

Health and Care Scrutiny Committee –

Report from Commissioning Director: Adults and DASS

Gloucestershire’s Better Care Fund (BCF) Joint Housing Action Plan

The connection between the BCF, housing and health was identified in 2015/16 when a housing group was formed representing a wide range of stakeholders. In June 2016 a countywide workshop was held and the learning was used to develop a countywide joint action plan.

The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) allocations are now included in the BCF and the decision to pool funding was based on countywide engagement and discussion over the past year between health, social care and District colleagues. In order to be as innovative and ambitious as possible it was jointly agreed we needed to pool funding, over and above that required to ensure all parties are compliant with the DFG regulations, to support delivery of the action plan.

The Joint Housing Action Plan covers six broad themes:

- DFG Virtual Model – improving the process and driving efficiencies
- Access to housing information and advice for members of the public and professionals
- Warm and healthy homes – extension to Warm and Well contract and increasing the offer and referrals for those living in fuel poverty
- Falls prevention, focusing on a pick-up service for non-injurious falls; triage by the ambulance service with the fire service supporting people in their own home
- One Stop Shop model for equipment, assessment and assistive technologies
- Strategic planning and commissioning – enhancing the built environment through social research and enabling greater links between planners and commissioners

A Gloucestershire Memorandum of Understanding has been developed to support the partnership and governance arrangements between Local Authorities, health and social care. The MoU sets out our ambitions to improve health outcomes through the home and work in partnership to provide strategic leadership across housing and planning.

Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment (PDSI) Partnership Board

We have held two engagement events via the Board to help Gloucestershire County Council respond to national initiatives;

Work, Health, and Disability Green Paper: Improving Lives

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Inquiry into Housing for Disabled People

Both sessions were well attended and provided structured feedback on employment and housing for disabled people which will help shape national initiatives.

The next meeting of the Board in July will be held at Cheltenham Leisure Centre and will focus on leisure, activities and physical health: it will link with the system-wide work on Obesity.

Review of Wheatridge Court

The review of Wheatridge Court Reablement Unit is almost complete. The work includes :

- Improving the focus on outcomes for individuals
- Enhancing the physical environment to promote independence for those with a sensory impairment
- Reducing the length of stay to help support system-wide movement of individuals across services
- Reviewing value for money in comparison with externally commissioned services
- Exploring options for Wheatridge Court to provide slow stream reablement and rehabilitation for people with Acquired Brain Injury (or similar presentation of need) as there is currently a shortage of options for people within the county.

Leonard Cheshire

Discussions with Leonard Cheshire have led to the development of a new model of care which will increase options for independent Living. The new model of care is now being progressed within Leonard Cheshire and a fuller report will be brought to this committee.