

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Update Report for Scrutiny June 2021

As the new Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care I have prioritised meeting officers from across the system and familiarising myself with the key issues. I have identified my initial priorities within this report.

1. Housing

Adults with care and support needs require quality housing, as we all do. Housing and Adult Social Care officers are working together on several opportunities to provide more accommodation within B&NES for people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health problems.

Due to a shortage of suitable placements, people with these needs are often required to move out of area to secure appropriate housing and support. Ensuring that their needs can be within B&NES is preferable for the individual, their families and also for the council as it reduces the costs of such placements and allows for better monitoring.

Officers are also exploring opportunities for people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health problems to be supported in spare capacity within our Extra Care facilities. They are working to vary one of our contracts with Virgin Care to increase our supported living capacity for people with learning disabilities.

Lastly, officers from Housing and Adult Social Care are developing an Accommodation Strategy to ensure that we have capacity needed to meet the needs of young people who will transition into Adult Social Care.

2. Virgin Contract

I am meeting with the Director and the Head of Contracting and Performance to ensure I am fully conversant with the Virgin Care Contract.

3. Health & Well Being Board

I will be working with co-chairs, Dine Romero and Brynn Bird to review the role of the Board as we develop the Integrated Care Alliance.

4. Recruitment of the Director of Adult Social Care

I am involved in the recruitment of the permanent DASS and will update Members on the outcome of that process as appropriate.

5. Transformation

Adult Social Care is embarking on a significant Transformation Programme to ensure that a greater proportion of clients receive support in their own homes, to focus more

on people's strengths and to use the learning from Covid to support people within their communities. We anticipate that this work will lead to improved outcomes. The key areas of focus are community resilience, access to social care, social work practice, reablement, transitions, community mental health service framework and the redesign of Liquid Logic.

Project Plans and Business Cases will be developed by September and new service models will be in place by March 2022. The success of these projects will require close working with our colleagues in the CCG, Virgin, AWP, and 3SG.

6. Finally

As reported by the interim Director the health and social care system has seen increasing pressure across BSW, including B&NES, with increased demand for services coupled with staff shortages. This is having a significant impact on all acute and community providers across BSW. Work is ongoing across the system to meet demand safely by working with our 3rd sector colleagues, improving reablement, and increasing the use of agency staff to ensure safe staffing levels.

Councillor Alison Born – 9.6.21