

VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR (VCS) WORKSHOP NOTES HEALTH AND WELLBEING

What can we do to improve efficiency in order to maintain delivery for less money?

- Lack of real understanding by the VCS about the implications of the significant cuts across the Council and other public agencies.
- Feeling that local authority is data rich but intelligence poor, and needs to address these issues more strategically to inform any changes in commissioning services.
- Need to ensure that providers are more focused on outcomes and not inputs and this should be reflected within the Council's monitoring arrangements.
- Need to better describe and understand the pathways and protocols for those who are vulnerable within the community. Not just for statutory services but also for those where there is no statutory responsibility.
- Costs of services need to be more robustly transparent and reflect delivery arrangements.
- Need to have true joint commissioning arrangement for health and wellbeing services: i.e. single contracts, which encompass the requirements for delivery of services for certain groups/communities that present with a range of needs and requirements.
- Reduce paperwork.
- Join up some issues of duplication and overlap i.e. children, families and adults.
- Housing needs to be embedded within the wellbeing agenda.
- Single monitoring system across the Council for providers – different funding streams require similar information but differently formatted returns required from providers. (Single reporting point, which then distributes across the Council's monitoring officers).
- Clear outcome measures required, which are jointly owned and relate to contracts based on true joint commissioning.

What priorities should we apply when making savings?

1. Adapt ways of working to better meet the present and predicted needs:
 - a. Better use of existing information and data: i.e. JSNA
 - b. Better understanding of harder to reach communities
 - c. improved data analysis and sharing of local intelligence
2. Focus should be on finding, accessing and sustaining accommodation, which is driven by partnership working:
 - a. Ensuring a person has a solid and sustainable home into which other services are provided; either floating support and/ or other more intense services from health, social care, education etc.
3. Undertaken benefit realisation of services as part of evaluation and monitoring to ensure that they are, and remain, strategically relevant, offer value for money and are focussing on outcomes.
4. Issues relating to political landscape – preferred services by politicians are not always those which provide best value for money or quality. Need to consider how this is addressed and assessing impacts of criteria for commissioning.
5. Contracting – transparency between in-house services of the Council and VCS – equality in tendering for services.
6. Impact of losing services should be assessed more robustly.
7. Clarity about corporate priorities and who sets these, i.e. Local Strategic Partnership, Council, Health and Wellbeing board (with its new statutory functions).

Actions relating to above:

For housing related support and supported housing.

1. and 6.
Supporting People Strategic Review of housing related support, supported housing and sheltered housing – robust methodology in assessing value for money – Hilary Bartle and providers to reshape services in part based on assessment of existing data available (limited).
2. Commissioning plan being developed to be signed of by Health and Wellbeing board and joint board over coming months. New procurement plan to be development and new contracts to be implemented in the next financial year.
3. Part of above – Hilary Bartle (lead for Housing Repairs Service), Bob Revell (lead for Older people), Simon Pattison (lead for Health and Adult Social Care).
4. and 5.

New joint commissioning arrangements for above being implemented:
Hilary Bartle (Maud O’Leary), Simon Pattison and others from probation, health, children and families, and housing.
5. Improved partnerships within provider sector to enhance and provide value for money – i.e. consortium approach and new joint lead agencies (providers to action).
6. as per 1.
7. Role of elected members and political agendas - Local Strategic Partnership and senior officers to work with members.