

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Future of Adult Social Care Commission

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

22 February 2022

Commissioners:

Cllr Val Armstrong, Gary Cliffe (CWVA), Cllr Gillian Edwards, Cllr Gina Lewis, Cllr Keith Millar, Cllr Lynn Riley

Apologies:

Alison Lee (ICP), Cllr Neil Sullivan, Charlotte Walton (Cheshire West and Chester)

Attendees:

Jo Moss, Karen McGuinness (West Cheshire Autism Hub), Cathy Boyd (Snow Angels), Lee Calvert, Amy Lavery, and 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.

2. Public Speaking Time

There were no requests to speak.

3. Local Experiences of Adult Social Care

Jo Moss talked about the experience as a parent carer with a background as an Adult Social Care Lawyer, and of her son, a young man with atypical autism. His case study is [available here](#)

- The Council provides a range of traditional services for those with complex needs but not necessarily for those like her son
- There is a heavy reliance on families providing support, which may become less practical as young adults move into their thirties, forties and onwards
- When crises arise it can require a substantial care package
- Call for supported living placements with access to care when required

Karen McGuinness, from West Cheshire Autism Hub presented on the Hub and the experiences of those use their services ([available here](#))

Discussion focused on:

- It's not always useful to talk about an autistic 'spectrum.' People can have islets of capability – be able in some areas of life and not others -and also burnout and lose their skills in a crisis
- Autistic adults can mask their issues, and be seen as coping but without support can end up in crisis
- How do we ensure this light touch of support at the right time is built into the system?
- Importance of training and understanding, but also services to signpost and refer people to

4. Overview of the local Community and Voluntary Sector

Gary Cliffe presented on the views of the local community, voluntary and faith sector. Gary's notes are [available here](#)

Discussion focused on:

- Positive view of the community led support approach and the need to consider as part of the Ellesmere Port pilot how drop-in sessions can be supported by a multitude of partners who may or may not be called on
- Council have agreed an innovation fund and are now developing the criteria

- Focus on relational rather than transactional services
- Consider how to make information and communications more accessible
- Focus on prevention, understanding and supporting diverse communities, making it easier for people to access appropriate care, and changing the culture of social care
- Church of England are currently consulting on the role of the faith sector and the 'healthy church' and the [Reimagining Care Commission | The Church of England](#) which will report in September 2022
- Information that is easily available and is appropriate to the diverse people – race, cultures, sexualities – to whom services should be available

5. Snow Angels Experience of Harnessing Community Support

Cathy Boyd from Snow Angels gave a presentation on harnessing community support ([available here](#))

Discussion focused on:

- Blurring the line between volunteers and service users
- Good example of an organisation bringing together the CVS, council and health sectors
- Urgent need in the face of the pandemic, alongside an existing referral system, supported increased referrals
- Capacity to do more with volunteers
- Desire for befriending services to other communities, such as those with autism

6. Commissioner Discussions

Discussion focused on :

- Need to consider future tools and the role of technology on things such as play based assessments or memory clinics
- Influx of early onset dementia referrals to Here and Now Chester with nowhere to refer people on to when at capacity
- Need for a range of solutions, of which digital can only be a part, and a conversation with individuals about their needs
- The need for Livewell Cheshire to be a complete directory of what is available