

## **Adults & Health Strategic Budget Savings 2021/22 Task & Finish Group**

5 November 2021 – At a meeting of the Adults & Health Strategic Budget Savings 2021/22 Task & Finish Group (held virtually).

Present:

Cllr Bence, Cllr Cooper, Cllr O’Kelly, Cllr McGregor and Cllr Patel

Also in attendance: Cllr A Jupp

### **1. Election of Chairman**

1.1 Cllr Bence was elected as Chairman of the Task & Finish Group.

### **2. Terms of Reference**

2.1 The Task & Finish Group (TFG) agreed its Terms of Reference, as summarised below:

- The TFG will undertake pre decision scrutiny on proposals relating to Residential based in-house services - Marjorie Cobby House, Selsey and Shaw Healthcare Day Services Review. It will undertake its work at a single meeting and report its findings direct to Cabinet on 16 November 2021. The focus for scrutiny is as follows:
- **Shaw Healthcare Day Services:** Reflecting on the review of the Shaw Healthcare day services, the alternative arrangements and the stakeholder consultation. Consider the rationale for the permanent closure of the Shaw Day Services and removal of the day service provision from the wider Shaw Healthcare contract through a contract variation.
- **Marjorie Cobby House, Selsey:** Reflecting on the review of Marjorie Cobby House and the stakeholder consultation, consider the rationale for the closure of Marjorie Cobby House, Selsey and the recommendation that it be declared surplus to operational requirements. Consider the alternative arrangements recommended for future provision of short-term residential care services in the local area.

### **3. Adults and Health Strategic Budget Savings 2021/22**

#### **a) Marjorie Cobby House**

3.1 Cllr Johnson, Member for Selsey, spoke in support of keeping Marjorie Cobby House open, emphasising the importance of investment to retain intermediate care beds. She also stated that referrals to Marjorie Cobby House had declined but was unsure why.

3.2 Keith Hinkley, Executive Director of Adults & Health, explained that reablement services currently provided at Marjorie Cobby House would continue under alternative arrangements. He also proposed that the decision whether or not to close Marjorie Cobby House be delegated to him so that it could be delayed if its beds were needed over the winter period for people being discharged from hospital

3.3 The following concerns were raised by the Task & Finish Group:

- The accuracy of data in the report including the lack of detail on length of stay/average occupancy, lack of evidence re under use
- Closing Marjorie Cobby House could lead to bed blocking in hospitals
- Shortage of home care staff
- Lack of expertise in residential care homes to provide reablement services
- Providing services at residential care homes could potentially lead to recipients staying there
- The timing of the decision bearing in mind winter pressure on the NHS
- Not enough information in the report to make an informed decision

3.4 The following answers were given by the Executive Director and Cabinet Member: -

- Although Marjorie Cobby House has a capacity 34 beds, only 20 can be used due to lack of hoists and turning room for wheelchairs
- 13 – 15 beds are occupied per month
- Stays at Marjorie Cobby House are up to six weeks
- Resources were not growing in line with demand – the proposals can deliver the service with less resources
- The budget for the services is £960k, reprovision would cost £320k for eight discharge to assess beds leaving 640K savings
- The services being considered as an alternative will have additional therapy support

#### **b) Shaw Healthcare Day Services Review**

3.5 The following concerns were raised by the Task & Finish Group: -

- Numbers were down due to pandemic – this was the wrong time to end services
- Is there capacity in the voluntary sector to take on day services?
- Will savings help support providers?
- If aim is to help people stay in their own homes, they need day services

3.6 The following answers were given by the Executive Director and Cabinet Member: -

- Attendance was reducing before the pandemic
- People would be assessed for tailored services
- Interim services could be offered at Strawford (Horsham) and Burnside (Burgess Hill) for minimal cost
- Savings can be delivered without reducing services

## **4. Conclusions**

4.1 The TFG agreed the following conclusions, to be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 16 November:

### **a) Marjorie Cobby House**

- Members raised concerns that closing Marjory Cobby House could lead to bed blocking in hospitals and that there was a shortage of home care staff to support this closure. They also felt that there could be a lack of

expertise in residential care homes to provide reablement services. Finally, that the timing of the decision was concerning bearing in mind winter pressure on the NHS and there was not enough information in the report to make an informed decision.

- Members therefore felt that this decision should be deferred for six months (and certainly after the winter period) and ahead of any final decision this item be scrutinised by HASC at a formal committee meeting.

**b) Shaw Healthcare Day Services Review**

- The majority of members agreed with the proposals in the Cabinet report for the permanent closure of the Shaw Day Services, but requested that an impact report is brought to HASC at an appropriate time on this proposal if agreed by Cabinet.
- Members not supporting the proposal were concerned that due to the pandemic that this was the wrong time to end services, whether capacity in the voluntary sector was there to support alternative arrangements and that this proposal may not support the aim for people to stay in their own homes.