

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held at Council Chamber, The Shire Hall, St Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX on Thursday 15 March 2018 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor JG Lester (Chairman)
Councillor NE Shaw (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors H Bramer, BA Durkin, DG Harlow, PD Price, P Rone and EJ Swinglehurst

Cabinet support members in attendance Councillors JA Hyde, JF Johnson and RJ Phillips

Group leaders in attendance Councillors JM Bartlett, TM James, RI Matthews and AJW Powers

Scrutiny chairmen in attendance Councillors WLS Bowen and CA Gandy

Other councillors in attendance: Councillors J Hardwick and D Summers

Officers in attendance: Alistair Neill, Geoff Hughes, Chris Baird, Claire Ward, Andrew Lovegrove and Stephen Vickers

100. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies from members of the cabinet.

101. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

102. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

103. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions were received from members of the public.

104. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

No questions were received from councillors.

105. PROVISION OF YOUNG CARERS SERVICE

The cabinet member for health and wellbeing introduced the report. He noted that the proposed service would support a vulnerable group upon whom other vulnerable people depended for care and that it would be complementary to the services already provided by Herefordshire Carers Support (HCS).

Officers explained that the council's duties in respect of young carers were set out in a number of different pieces of legislation. The scope of services provided by HCS was not sufficient to enable the council to be confident that it was discharging all its statutory duties in full. In particular, it was necessary to take further steps to ensure that assessments of young carers were holistic and considered all aspects of the young person's life, beyond just their caring role and the wider family situation.

It was recognised that the existing support provided by HCS was valued by both carers and the council. The proposed new service would ensure that statutory duties were met, would follow the early help model of assessment and would connect to other support services in diverse and flexible ways.

The option to outsource the service was not recommended as the contract would be of low financial value and the working environment would be complex. The proposal was therefore to establish an in-house service, building on existing connections and partnerships with other support services. The service would be regularly reviewed to monitor achievement of objectives and subject to a significant review towards the end of 2020.

In discussion of the item it was noted that:

- assessments of young carers' needs would draw on whichever sources were relevant to each individual and would make use of existing connections e.g. schools and GPs;
- the specification for the new service had been prepared in conjunction with those who would manage the objectives using an outcomes based approach;
- performance monitoring of the new service would be based on the accumulation of data, with periodical sampling of those young carers who had received support;
- HCS had a contract with the council but this did not include provision of services for young carers, such services as HCS provided were at the organisation's own initiative and funded through external grants;
- regular contact with HCS would continue to make sure information was shared as appropriate and services were complementary, wider strategic work was also taking place with all agencies that might come into contact with young carers;
- the in-house service would draw on the existing connections to partner agencies, it was hoped that making use of these established networks would help to identify young carers who might not otherwise come forward;
- identification of carers of all types was a challenge and a key focus for the Carers Strategy Action Group.

Group leaders were invited to present the views of their group. There was broad support for the proposals but some concerns were raised. Further clarification was provided that:

- the service would operate county wide, partnerships with GPs and schools being particularly important in rural areas;
- national research showed that being a young carer could have a significant impact on long term life chances, the proposed service would seek to mitigate this impact;

- officers were confident that the proposed budget for the new service of £65k was sufficient and the budget had been calculated on the basis of a need for at least 2 full time support workers;
- had the existing family support services not been available to draw on the costs of establishing the new service could have been higher;
- the potential for overlap with services provided by HCS and others was acknowledged but considerable care was being taken to avoid this and there would be ongoing discussion to ensure services complimented each other;
- it was intended that the children and young people scrutiny committee would review the performance and progress of the new service later in the year.

Resolved that:

That:

- (a) the development and delivery of an in-house service to support young carers is approved; and**
- (b) authority is delegated to the director for adults and wellbeing, in consultation with the director for children's wellbeing, to approve the final service delivery model and its implementation from 1 April 2018, with a maximum service value of £65k per annum.**

The meeting ended at 2.38 pm

Chairman