

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Future of Adult Social Care Commission

Engaging with those who draw on care and the role of communities

14 February 2022

Commissioners:

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

Apologies:

Del Curtis, Charlotte Walton (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

Attendees:

Amanda Nally (NDTi – National Development Team for Inclusion)

Lee Calvert, 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 notes of last meeting

Cllr Armstrong welcomed all to the meeting and invited reflections on the last meeting. The Chairs reflections included:

- Personal experience of financial assessment and the impact on individuals

- Difficulties in negotiating and accessing care and that some people decline care altogether as they feel they can't afford it and don't want to go through the process
- Additional difficulties faced by those in rural areas
- Commentary on the profile of spend within Cheshire West and Chester
- The experience of Hammersmith and Fulham in not charging for care at home and their work on co-production and adopting the social model of disability across the Council

Gary Cliffe's reflections included:

- The over-riding question is what does a good life look like for an individual and their family and how can we work together to help people achieve that
- Key themes were around the need to moderate increased need – prevention is better than cure – and the importance of a strong CVS sector
- Most adult social care is funded locally – we could and should be radical
- Need to think through the form filling culture and think about unnecessary reviews and the need to support people to maintain their independence

2. Public Speaking Time

There were no requests to speak.

3. Local Experiences of Adult Social Care

Local experiences will be highlighted at the second part of the meeting on 22 February

4. Coproduction at the strategic level

Commissioners were asked to watch the linked [LBH&F video on coproduction](#). Morgan Jones summarised the key messages for the meeting ([available here](#))

Discussion focused on:

- Need to consider the impact of all agencies decisions on those who draw on social care, their families and on other services
- The fundamental challenge of coproduction is culture change
- The fact that this Commission is not coproduction, as those who draw on social care are not explicitly included as Commissioners
- Powerful that the only version of the report of the borough's Disabled People's Commission was the fully accessible report
- Need to change the language to change the culture

- Service gateways can be barriers – we need processes and communication that feel accessible and don't deter people
- Need to consider how we support others to be involved in public life
- Hammersmith and Fulham created a coproduction budget for each directorate

5. Community Led Support

Lee Calvert and Amanda Nally gave a presentation on community led support and why this approach is being taken ([available here](#))

Discussion focused on:

- Solutions being local and co-produced – micro-commissioning care close to home and looking at our assets and strengths
- Need a relational rather than a transactional focus
- Supporting sustainable volunteering – need to consider rural communities who tend to have fewer local statutory services and face higher costs, but can also have greater community capacity
- How we align the approach with care communities
- Communities are already asking for one conversation – there are lots of pilots and projects starting at the moment
- Mismatch between language and budget – talk about more support but also reducing budgets
- Importance of taking a strengths based approach
- practitioners need to understand what is important to those who draw on care but also use their professional judgement to highlight what is important for them
- Not just about guidance for staff but freedom – need to empower them

6. Proposed focus of next meeting

The second part of this meeting will be 22 February 6-8 pm and focus on the role of communities.