

THURROCK BOARD MEETING

DATE: 25th June 2014

Title of Report:	Thurrock Council Update
Author:	Roger Harris, Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning
Presented by:	Roger Harris, Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning
Committees previous consulted:	None
Executive Summary:	<i>The purpose of the paper is to provide the Board with an update on key issues affecting the local authority – in particular those items with a potential impact for the CCG.</i>
Recommendation to the Board:	That the Board note the report.
Financial Implications:	As noted within the report.
Fit with CCG strategy/objectives:	
Risks identified:	
Resource Implications:	
View of the Patients Carers or the Public and the extent of their involvement:	<i>To be used by PPI / or delete if not appropriate</i>
Evaluation Criteria:	
Evaluation Date:	

1. Health and Social Care Transformation Programme

All meetings of the Transformation Programme have been planned for the year with all bar the Short-Term Efficiency Group Project Group having met by the time of this meeting:

- Care Act Implementation Project Group;
- Section 75 Governance Project Group;
- Whole System Redesign Project Group; and
- Health and Social Care Transformation Programme Board.

The inaugural meetings have signed off Terms of Reference, ensured all deliverables have been correctly identified, and started to identify milestones and activity.

The Programme Board will review progress via a regular highlight report and make decisions on recommendations. A Quality Assurance Group is also in place to review work and decisions. Key decisions will be referred to the Council's Cabinet and/or CCG Board for consideration.

The Care Bill was enacted on the 15th May, and draft guidance was received in early June. The Government has allocated £125k to each local authority to assist with the implementation of the Care Act – although early analysis from Government has estimated that the cost to Thurrock of implementing the Care Act will be over £500k.

The Board will be updated on the Programme's progress via this monthly Board report.

For more information contact Ceri Armstrong
carmstrong@thurrock.gov.uk

2. Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

The Council are currently undertaking Thurrock's Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment. Led by the Public Health Team, the Assessment will assess current provision in Thurrock and identify gaps and future needs. The Assessment needs to have been completed by April 2015.

For more information contact Debbie Maynard
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3. Respite Review

The Carers' Partnership Group was held on the 19th May and focused on Short Break (respite) options for Disabled Adults and their Carers in Thurrock. There are currently two main options for residential

respite – Hathaway Road (which is currently closed for major repairs); and Breakaway. The current cost to the Council of the residential respite service is approximately £540k per year. This equates to £250-£350 per night per service user – yet the charge to the service user is only £20 per night.

The Council is reviewing the service to ensure that there are sufficient options for service users and their carers, and that the money is used as efficiently as possible – which currently is not the case.

Options include a) keeping the status quo or b) ending existing arrangements and spot purchasing respite – potentially with direct payments. In order to provide sufficient choice, there will also need to be work directly at developing and shaping the market in order to provide real alternatives.

Health colleagues will be very much involved in how the review and any subsequent redesign will be taken forward.

4. Local Elections

Local Elections took place on the 22nd May with 16 seats up for re-election. This resulted in the following political breakdown:

- Labour = 23 seats (a loss of 2 seats)
- Conservative = 18 seats (a loss of 3 seats)
- Independent = 2 seats (no change)
- UK Independence Party = 6 seats (a gain of 5 seats)

This meant that Labour were 2 seats short of an overall majority. At the annual Council meeting on the 11th June, it was confirmed that Labour would retain a minority administration. Councillor Barbara Rice has been confirmed as the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health. The new leader of the Conservative Group has been confirmed as Councillor Rob Gledhill.

5. Deprivation of Liberty

Social workers face a sharp hike in Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (Dols) cases following a landmark Supreme Court ruling.

The Court ruled that all people who lack the capacity to make decisions about their care and residence and, under the responsibility of the state, are subject to continuous supervision and control and lack the option to leave their care setting are deprived of their liberty.

Furthermore, the Court also rules that a person's compliance or lack of objection to their placement, the purpose of it or the extent to which it enables them to live a relatively normal life for someone with their level of disability were all irrelevant to whether they were deprived of

their liberty.

This means that many people are likely to have been deprived of their liberty unlawfully and without safeguards in settings including care homes and supported living placements. This suggests that proper application of the judgement will see a significant hike in Dols case numbers regarding care home placements, and also applications to the Court of Protection to authorise deprivations of liberty in supported living.

The Council has put in place a risk-based action plan to implement the judgement and is also having to secure additional resource to allow the additional number of assessments to take place and in order for the Council to remain lawful.

6. Commissioning Support Unit

The changes taking place at the Central Eastern CSU whilst challenging, will provide a real opportunity for joint solutions across the CCG and Council. In particular, we see this as an excellent opportunity to review our commissioning arrangements for mental health and children's services – with a view to developing joint arrangements.