PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PEOPLE** held on Wednesday, 6 September 2023 at Council Chamber, County Hall, Matlock, DE4 3AG.

PRESENT

Councillor K S Athwal (in the Chair)

Councillors R Iliffe, T Kemp, S Burfoot, C Dale, R George, P Rose, J Wharmby and S Swann.

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor N Gourlay.

20/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21/23 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

22/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (30 MINUTE MAXIMUM IN TOTAL)

There were no public questions.

23/23 ADULT SOCIAL CARE - PRESENTATION

Linda Elba-Porter, Interim Director of Adult Social Care attended the meeting to update the Committee on the Adult Social Care Strategy.

Research had suggested that Derbyshire's estimated population of 807,183 people in 2020 was a 0.6% (4,490) increase since 2019. The ONS Population Projections (2018 based) predicted that by 2043 the county's population would increase to 896,100. 22% of people in the county were aged 65 and over in 2018, by 2043 this would increase to 27%. As well as that, there were more people with long term conditions and more people aged under 65 had long term conditions or disabilities.

The key findings of residents had been outlined within the presentation, this included what was important about where residents lived, who was important to residents, what was important for residents to have around them and in their communities and what things they wanted to be doing.

The Councils priorities were:

Outcome focused: Support people to live to their best life independently at home, connected to the community and local resources, stepping in with more help where needed.
  Short-Term Support: helping people recover and regain stability, independence and control following a personal crisis or illness.
Joining up Support: Working across the system with partners, carers, and residents to provide support in a safe, supportive homelike setting.
Co-production: Develop more equal partnerships between people who use services, carers, and professionals to deliver better outcomes.
Supporting Carers and out workforce: Recognise and value carers and our social care workforce, and the contribution they make.
 Standards and value for money: Make sure there is a good choice of affordable care and support available across the county with a focus on peoples experiences and improving quality.

Engagement and feedback had been received from a number of streams such as stakeholder feedback from Healthwatch Carers, annual face to face engagement sessions and from the Quality Assurance Board. The Strategic Action Plan was updated annually.

The funds for the workforce plan had come from the sustainability and improvement fund so there were strong stipulations on what the money could or could not be used for. One suggested element was to work in partnership with private and voluntary sectors to tackle waiting lists. As well as using funds to support front line social workers and their wellbeing.

Work was ongoing to provide detail to residents on the different services provided by social care and health to avoid confusion. An information and advice portal had been launched and communications were taking place to advertise the service, this was to help residents know where to find help and support. Officers were also in the process of creating a care choices document, once completed this would be available in public places.

The presentation outlined that unfilled vacancy levels in the workforce were high with around 1600 vacancies across the county over
the last twelve months. All Local Authorities were experiencing the same problems. To tackle some of these problems, Derbyshire had successful apprenticeship schemes that brought in loyal employees. The vacancies meant there were longer waiting lists for services but those with no support were always prioritised, and this was no different to other Local Authorities.

RESOLVED that the report and presentation be noted.