

FUTURE SOCIAL CARE NEEDS FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES IN HEREFORDSHIRE

PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: SOCIAL CARE ADULTS AND HEALTH

CABINET

14TH DECEMBER, 2006

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To consider the findings and recommendations of the review of future social care needs of older people and people with learning disabilities and the services needed to meet them.

Key Decision

This is a Key Decision because it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure above agreed budgets for the service or function (shown as a line in the budget book) to which the decision relates but allowing for virements between budget heads and savings within budget heads of up to £500,000; and it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Herefordshire in an area comprising one or more wards.

It was not included in the Forward Plan however inclusion in the agenda gives the required notice in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) Regulations 2000.

Recommendations

- THAT (a) Cabinet agree the proposals set out in the report to move to a more effective and efficient, prevention-based service model and to establish the additional capacity needed to deliver the improvements; and**
- (b) similar analyses of future needs and services to meet them is undertaken in respect of 18 to 65 year-olds with mental health problems and also those with physical disabilities.**

Reasons

The recommendations are based on a detailed needs analysis. If implemented they should lead to significant improvement in service for vulnerable client groups in Herefordshire at lower cost than continuing with the current patterns of services.

Considerations

1. Herefordshire's adult social care services have been facing increasing financial pressures, against a background of continuously increasing user demand.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Geoff Hughes, Director of Adult and Community Services on 01432 260695

2. In order to understand the demographic pressures facing the County and the way the pressures might translate into service needs to vulnerable adults the Council, jointly with the Primary Care Trust (PCT), agreed to commission a detailed needs analysis looking at the demographic pressures and how these might translate into service needs.
3. A small project team led by the Council's Corporate Policy and Research Manager and involving the PCT, Adult Social Care and Finance staff has undertaken the needs analysis work. This work has been independently validated and has been benchmarked with high-performing authorities elsewhere in the country.
4. The attached report and appendices set out the analysis undertaken and summarise the conclusions both in terms of the demography and the way in which that demography will translate into increased service needs and budget pressures.
5. The reports also set out a strategy for the future based on a significant shift to a more preventative model of services, which will require a much greater contribution from the voluntary sector.
6. This new model of service would require some additional investment but not as much as would the current model of service. It would also enable the Council to improve significantly the quality of services available to the residents of Herefordshire.
7. Following consideration by Adult Social Care And Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee, the report will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 14th December, 2006. It is also intended that a seminar will be organised so that the information in the report can be shared with all Members. This will be followed by a stakeholder seminar with key representatives of the voluntary sector, PCT and other stakeholders to agree the way forward.

Risk Management

The continuing demographic pressures on the County will have a considerable impact on the Councils capacity to meet social care needs in the County. These proposals are aimed at mitigating the risk that vulnerable people will not receive the care and support they require.

Alternative Options

The alternative option is to continue delivering service under the current service delivery models. It is anticipated that the current service delivery models will not serve vulnerable people as well and will have greater financial implications for the Council.

Consultees

Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee
Primary Care Trust
Voluntary Sector

Appendices

Future social care needs and services for older people and adults with learning disabilities in Herefordshire report and associated appendices.

Background Papers

None identified.