence of exclusion of parts of the minutes which display exempt information the minutes of the meeting would not be intelligible as a record.

## **A16/14 SAFEGUARDING ADULTS SERVICES (item B1)**

The Panel welcomed the high level of compliance of the borough's care and residential homes with the new system of rating introduced by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Whilst expressing concern at those homes which were non-compliant, the Panel recognised the work of the CQC in bringing to light issues so that they can be addressed in the interest of the residents. The Head of Professional Standards outlined the level of training both expected of and given to staff who work in homes within the Borough. Members recognised that something as simple as a change of manager could have an impact on the ethos and service delivered by a home.

The Panel **AGREED** the recommendation contained in the report.

At the conclusion of this item, the Panel moved back into Part A of the agenda.

## **A17/14 THE PERSONALISATION AGENDA – UPDATE (agenda item 6)**

The Panel watched a video in which the recipient and the daughter of a recipient of personal budgets outlined the difference the choice, independence, and control these budgets afford. Members warmly welcomed the video and thanked those involved in its production.

Following on from a point made in the video, the Panel was advised that monitoring of personal budgets is done through quarterly returns with a high level of support being offered to service users as they become the 'employer' of the services they require. Accounts can also be managed by the Council's finance team, advocates, friends or specific agencies.

The Executive Director of Adult Services, Health & Housing advised that the 73% take-up figure for personal budgets compared very favourable with the rest of London and outlined why direct payments, as compared with managed budget, figures may not be as high.

The Director of Personal Support outlined the level of support available to those leaving hospital including enhanced community health plans and the work being undertaken around revamping the re-enablement service to enable residents to have the confidence to return to their own homes.

The Executive Director further outlined the help on offer through the Better Care Fund, delivered amongst others by Age UK and the Red Cross, in assisting older residents leaving Croydon University Hospital; as well as the Stay Put Scheme which seeks to enable people to remain in their own homes rather than entering care or residential homes.

## **A18/14 CARE BILL – CROYDON'S APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION (agenda item 7)**

Further to his report, the Head of Care Bill Implementation gave a presentation to the Panel which focussed on the following:

- The timelines contained in the forthcoming Care Bill
- Changes scheduled for April 2015
- Changes scheduled for 2016
- Details of the Care account and the Cap system
- Implementation of those changes

The Panel welcomed the presence of Brenda Scanlan and Paul Haynes on the national working groups, respectively, looking at funding issues and the personalisation agenda as they bring vast local government experience to central government as the Care Bill is being taken forward.

The Head of Care Bill Implementation sought to reassure Members as to the possible budgetary impact of the introduction of deferred payments: outlining the current position and the use of legal charges on a resident's property to ensure monies are recovered.

The Panel discussed how the Council could look to mitigate any opportunity for challenge around the issue of the Cap system through the clear publication of which services do and do not contribute to a resident's Care Account and, possibly, an annual statement of that account.

The Director of Personal Support outlined the possible implications of the need to provide free care for people with eligible needs at 18 years of age.

The Panel recognised the need for central government guidance to be received as soon as possible so that the Council could fully understand and work through the implications of the bill.

The Head of Care Bill Implementation agreed through the Committee Manager to forward to Members of the Panel:

- The presentation
- Copies of the Council's responses to the various stages of consultation
- A link to a House of Common's webpage which contains a digest of the Bill and its implications

The Executive Director suggested that the Project Plan for the implementation of the Care Bill be brought to the next meeting of the Panel.

Members **AGREED** that updates on both the Care Bill and the Personalisation agenda be standing items at meetings of the Adult Social Services Review Panel.

## **PART B - None**

**The meeting ended at 6.45pm**