



To:
Councillor Mark Child
Cabinet Member for Care, Health & Ageing
Well

Please ask for: Scrutiny
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Date 13 May 2019
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Summary: This is a letter from the Adult Services Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Care, Health and Ageing Well following the meeting of the Panel on 16 April 2019. It covers the Adult Services Improvement Plan and the follow up on progress with recommendations from WAO report.

Dear Cllr Child

The Panel met on 16 April to discuss the Adult Services Improvement Plan and follow up on progress with recommendations from the WAO report on commissioning of accommodation services for people with learning disabilities. We would like to thank you, Deb Reed and Peter Field for attending to present the items and answer the Panel's questions. We appreciate your engagement and input.

We are writing to you to reflect on what we learnt from the discussion, share the views of the Panel, and, where necessary, raise any issues or recommendations for your consideration and response. The main issues discussed are summarised below:

Adult Services Improvement Plan

We were updated on progress to date and the associated savings. We informed you that we do not agree with the savings methodology used and are concerned that savings are being classed as income rather than deferred costs.

We were informed that a bid has been submitted to support another five Local Area Coordinators (LACs) and a deputy team leader and that three would be appointed as soon as possible and another two later in the year. We were pleased to hear this but are concerned about the uncertainty of future funding for these posts.

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We informed you that we would like to see performance indicators that show the value of Local Area Coordinators and the value they are adding. We heard that the Authority is going to see if it can import the 'Wiltshire tool' to enable it to do this. You also agreed to provide academic reports to evidence that LACs are saving twice as much as they cost.

Progress addressing WAO Recommendations relating to Strategic Commissioning of Accommodation Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities

We heard that the re-tendering process was open to all providers but no new ones applied.

We informed you that we feel a simple route map (diagram) is needed on the range of services available to support people with learning disabilities.

We were informed that the Authority tried to involve 'hard to reach' service users in the consultation. We heard that all service users were contacted and invited to participate in the consultation, and that independent advocates were involved.

The Panel would like to know what the Authority is currently commissioning and requested further information on this.

We asked about engagement with carers. We informed you that an Equalities Scrutiny Inquiry is currently underway and members of that Panel were informed by the Carers Centre that carers and parents are concerned about engagement with social workers. We look forward to seeing the report when completed and will then decide if we require further briefing on this area.

Your Response

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised but please provide a written response by Wednesday 12 June 2019 to the following:

1. Provide academic reports to evidence LACs are saving twice as much as they cost.
2. Provide further information on what the Authority is currently commissioning.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Black', with a stylized, cursive script.

PETER BLACK

CONVENER, ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
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