

Report on Hertfordshire County Council Adult Care Services for Health in Dacorum Meeting of 20th June 2018

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) submitted a bid for European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) monies for the “Care to Step Up – Up-skilling the Workforce in Health and Social Care” programme. The grant will provide more funding for social care workforce training and development in Hertfordshire. The proposal is a project to engage care providers in training and development, complementing the existing training offer. The grant will be unaffected by Brexit.

Under the Fifteen Year Direction for Adult Care Services, HCC has developed a Three Year Plan for Adult Care Services for 2018/19 to 2020/21. The Plan covers the areas of information and advice, connected communities, valuing independence and caring well.

HCC is transforming its Adult Disability Services. An Adult Disability Service (ADS) was formed in April 2017, offering multidisciplinary care management, health liaison and nursing service to people with a physical and /or learning disability. The vision of the service is “A service focused on enabling and empowering adults with additional needs in their communities. We will promote the development of personal skills to facilitate greater independence and to obtain access to true citizenship”. Part of the work programme is to deliver transformation and efficiencies.

HCC is considering a draft Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy 2018-21. HCC is striving to achieve, in partnership with providers, the ability to support people to live as independently as safely as possible in an appropriate setting. Achieving this relies on having enough staff with the right attitudes and values.

Under the Care Act 2014, HCC has a duty to manage care markets and ensure a “sustainable and vibrant” care market. Examples of what it covers include “Valuing the Workforce”. Through the strategy HCC will promote opportunities for joint career progression, to promote people with aspirations who can learn on the job, expanding the care certificate training which is currently available through HCC’s partnership with the Hertfordshire Care Providers Association. The Strategy has short, medium and long term goals for recruitment, retention and growth of staff.

HCC is considering a Carers Strategy for Hertfordshire 2018-21. It is acknowledged that unpaid family/friend carers play an important role in reducing hospital admissions and supporting discharges. Supporting carers reduces health and social care costs. The Strategy ensures that carers can obtain good quality advice and information, eg by promoting referrals to Carers in Hertfordshire by hospital staff. It seeks to enable carers to fully access their community and local services eg by increasing the availability, quality and accessibility of respite.

C/Cllr Fiona Guest