

Minutes Extract - Performance, Budget Monitoring and MTFS Item Adult Scrutiny Panel 5 December 2023

The Chair invited Becky Wilkinson, Director of Adult Services, to introduce the report.

The Director invited James Barlow, Finance Business Partner, to introduce the slides on the budget report. A copy of the presentation is attached.

The Director invited panel members to comment on the Draft budget 2024-2025 and MTFS presentation slides.

A panel member queried the issue of costs for out of area placements for children services and highlighted concerns about the huge discrepancies in the level of charges. The panel member commented on previous discussions about charges for external children's residential accommodations and plans to work with other local authorities to avoid competition for places leading to increased costs. The panel member queried if this was a similar situation facing adult social care placements.

The Director acknowledged the pressures on care costs for adult social placements but the issue for the Council concern cases involving adults with learning and physical disabilities where more people tend to be placed out of city. The Director added that the cost pressures are due the lack of suitable placements rather than the cost of the care package.

The Director commented that the Council is working on the issue and reassured the panel that the cost pressures are not as acute as compared to the situation in children services for out of area residential care placements.

The Director presented the Our City Our Plan Performance slides and progress against six performance indicators. A copy of the presentation is attached.

The Director commented that Adult Social Care is showing strong performance overall and work is being planned in areas where improvements are needed.

The Chair thanked the Director for the presentation. The panel were invited to comment on the presentation.

A panel member queried what checks were in place to ensure the quality of care provided by external agencies to residents.

The Director reassured the panel that checks are done by the Quality Assurance Team on the care provided and the service also do unannounced inspections. The Council works closely with health colleagues to support this, for example, infection

control procedures. The Director added that concerns or alerts about the quality of care can either be raised with CQC or with the Council.

The Director commented that that an updated Quality Assurance Framework is scheduled to be presented to the panel on 20.2.24 which details the work being done with partners to improve the quality of care provided.

There is an expectation that there will be further improvements because of the past investment in the sector. The Director acknowledged that the current assurance framework does need further improvement.

A panel member queried the method used to randomly select service users to take part in the survey and expressed concern about the low response rate.

Lindsey Cowan, Corporate Analytics Manager, advised the panel that the analysis is based on a random sample of service users.

The aim is to achieve a response rate of 20 per cent to be statistically significant. To date 1700 survey forms have been issued.

The Chair thanked the presenters for the report.

Resolved:

The panel comments on the Draft Budget 2024-2025 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Our City Our Plan Performance report to be noted.