

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

As identified by the Interim Director, the health and social care system is experiencing significant pressure and I continue to work with partners to support the system. This report provides an update on current priorities.

1. Housing

Colleagues in Housing and Adult Social Care have agreed a job description to recruit a new colleague to support the development of an Accommodation Strategy that will enable us to ensure that our most vulnerable residents have access to quality housing and support over the next 10 – 20 years.

2. Virgin Contract

I have met with the Interim Director and the Head of Contracting and Performance and with colleagues from Virgin and the CCG. I will continue to work with the Interim Director to ensure that Cabinet are supported to make an informed decision on the future of the Virgin Care Contract.

I am fully aware of the current performance issues relating to social care assessments, reablement and community hospitals and am reassured that the Interim Director and CCG colleagues are working with Virgin to robustly address performance issues relating to these services.

3. Health & Well Being Board

As members will know, Dine Romero is the new co-chair with Brynn Bird. However, as Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care I will be a member of the Board and have been fully involved in the discussions relating to the role of the Board as we develop the local Integrated Care Alliance within the context of the BSW Integrated Care System.

4. Recruitment of the Director of Adult Social Care

As Members are aware, Suzanne Westhead has been appointed as the permanent DASS and will take up her post on the 23rd August 2021. Alison Elliott will continue until the 27th August to ensure that Suzanne is fully briefed. I would like to thank Alison very much for the invaluable contribution she has made during her time with B&NES.

5. Partnership Working

This month I was pleased to hear that the Chief Operating Officer from the RUH and the Deputy Chief Operating Officer from BSWCCG visited Charlton House. It is important that colleagues have the opportunity to see the range of community services provided by Adult Social Care and they were impressed with the quality of service and enthusiasm and commitment of our staff. The Chief Operating Officer (RUH) will also be visiting social workers in Virgin Care as he familiarises himself with the provision of community services.

6. Transformation

The transformation of Adult Care services is a significant piece of work that will be overseen by a Project Board. The seven work streams will deliver significant change to the way that services are provided in B&NES and I am keen to ensure cross party oversight of the project. I had originally proposed a small reference group to undertake this work but it was felt that it could be a role for this scrutiny panel. However, as this group already has a packed agenda with limited time for in-depth discussion, I am concerned about how this could be delivered. I would be grateful for views on whether or not this function would be welcomed and how it could best be delivered. I'm sorry that I am not able to contribute to the discussion (and to the wider meeting) as I am in Devon and unable to dial in as this is now an in-person meeting.

Alison Born – Councillor for Widcombe and Lyncombe

Cabinet Member for Adult Services