

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PEOPLE** held on Wednesday, 7 September 2022 at Committee Room 1, County Hall, Matlock, DE4 3AG.

PRESENT

Councillor T Kemp (in the Chair)

Councillors S Burfoot, C Dale, R George, P Rose D Taylor and J Woolley.

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor J Wharmby.

24/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

25/22 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (30 MINUTE MAXIMUM IN TOTAL)

A question had been submitted by Mrs F, a resident of Amber Valley.

In response, the Chair of the Committee Councillor T Kemp had consulted with the staff of the Director of Legal Services in her absence on leave. After very careful consideration he had ruled that the question as posed could not be directly answered by the committee. The question asked Committee members to make a decision, and as the Committee was not a decision-making body, it would be unable to answer the question therefore the question had not been accepted.

27/22 CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY DAY OPPORTUNITIES SERVICE REDESIGN

Service Director Adult Social Care L Elba-Porter introduced a report, informing the Scrutiny Committee of the results of the public consultation and provided an opportunity for the Scrutiny Committee to submit comments to Cabinet for consideration in making its decision.

A report was presented to Cabinet on 10 March 2022 which sought approval to launch a 12-week consultation on two options for the future delivery of day opportunities for people with a learning disability and/or who are autistic. Following Cabinet approval, the consultation took place between the 28 March 2022 and 19 June 2022.

In total 2269 comments were received about the consultation. Overall, 667 standard questionnaires and 29 easy read versions were completed. 244 people agreed with the proposal to redesign the offer, 429 disagreed with the proposal to change the offer. This was across the range of respondents including the general public, staff, carers, and people with a learning disability and/or who are autistic.

A question had been asked by a committee member on how data was shown as the number of questioners that had agreed or disagreed with the proposal to redesign the offer had been taken from 2269 comments so was unclear as to if one comment made related to one person. The officer clarified that the data was taken not only from questionnaires but from virtual meetings and telephone calls as to ensure inclusivity.

Questions had been submitted from Committee members on the use of the NHS to assess mental health needs, the officer had confirmed that not all users had health needs and those that did were jointly supported and that social workers would assess individuals who may require support. The support for carers had also been raised as a concern. Further work was taking place on how to support carers.

The recommendations had been proposed, seconded, and voted on with the proposals being supported by the majority of Committee members.

RESOLVED to

- 1) Note the responses to the public consultation.
- 2) Note that all such matters would be considered and included within a comprehensive and robust Equality Impact Analysis which would be incorporated within a future Cabinet Report which would be presented in due course and further note Cabinet would fully consider the EIA as part of its decision making.
- 3) Consider responses to the Public Consultation and provide comments to Cabinet and the Equalities Impact Assessment for consideration when making its decision on the future delivery of the proposals for day opportunities for people with a learning disability and / or who are autistic.

28/22 RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE PROVISION OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY MONITORING SERVICE FOR COMMUNITY ALARM ONLY CLIENTS

The Director of Adult Social Care and Health H Jones introduced a report, to inform the Scrutiny Committee of the outcome of the public consultation.

H Jones had informed the Committee of an administration error that had taken place and it had been agreed by the Chair and the Committee that the item be deferred, and the detail be brought back for comments after the consultation.

29/22 SEND STRATEGY

Strategic Lead for Schools and Learning D Careless gave a presentation, providing an update on SEND to the Committee.

It had been noted that it was important to include schools and learning as a whole and that the main focus was on vulnerable learners. The presentation listed details on the key SEND services as well as early reflections on the strategy.

The actions for SEND Services included schools & learning having the best services, clarity of delivery and how, when, and why and the SEND service redesign and restructure. The actions would align with the development of a refreshed, updated SEND Strategy and governance/delivery arrangements.

The approach to the SEND Strategy and Delivery would reflect on the current Strategy in the light of new and emerging requirements. An updated, coproduced SEND Strategy aligned with the broader Children's Services and Council agenda was required. As well as the need to strengthen joint working across social care, health, strategic partners, corporate services and produce clearer outcomes for children and young people. A clear shared ambition direction and co-production of future work with schools and providers would be established.

The high-level timeline for the SEND Strategy Development had been outlined within the presentation.

Chairman, Councillor T Kemp had reminded Committee members that D Careless had been in post for 8 weeks and stated how important it was to receive an overview and to understand what work was coming forward.

Committee members had asked questions on the delays with the EHCP process as well as the disincentives for schools to apply for support. It had been confirmed that the EHCP service did not yet have a full quota of staff, and this would be resolved by April therefore any backlog should then be resolved. D Careless was yet to meet with the health service but had confirmed an already good established relationship. Different levels of SEND support were available to schools, the pressures would be established, and data would be gathered on the matter. Schools would be engaged on channelling early intervention and work was to be done on

empowering new teachers.

30/22 WORK PROGRAMME

Chairman, Councillor T Kemp introduced the item, confirming that the Work Programme had been circulated to the Committee Members.

RESOLVED to

1) Note the 2022/23 work programme and consider any proposed revisions.

31/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Councillor T Kemp had informed the Committee that Scrutiny Officer R Savage had left the authority for another role.

The Committee shared their appreciation for R Savage's professional and hard work done for the Improvement & Scrutiny Committees.