

**COUNCIL SEMINAR
9th November, 2015**

Present:- Councillor Roche (in the Chair); Councillors Ahmed, Alam, Atkin, Beaumont, Cowles, Currie, Elliot, Ellis, Godfrey, Gosling, Hamilton, Hughes, Khan, McNeely, Parker, Reeder, Rushforth, Sansome, Sims, C. Vines, M. Vines, Wallis, Whelbourn and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pitchley.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Councillor Roche, Advisory Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, welcomed Professor Graeme Betts, Interim Director of Social Services to the seminar who had been invited to share information on how Members could learn about the challenges being faced in Adult Social Care in Rotherham, the transformational challenge, learning from best practice from other Local Authorities such as Wigan and the outcomes of the Small Working Party reporting to the Commissioners and Council in due course.

Professor Betts, with the aid of powerpoint and examples of video clips, gave a presentation drawing particular attention to:-

- The purpose of the seminar.
- The Adult Social Care Development Programme, expectations, challenges in Rotherham and addressing the challenges.
- The Programme Board and the Project Boards for Developing Community Assets, the Customer Journey, Alternatives to Traditional Services, Safeguarding and Strategies.
- Vision and Strategy for Adult Social Care.

A discussion and question and answer session ensued and the following issues were raised:-

- Value of community day care, the avoidance of this becoming institutionalised and whether consideration had been given to promoting good practice and/or social enterprise.
- Concern over the number of people being placed into residential care in Rotherham when compared to other Local Authorities and what action was being taken to resolve this integrated problem.
- Front door referrals and whether signposting techniques are provided for those people who do not fit the assessment criteria.
- Where did the level of investment and funding come from when further budget cuts were anticipated.
- Crisis in social care compounded by welfare reform and financial challenges.
- Cross directorate working to ensure the workforce were fully skilled, performance managed and competent.

REPORT FOR INFORMATION - 09/11/15

- Checks and balances for the various projects to ensure the right people had the right skills with the right training/support to avoid any exploitation of goodwill.
- Fostering independences, delivering outcomes and whether exploitation safeguards were in place for direct payment receivers.
- Challenges facing day centres and the responses for individual needs.
- Restructuring proposals affecting Adult Social Care and longevity of such.
- Provision for shared care provision and the availability for those persons who may opt out.

Councillor Roche thanked everyone for attending today's seminar and extended an invitation for any Member who may have any further questions to contact him direct.

Resolved:- (1) That Professor Graeme Betts be thanked for his informative presentation and contribution to the discussion and answers.

(2) That the information shared be noted.