

Health and Wellbeing Meeting 08/07/15

The meeting was chaired by Mr Leese and most of the board, representing various health-based organisations, were present.

After two routine declarations of interest and other formalities the meeting turned to item 5, a discussion of the provider response to the Living Longer Living Better scheme. The meeting heard that on the back of the scheme, providers of health care had met together for the first time ever to discuss a joint response. A few points related to this item were raised, perhaps the most salient being Dr Whiting's concern that the fact that many patients may live outside of the Council (or indeed the Greater Council) and as such may not be reached by certain preventive solutions.

Mr Leese also made interesting comments when he suggested that there was a need to ensure that the coordination of providers was based on collaboration and that the group did not turn into a cartel. (MS: While I support the integration of care and am glad to hear that initial cooperation has gone well, the pace of change is concerning. Mr Leese's point is interesting as he doesn't suggest any new mechanism to scrutinise the Provider Group. Since he didn't know how often they had met, if at all, perhaps new safeguards are required. One would have hoped that this point had already been considered.)

Item 6 was a presentation on the draft of a locality plan. (The locality plan is part of the Devolution Deal).

The meeting was told by Council Officers that the locality plan sought to align health and wellbeing and that progress had been made. However, detailed financial plans had not yet been completed. They were also informed that the goals of the plan are to: achieve better outcomes; achieve a 20% reduction in acute care figures; achieve a balanced budget and to achieve an integrated service. The meeting was given an overview of how these goals would be achieved and were informed of the major changes included in the plan. The main ones being the cooperation of providers, the emphasis on integrated care, the use of assistive technology in care provision and a radical approach on estates (buildings, ICT etc).

The meeting learnt that there was currently a £314million shortfall between the project costs of care across the area and the projected budget. £275million of this gap is proposed to be filled with efficiencies, mainly by rationalising spending and in the reduced costs connected to a lowering the use of acute care. There was also some confusion over how much Greater Manchester would receive from the national budget and on whether the figures they had were based on an annual or 5 year period. Mr Leese intervened over the figures but wasn't any clearer on them than the officer. (It is worrying that the Council has signed up to a system where the funds they receive are based on what they are given, not what they need.)

The wider implications of the plan such as the need to gain the confidence of different groups such as GPs or voluntary groups were discussed. Mike Wild (Manchester Alliance for Community Care) raised the point that the plan places a great deal of emphasis on community organisations which have experienced spending cuts. He worried about the ability for these organisations to fulfil their role without adequate support. Michelle Moran (Chief Executive of Manchester Mental Health Social Care Trust) supported the aim to close the mental health gap but wanted more detail on how this would be done. There was also mention of how certain provisions may be carried out by housing associations; there was no

clear plan on how this would be achieved in the private sector. Mr Leese said that he felt that there was properly more illness connected to housing issues in the low end private rental sector. (MS: So why is the Council not supportive of building more social housing?)

Item 7 was the Better Care Fund Monitoring Report. This was approved without much discussion.

Item 8 was a report on the progress made on implementing the Care Act. There was no real discussion on this item either.

Item 9 centred on a report from the Council's Director of Public Health on the implementation plan for Public Health Services. David Regan gave a breakdown of progress in different service areas. He stated that at the moment Manchester, in effect, subsidised the rest of Greater Manchester in regards to Sexual Health and expected an integration of the service to end this. A new nutrition service is in the process of being tendered. There was a general discussion of the difficulty in getting people to attend routine health checks, and how the people most in need were being missed. Those present generally agreed that there is a need to work with schools, supermarkets and others to provide health-related assistance to those who might not visit General Practice. Mike Wild again argued that there was a greater role for the voluntary sector than the one currently in place.

The final agenda item was discussion of the Green and Blue Infrastructure document in relation to health. The general idea of using green spaces to promote 'healthy lifestyles' was welcomed by all present; there was also some discussion around whether data from the project would be open and around using culture to bring about improvements in public health. (MS: The document itself was not discussed in great detail and I believe this to be a shame. While the idea is to be welcomed, the report cannibalises old announcements of spending and includes projects not directly connected to the Council. It also is very scant in relation to climate change. The report also lacks detail in regards to the vast majority of proposed schemes. The report is available online so judge for yourselves if you wish.)

Overall the meeting showed that there is a lot of work to in relation to health integration and devolution. There seems to be genuine enthusiasm for the general idea of integration and greater control of health in Greater Manchester. However at the moment the lack of clear a clear picture in regard to finances is worrying.

The above is not an exhaustive record of the meeting but my own honest impressions.

If you have any questions contact me at: mschreibke@hotmail.co.uk