

# Minutes of the West Berkshire Council

## Disability External Scrutiny Board

### Meeting 26 March 2015

Item	Notes
<b>Board Members in attendance</b>	Jan Rothwell (Chair), John Carr, Sue Hinks, Keith Hester and Alan Fleming
<b>Others</b>	Councillor Roger Hunneman, Tandra Forster (Head of Adult Social Care) and Rachel Craggs (Principal Policy Officer from 7/4/15)
<b>1. Introduction and apologies.</b>	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Apologies: Received from Mick Hutchins and Elizabeth O’Keeffe (Newbury Town Council)
<b>2. Minutes and Matters Arising.</b>	The minutes of the meeting of 22 January 2015 were agreed. For an update on previous actions, please see the attached sheet.
<b>3. Update on Social Care Act</b>	<p>Tandra Forster explained that the changes are being brought in over the next 2 years, although most of them will be occurring during 2015/16. There will be a shift to a new eligibility framework, which uses different terminology. It will mean that more people could be eligible for a service and some could be eligible for more of a service. Analysis has been carried out on the clients that WBC already works with and it is believed that the impact of the changes will be greater on older people. Training has been received on the new framework, which includes a duty on wellbeing and prevention. As a result they are looking at the way they are working and there will be more of an emphasis on having conversations instead of being process driven. So the focus will be on the quality of the discussion and involves the following 3 stages:-</p> <p>Stage 1: Proactive advice and guidance.</p> <p>Stage 2: Endeavouring to get someone out of crisis before engaging with them about longer term care.</p> <p>Stage 3: Assessment against eligibility criteria and long term care planning.</p> <p>They are referring to the stages as ‘bubbles’, which they have been running for about 3 months with positive feedback. The changes will have an effect on where staff are located so they need to ensure they have the right number of staff in the right places.</p> <p>TF offered to come back later in the summer to talk about it further</p>

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	<p>and explain how to get engaged with the process. She advised that there won't be a time lag in bringing in the changes as they have been working towards them for some time. The process of reviewing clients under the new eligibility criteria will be carried out during the year as some clients will require more resource.</p> <p>Care accounts will come into effect in April 2016 and 3 programmes will be run this year to ensure that implementation is ready by this date.</p> <p>It is unclear at the moment what the Care Act will mean as case law may have an impact; however they have done everything they can to ensure WBC is in the best position moving forward.</p> <p>WBC is currently in dispute with the Government about the changes in relation to the eligibility criteria and is taking legal action with Wokingham Borough Council over the estimated shortfall in care funding.</p> <p>There will be a reduction in investment from the local authority over the next few years and so resources need to be used to the greatest effect. For example, help will be given to the community to grow networks that include family, friends etc to avoid people having to go into care. So the new way of working will help to recalibrate the relationship with the wider community as there may currently be too much state involvement. As a result, initial conversations with clients will be looking at who else can help apart from the Council.</p> <p>TF has not yet seen an increase in work load as a result of the changes with the Care Act. However assessing the eligibility criteria for existing clients will be a large piece of work.</p> <p><b>Action 1:</b> Invite Tandra to the July meeting to provide an update on the implementation of the Care Act</p>
<p><b>6. AOB</b></p>	<p>Care Provision: AF raised a personal issue related to his care provision that he wanted to make TF aware of. TF said that she would follow this up with Mary Page and asked him to make a formal complaint about it. The only power that the Council has is to remove the provision from the Care Provider as it is unable to deregister them. However if AF makes a formal complaint, it may enable the CQC to take it further.</p> <p><b>Action 2:</b> TF to discuss with Mary Page and AF to make a formal complaint</p> <p>Access Panel: the next meeting had been cancelled due to lack of attendees.</p> <p>JC advised that Radar keys are £3 each and are available from Shopmobility.</p>

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	<p>SH advised that when she had sent her car park transponder back to be recalculated she had been told that they are being replaced as they are temperamental.  <i>(Minute should have read: SH did send the transponder back to be recalibrated and was told at the time that the system and the transponders are being temperamental and they might be gone soon but there was no mention of a replacement.)</i></p> <p><b>Action 3:</b> RC to find out when and what the transponders are being replaced with and email the information to the Board. If there will be delay, this item will be carried forward as an agenda item at the next meeting.</p>
<p><b>3. Agenda Items for Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Agenda Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update on Personal Healthcare budgets, in particular how the Council is identifying and supporting people onto the correct funding.</li> <li>2. Commissioning Care Providers – how users are, or can be, involved in the decision making process, and how complaints are handled.</li> <li>3. Update on the implementation of the Care Act and new ways of working.</li> <li>4. Replacement of car park transponders.</li> </ol> <p><b>Action 4:</b> Invite the appropriate Councillors to the next meeting for items 1-3.</p>
<p><b>Meeting dates for 2015</b></p>	<p>Agreed dates for 2015/16</p> <p>Thursday 16 July 2015, 10:30 – 1pm – Committee Room 1</p> <p>Thursday 15 October 2015, 10:30 – 1pm – Committee Room 1</p> <p>Thursday 28 January 2016, 10:30 – 1pm – Committee Room 1</p>