

Health meeting notes 28/05/2015

Most of this meeting was on the care act. One of the main points to come out of the meeting was the concern over the care act's funding implications in the second year. These worries were connected to the ability for people outside the authority to use authority provision. Under the act if care users move from one district to another the new authority must accept the care assessment of the previous authority. It is unclear how far the council can change these provisions to fit into their overarching care program. As case law will decide how this happens the financial implications are as yet unclear but people moving into the authority with pre existing care packages could present a significant financial risk. Another financial unknown is the potential for carers who are not receiving financial support to make new claims. As there is no recording of how many people are in this situation the potential financial implications are unknown. This is also true in regards to social care.

Many other were made around implementation of the social care act. The point was made that currently too much of the access to care is connected to the ability to computers. Councillor Hitchen was not satisfied that there was enough provision in place for those unable to access the internet. Cllr O'Neil asked how the council would encourage take up of social care, Manchester currently has the lowest take up of care from the council at 12% compared to 95% in Sheffield which has the highest rate. Little was said on how take up rates could be improved. The presenting officer said that the carer's forum was the main source by which unknown carers was identified. The Council would continue to expect all new contractors to identify currently unknown carers. Other concerns raised were mainly around how the new rights for carers and rights to greater personalisation of care would be achieved. It was noted that Manchester is currently poor when it comes to providing personalised care. This means that the council currently does not provide certain services to people which would enable them to live a fuller life. Budget cuts were blamed for this problem.

The committee moved on to talk about the quality accounts, which are a note on the performance of selected care trusts. Cllr Hitchen was concerned that North Manchester General was not included in the accounts and pressed for them to be included in future. Unbelievably the accounts are received by the council and commented on without a member of the committee ever going to any of the trusts. It was suggested that this would change and one inspection would be made a year. A number of things stood out from this discussion; firstly the council currently comments on the performance of trusts without substantial knowledge of either the trusts themselves or health management in general. Secondly, the committee currently has a poor understanding of other councils and seem to lack any strong relationship with Greater Manchester Health scrutiny committee; this does not bode well for the devolution of the health budget to Greater Manchester.

The final part of the meeting also raised the issue of Devo Manc. The committee stated that they would ask the person in the NHS responsible for administering the devolution of the budget to attend a meeting with them. Concerns were also raised about the failure of the government to ensure that greater access to GPs made up for the closure of a number of walk in clinics.

In conclusion, the meeting further highlighted the problems of devolving health care so quickly. The committee does not have a working relationship with the other authorities. It was evident that the council has little control over funding in regard to the social care act. It was clear that there are many people currently caring or in need of social care unknown to the council. Apologies for the rough nature of these notes.

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