

Devon Supporting People Joint Commissioning Body

Monday 14th September 2009

10.00 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Livestock Centre, Marsh Barton, Exeter

Attendees

Cllr Stuart Barker	Devon County Council
Cllr Mike Saltern	South Hams District Council
Cllr Jill Elson	East Devon District Council
Ms Marion Playle	Torrige District Council
Cllr Diana Moyse	West Devon Borough Council
Ms Trudy Robinson	North Devon Council
Mr Tim Golby	Devon County Council
Mr Dick Scott	Mid Devon District Council
Mr Jon Richards	Children's & Young People's Services
Mr Paul Eells	South Hams District Council
Ms Liz Steele	Torrige District Council
Mr Ron Mayers	Exeter City Council
Mr Iain Mellis	Devon PCT
Mr Max Sillars	Devon County Council
Mr Kevin Oke	Devon County Council
Mr Chris Hancock	Exeter City Council
Ms Amanda Downie	Teignbridge District Council
Cllr Andrea Davis	North Devon Council
Cllr Ray Frost	Teignbridge District Council
Mr Simon Perkins	Devon and Cornwall Probation
Mrs Vanda van der Linden	Devon County Council

Apologies

Mr John Golding	East Devon District Council
Mr Steve Warran	Exeter City Council
Ms Anne Proctor	Devon and Cornwall Probation
Mr David Lausen	Torrige District Council
Mr Nick Payne	West Devon Borough Council
Mr Alan Robinson	South Hams District Council

1. Minutes from last meeting

The minutes were agreed as an accurate and true record.

2. Matters Arising

Mr Golby asked Cllr Barker to chair the meeting. All members were invited to introduce themselves.

Cllr Elson pointed out that the agenda did not include an item regarding Bethany Project, which was a cause for concern. Mr Sillars updated members on actions taken:

- after meetings with practitioners an improvement plan was agreed
- given the satisfactory level of improvement a one year contract is being offered.

3. Report JCB/09/176: Revising the JCB Partnership Agreement

Mr Sillars clarified that the Housing Support Strategic Partnership (HSSP) is offering its re-drafted Terms of Reference, as a suggested contribution towards the review of the JCB Partnership Agreement.

It was agreed that Ron Mayers would represent district councils in the sub-group that will re-draft the Partnership Agreement.

Action: Max Sillars to co-ordinate a sub-group, which will re-draft the Partnership agreement and circulate it 4 weeks before the next JCB meeting.

4. Report JCB/09/177: Finance Manager Report

Outcomes of proposed recommendations:

1. JCB noted the final outturn position in respect of the Programme Grant spend for 2008/09.
2. It also noted the current forecast under spend for 2009-10 of approximately £90k (as at Aug 09)
3. In endorsing the recommendation not to budget for an inflationary increase in 2010-11 JCB added the following caveat, in response to comments put forward by R Mayers. This should be carried out in a spirit of co-operation and consultation with provider organisations, identifying the risks and challenges faced by both commissioners and providers as a result of implementing this decision.
4. JCB noted the forecast target 'efficiency' savings required from each sector for the 2 year period 2010-12. The JCB Chairman confirmed he would strongly support a case being submitted for any Programme grant under spend at year end to be roll-forward into 2010-11 and thus be retained within the programme. This will be necessary as the 'ring-fenced' status has now been removed. Should this prove successful any roll-forward funds could possibly be used to offset target efficiency savings already identified or go towards funding an inflationary increase in 2010-11.
5. The continual introduction of flexible contracting arrangements was approved. Discussion ensued this should be subject to consultation with providers together with an impact assessment. M Sillars highlighted the fact that Devon has already conducted provider information events within the Homeless, Learning Disability and Mental Health sectors regarding the introduction of flexible performance based contracts. JCB to approve any recommended movement of funds between sectors following a JSNA.

5. Report JCB/09/178: Overview of commissioning plans 2009-2013

Mr Scott questioned the possibility and likelihood of some providers choosing to decline or give notice on their contracts, in the face of tougher market conditions and performance assessed contracts.

Mr Sillars conceded that the financial viability of some small scale services continues to present a degree of worry to service users, especially where the support provider is also their landlord. Devon Supporting People tries to help small providers by advising them of the best options for their continuity. However, any option must fit within one or other of the SP, SWAPS or CQC regulatory frameworks. Small providers should not seek, and JCB should not allow viability at the cost of poor commissioner accountability.

The proposal that the JCB approve the contract renewals scheduled for learning disability and mental health (September 2009), and Older People (Feb 2010) was agreed. However, it was clarified by Cllr Barker that JCB approval of course meant only that JCB was recommending this course of action to Devon County Council. As the Administrator of these contracts on behalf of the JCB, Devon County Council has responsibility for the formal contract approval process.

It was agreed, that following completion of a revised Partnership Agreement, the JCB would resume its annual appraisal of affordability and investment apportionment across the programme.

6. Report JCB/09/179: Devon position on Southwark Judgement

Mr Richards gave a summary of the report.

Ms Playle confirmed that an interim working protocol had already been agreed between the District Councils and DCC to ensure young people were not bounced from one agency to another.

The outcomes from the proposals in the report were:

1. The Devon Supporting People Programme would not at this stage seek to use the House of Lords ruling to increase recharges to CYPS. This will be reviewed in March 2010.
2. The Supporting People contracting infrastructure and management information systems will be used to help CYPS build a better picture of the Child in Care/Care Leavers population.
3. Ms Playle and the Devon Housing Options Partnership Manager (Ms Jennings) will liaise over how any non Supporting People issues (such as of rent) might be best resolved. Their working partners are less likely to directly involve the DSHG as originally suggested in the report, and more likely to involve the Homelessness Managers Group and the Housing Benefit Managers group.

Action: Ms Jennings will be asked to bring a follow up report to the JCB at a future date.

7. Report JCB/09/180: Individual Budgets & Rough Sleeping

Mr Hancock presented the report.

This model being piloted with non recurrent funds will have to be evaluated, and if proved successful may offer a new model for the future commissioning of ongoing services.

Mr Eells suggested that one criteria of evaluation should be to test whether this new model has potential to get service users into services quicker.

Ms Downie suggested that the definition of eligibility needed to be widened from just 'rough sleepers'. Service users with 'complex needs' would benefit from the improved personalisation and improved practitioner co-ordination offered.

The JCB requested that the Housing Support Strategic Partnership begin development of proposals for how an ongoing Individual Budget approach would be funded and delivered in 2010. This development work will need to start planning now on the presumption of a successful evaluation, to allow continuity of any service.

Action: HSSP to oversee evaluation of pilot and development of ongoing service model.

8. Report JCB/09/181: Mobile Response Business Case

The report was presented by Felicity Vine and Paul Smith, from South West Ambulance Service Trust. A question and answer session followed.

- staff are trained to provide basic aid e.g. lifting. Clinical personnel are called if necessary. The service is design to identify medical conditions not to provide health care.
- Staff do not wear uniforms, which guarantee clients some privacy and does not attract unnecessary attention to clients
- time is saved by doing initial assessments on site and calling relevant services
- staff also joint working with fire brigade. The service alerts a fire brigade if an electrical check needed

Cllr Elson queried the numbers of people served by the service and the affordability of a wider service.

Questions were also raised about how the service works in line with other services providing adaptations and priority in receiving them. It was thought possible that there is a duplication of work with other agencies e.g. Warm Zone, HIA.

Mr Perkins highlighted that understanding the relative benefits for each agency might be important.

Mr Mellis informed that PCT has to be notified of potential budget demands within the next 2-3 months if it is to include anything within its budget for the next financial year. Mr Sillars confirmed he was aware that Health & Social Care commissioners were currently considering a business case to this effect. Further updates about these aspects and about the finalised procurement arrangements would be brought to future JCB meetings as they became available.

It was agreed to commit to a 1+1+1 contract, which sends a positive message that there is an intention of extending the contract for 2nd and 3rd year, whilst protecting commissioner liabilities in the context of budget uncertainty from 2011 onwards.

Next Meeting: 14th December 2009, Time: 10am, Venue: The Matford Centre