

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Future of Social Care Commission

A Vision for Social Care

16 November 2021

Commissioners

Cllr Val Armstrong, Gary Cliffe, Cllr Gillian Edwards, Alison Lee, Cllr Gina Lewis, Cllr Keith Millar, Cllr Lynn Riley, Cllr Neil Sullivan

Attendees:

Lynne Turnbull, Helen Rowlands (Cheshire Disabled Peoples Panel)

Rick Burgess (Greater Manchester Disabled Peoples Panel)

Stuart Cowley (North West Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and Wigan Council),

Cllr Keith Cunliffe (Wigan Council)

Del Curtis, Charlotte Walton, Amy Lavery, Morgan Jones (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

Observers:

The names of those who attended the meeting to observe have not been recorded

Meeting Notes

The full recording of the meeting is available [by clicking here](#)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Armstrong welcomed all to the meeting

2. Public Speaking Time

There were no requests to speak and so the Commission discussed the terms of reference ([available here](#)). They were agreed, being clear that the focus of the Commission is the totality of social care rather than purely social care services as currently set out in the objective.

3. Cheshire Disabled Peoples Panel

Representatives of the Cheshire and Greater Manchester Disabled Peoples Panels delivered their presentation to the Commission ([available here](#))

Discussion focussed on

- Existing relationships and the Corporate Disability Access Forum
- need for accessible homes and buildings
- forthcoming opportunities around NHS reorganisation and integration between NHS and Council services
- the opportunities available integration of Council and NHS services with the development of the Cheshire and Merseyside integrated care system
- Co-production at the Cheshire West level
- Reframing social care around the right to an independent life
- Reflecting on the coproduction values of this Commission
- Similar issues and messages could be applicable for all those who draw on social care – not just disabled peoples

4. The Care Vision 2030 and Wigan Deal

The [Care Vision 2030](#) was set out along with a presentation on the Wigan Deal ([available here](#))

Discussion focused on:

- How to support care providers and develop that ethical partnership
- Welcoming the 'simple but profound' messaging
- How cost reductions were achieved and social & economic benefits calculated

- Balance between building capacity but also investing where the energy is
- The 'know your community' approach and how this could be linked to the West Cheshire Care Communities
- Local, West Cheshire examples of similar or emerging practice

5. Cheshire West and Chester Council Plan

The Council Plan vision, priorities and values were set out ([available here](#))

6. Resetting the Vision

Cheshire West and Chester's current vision for social care was set out ([available here](#))

Discussion focused on:

- The Wigan deal took ten years and took difficult decisions, strong leadership and an empowered workforce. Can definitely see a positive change in Cheshire West and Chester Council, but the change is inconsistent
- Need to invest in communities and also harness and support the energy of those already working at this - invest where the energy is
- Exciting potential to take forward the 'know your communities approach' through care communities, ensuring they are important to all partners. Also need to consider that not all communities are geographic – eg people with learning disabilities
- Talking in terms of behaviours can make values and principles real
- Need for commissioners to reflect on discussion and feed thoughts through to futuresocialcare@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

7. Proposed focus of next meeting

Next meeting will be 13 December 10.30-1.30 and focus on funding and paying for social care. The proposed focus is [available here](#)

Discussion Themes

Cheshire Disabled Peoples Panel Proposals

- Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) in England consider co-production of social care to be the benchmark of good practice for local authorities.
- The Social Care Commission provides an excellent opportunity for Cheshire West and Chester Council to work with Cheshire DPOs to embed Article 19 of the UNCRPD—the right to an independent life— into the local working culture, and by doing so, enhance the reputation of Cheshire as a trailblazing authority for the empowerment of disabled people.
- CDDP recommends that Cheshire West and Chester Council establishes a Disabled People's Commission, to begin its work in early 2022, whose terms of reference should mandate the Commission to design a pathway for the establishment of a Co-production Implementation Group (CIG) led by disabled people and their organisations.
- Social care policy in Cheshire West and Chester to be designed, delivered, and reviewed in equal partnership with the CIG, and guided by a commitment to ending charging by the authority for meeting statutory care and support needs
- Recent research emphasises that cuts to social care lower the health and wellbeing outcomes of disabled voters and result in deaths in the disabled population (see the CDDP's Letter to Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Gittins, Andrew Lewis, and Peter Grime of 27 October).
- In recognition of this, we call on elected representatives and council officers to end the cutting ("efficiency measures," "streamlining of services," "rationalising" in the politically preferred language) of disabled people's services
- We call on the council to raise the discretionary element of the Minimum Income Guarantee in our region to compensate disabled people for the real-terms reduction to the MIG created by the Secretary of State freezing of the statutory rates from 2015-2022 (we have statistical data for the commissioners)
- We call on the council to raise the Personal Expenses Allowance above the statutory minimum

Commissioner Discussions

Co-production

- Key message of 'Nothing about disabled people without disabled people'

- Whilst it is useful to consider different client groups to ensure that different perspectives are considered (ie disabled people, older people), fundamentally this is about people with care and support needs

Strong Leadership

- Developing and implementing a clear and consistent approach requires strong leadership
- Acknowledged the strength and consistency of Wigan's single unifying philosophy – 'simple but profound'

Community working

- Need to balance capacity building with investing where the energy is
- Potential for care communities to be used as building blocks for a 'know your communities' approach
- Need to remember that not all communities are geographic (eg people with learning disabilities) – may need other approaches alongside the care communities

Commissioning and procurement

- Interest in the Wigan approach to developing an ethical framework for homecare and small neighbourhood home care services that share Wigan's values and beliefs