

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL**

**10.00am 9 JANUARY 2018**

**HOVE TOWN HALL, G32 - HOVE TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Colin Vincent (Chair), Mike Bojczuk and Penny Morley

**Co-opted Members:** John Cook (Older Peoples Council) and Jack Hazelgrove (Older People's Council)

**PART ONE**

**366 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

366.1 Apologies were received from John Eyles, Francis Tonks and Michael Whitty.

**367 DISCUSSION OF BHCC 2018/19 BUDGET PLANS FOR HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE WITH BRIAN DOUGHTY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

367.1 This item was introduced by Brian Doughty, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care. Mr Doughty told members that:

- This year's budget plans form part of a multi-year budget strategy
- The main focus has been on the Community Care budget as this is by far the largest budget within the directorate
- Since the Care Act the council has had a legal duty to ensure that all eligible care needs are met
- Adult Social Care (ASC) has received additional funding from the Social Care Precept, from the Better Care Fund (BCF) and from additional in-year BHCC funding (this funding is time limited: e.g. BCF funding ends at the end of the coming financial year).
- This is effectively a stand-still budget in funding terms.

367.2 Mr Doughty told members that in the past year, ASC has:

- Received more than 5000 new requests for assessment/support (1500 of these have resulted in long-term support commitments)

- Received more than 2000 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard assessment requests
- Supported more than 2000 carers
- Provided support to more than 3000 adults who were already ASC clients

367.3 Social care services are in a very challenging position, with increasing complexity of need causing extreme pressures. The current budget plans represent a continuation of the existing strategy, with an increased focus on Short Term Services (STS). STS services will need to change to adapt to increased client complexity, and to ensure that Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC) from hospital remain under control (the current rate of DTCs due to social care are at their lowest ever level). Planning to improve STS will be undertaken jointly with the CCG.

367.4 ASC planning aims to reduce reliance on residential care, supporting people to live independently at home for longer. The length of time that people spend in residential care is indeed decreasing, although the number of people going into residential care has risen due to demographic changes.

367.5 In response to a question from Penny Morley about the level of A&E admissions from nursing homes, Mr Doughty told members that there was a good deal of variation between homes. The council is working with the CCG to ensure that all homes have the appropriate level of skilled staff to avoid unnecessary referrals to A&E.

367.6 In answer to a query from the Chair on regulation of residential care, Mr Doughty told members that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the statutory regulator. However, the CQC inspects infrequently, and BHCC does its own monitoring of care homes where it has placements (the majority in the city).

367.7 In response to a question on ASC staffing, Mr Doughty responded that the number of social workers has been increased in recent years. The number of unqualified staff has been reduced, partly because workers have been supported to gain qualifications.

367.8 In reply to a question from Mike Bojczuk on carers, Mr Doughty told members that supporting carers was a long term council priority. The main contact points for carers are the Access Point and the Carers' Centre.

367.9 In answer to a question from Penny Morley on safeguarding, members were informed that the number of enquiries has been fairly stable in recent years. Social care works closely with Trading Standards to protect vulnerable people from scams.

367.10 Dementia is an important priority, and the focus here is on supporting people to live in their own homes for as long as possible, for example via the use of telecare. Early diagnosis and intervention is key here, and there are good service pathways in place. However, diagnosis is very dependent on GPs referring patients into services. It is recognised that the map of dementia services in the city is complex and can be difficult for people to navigate.

367.11 In response to a question from the Chair on learning disability (LD) services, Mr Doughty told members that responsibility for adult LD had been transferred to the BHCC

Families, Children & Learning directorate. Transition from youth to adult services remains a key focus.

367.12 Mike Bojczuk noted that he had recently attended a carer provider meeting where frustration was expressed at planning hospital discharge dates changing at short notice. Mr Doughty agreed that this was a problem. It can be hard to predict discharge dates, as people's needs do sometimes change suddenly. However, some delays are caused by factors that are controllable, such as the availability of discharge medications at the time of discharge, and there is potentially room for improvement here.

### **368 MINUTES**

368.1 The minutes of the 12 December 2017 meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

#### **Matters Arising**

368.2 The Chair told members that he has held conversations with the Brighton University Finance manager and with the developers to raise issues around the design of the crossings on Lewes Road, the Medical Centre and disability access to Moulescoomb railway station. There will be a further meeting shortly.

### **369 OPC WORK PROGRAMME**

369.1 Members agreed that they would invite Cllr Meadows, the Chair of the BHCC Housing & New Homes Committee, to the March OPC public meeting to talk about the general issue of housing and older people (i.e. including but not limited to senior housing). The invitation should also be extended to any officers that Cllr Meadows may wish to accompany her.

369.2 Members noted that the Chair of Brighton & Hove CCG, Dr David Supple, will be speaking at the February OPC meeting. Members are keen to discuss the following with Dr Supple: the CCG alliance plans, Patient Transport Services, the CCG budget and how it links with the BHCC budget, and GP sustainability.

369.3 Members also agreed to ask the Council Leader for a meeting in private to discuss budget plans, in line with practice in previous years. The OPC will also write to all political groups expressing concerns about the impact of some of the budget proposals on older people.

369.4 Members discussed publicising the work of the OPC through local free papers and magazines and agreed that this idea should be pursued. It was noted that an article drafted by Mike Bojczuk about the OPC had been published in Preston Pages

369.5 Members also agreed to further explore the potential for Possability People to provide secretarial support to the OPC post April 2018.

**370 OPC MEETING VENUES APRIL 2018 AND ONWARDS**

370.1 Members discussed possible meeting venues post March 2018. Venues suggested for business meetings included a church hall in Hove and the Possability People offices. It was noted that some meetings may be held in Hove Town Hall (e.g. if the OPC is meeting with BHCC officers or members).

370.2 Venues suggested for public meetings included: Brighthelm, Leach Court, Patching Lodge, the Friends' Meeting House and the Unitarian Church on New Road. Members agreed that Jubilee Library was too expensive to continue with. John Cook noted that it is important to have a consistent choice of venue for meetings so that members of the public do not become confused.

**371 GREY MATTERS**

371.1 John Cook told members that Grey Matters programming plans for the next quarter have been developed. There will also be a Directors' meeting before the end of January.

371.2 Since the Grey Matters website was refreshed there have been a number of enquiries from community groups eager to be interviewed. There are also plans to interview Jack Hazelgrove and Francis Tonks about their research work.

**372 MEMBERS' UPDATE**

**372.1 Penny Morley:**

- **Isla Robertson** - sad to report the death of Isla just before Christmas, members were notified. She had been the Chair of the Brighton & Hove Pensioners Association and participated in OPC meetings in the past. She had been unwell for a while. We understand that she did not wish a funeral and that her family will be arranging a memorial event in the future. Details will be circulated when known.
- **Age Friendly City Forum** - next meeting will be at Age UK at 10.30 on Monday 22nd January - all welcome.
- **Innovation for Ageing** - completed project survey being organised by International Longevity Centre UK, headed by Baroness Sally Greengross and supported by a wide range of funders.
- **Inequalities in Later Life** - report by Centre for Better Ageing - only 36% of women aged 65 to 69 received full state pension in 2014.

- **Friends of Brighton & Hove Hospitals** - they have appointed a project coordinator Paola O'Sullivan for a programme devised by Elderly Care Consultants designed to keep older patients socially active prior to leaving hospital.
- **Preston Barracks Redevelopment** - will attend meeting OPC Chair has organised with Brighton University on 15th January to discuss issues relating to the development & older people.
- **Age UK** - Free Resilience & Well Being Training for people over 50 starting in February. Contact Bea Gahagan at Age UK on 01273-720603 for further info.
- **London Road LAT**- meeting on the 9th January with Katy Bourne, Police & Crime Commissioner, due to attend. Local residents have many concerns about policing issues in the local area.
- **Carers Hub** - established in partnership between BHCC & 3 charities has been launched. It has website & coffee mornings for carers across the City. They have a website and newsletter. See <https://carershub.co.uk> or phone 01273-977000 for further info.

**372.2 Colin Vincent (Chair):**

- Attended the HOSC STP Working Group planning meeting in December. There is frustration within the group at the lack of detail available concerning the STP. The Group will seek to meet with Adam Doyle in the near future.
- Has received information from Rampion on their community funding programme. This could potentially be a funding source for the OPC.
- Attended the Local Adult Safeguarding Board Participation & Engagement Sub-Committee. Work is ongoing to develop an information booklet for families looking to place a relative in residential care.

**372.3 John Cook:**

- Attended the CCG Primary Care Reference Group meeting. This is a focus group that will help the CCG plan its public engagement regarding primary care.
- Has been offered training by the CCG on understanding the NHS.
- Has been working with Tower House, mainly driving the mini-bus that picks up and drops off attendees.

**372.4 Mike Bojczuk:**

- Has been working with the Night Shelter.
- Has been working with Tower House.
- Asked a question at BHCC Housing & New Homes Committee regarding wifi access at senior housing schemes.

**372.5 Jack Hazelgrove:**

- Has been engaged with the research project: meeting with Age UK and Brighton University to discuss a piece of work on social care for self-funders
- Has sat on the Protocol Review Panel which determines research proposals at the Royal Sussex County Hospital
- Has been working with Buswatch. Buswatch have now formally opposed the Valley Gardens scheme, due to its negative impact on bus travel. Disappointingly a deputation to this effect was dismissed by the council.
- The development of the Preston Barracks site has meant that Community Transport has had to find another home. However, despite assurances to the contrary, the council has

not supported the relocation of the service and Community Transport is struggling to find an alternative site. It is currently at the industrial park in Moulescoomb way, but at a cost of £1K per month. The lack of BHCC support for this service is indicative of a more general withdrawal of support for older people.

**373 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

373.1 Mike Bojczuk gave his apologies in advance for the March OPC meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12:30pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

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