

## **Lancashire County Council**

### **Health Scrutiny Committee - Steering Group**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 18th April, 2016 at 2.00 pm in Room B18b, County Hall - County Hall, Preston**

#### **Present:**

County Councillor Steven Holgate (Chair)

#### **County Councillors**

M Brindle                      Y Motala  
Mrs F Craig-Wilson

#### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. Notes of the last meeting**

Notes from the last meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were agreed as an accurate record and there were no matters arising.

#### **3. Update on adult social care issues from Tony Pounder**

Chair welcomed Tony Pounder, Director for Adult Services to the meeting to update the group on developments within adult's social care.

Tony updated the group on information which has been presented at a number of recent briefing sessions for staff in adult's social care where one of the performance indicators related to delayed discharge. Tony reported that the challenge around this relates to many areas such as complex needs, ongoing needs and coordination of the services required. Internally, what makes a difference is having co-location of staff, co-management of different services and common ICT systems. Externally, for example in nursing home care there are issues around staff shortages and with quality.

Social workers provide services in hospitals seven days a week to complete assessments but the coordination of the required services can delay discharge.

Tony reported they are working with health around redesigning programmes to assist with the performance in delayed discharge. In addition, they are making sure any gaps identified are minimised to help with success of this integration.

Tony then highlighted to the group areas of concern around workforce planning for the health and social care system which included:

- Difficulties around competition in relation to pay – some service areas pay less per hour than in retail
- Shortages of nurses (losing staff to NHS) possibly due to the higher levels of responsibility in nursing homes and there is more support for nurses in NHS
- In addition there is more scrutiny in nursing homes
- There is a need to recognise the value of staff in the care sector and to have clear career pathways

Fee uplift reports are currently going through for approval to the Cabinet Member to support the wage increase.

The third sector capacity is reducing and as a result are facing challenges in delivering the services required, particularly the smaller organisations scattered across county. CC Brindle raised concerns around the growing business side of charitable organisations and the impact on their priorities and funding.

CC Holgate queried the situation around step down services (i.e. convalescence). Tony confirmed to the group that it is at this point that patients would be discharged home or to other services (such as recuperation). Several residential care homes do have a focus on short term recovery goals. It was acknowledged that further support to these services may help the pressure within hospitals.

The group then considered the wellbeing of carers, including the required understanding for a carer and possible respite needs. It was acknowledged that there is a need to look at the family as a whole around resilience.

**Resolved:** To meet with Tony on a six monthly basis to update on progress.

#### **4. Date of next meeting**

9<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm in the County Mess – Committee work planning workshop

I Young  
Director of Governance, Finance  
and Public Services

County Hall  
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