

Adult Services Scrutiny Committee 6th December 2011

Older People pooled budget

Report by the Director for Social & Community Services

Introduction

1. One of my objectives during my time working alongside the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) is to consolidate on the existing joint working between health and social care.
2. Oxfordshire has a national reputation for the work we have done already. This reputation is deserved for our work on adults with learning disabilities which has led to good quality outcomes and a relatively low level of spending. More recently, we have copied those arrangements in the pooled budget and joint management group that oversees the work on adults with mental health problems. Outcomes tend to be good for this client group as well (and spending relatively low).
3. We do not have the same sort of arrangements in place for older people (or for that matter for younger adults with a physical disability). On the surface this is the largest "pooled budget" of all. However, in practice it is not a genuine pool. Spending is aligned rather than pooled. Any overspendings are the responsibility of the relevant organisation. In addition, only a very small part of the NHS money that is spent on older people is included within the remit of the Joint Management Group. Not surprisingly, the outcomes for older people in Oxfordshire are relatively less good and we spend relatively more.
4. Both Dr Stephen Richards and I expressed a wish when you met jointly with Health Overview Scrutiny Committee in September to move towards a genuine pooled budget which brings together all the resources available to health and adult social care for the support of older people with complex conditions. This would allow us to move resources around to focus on stopping older people needing the more intensive and expensive forms of care.
5. Attached is a draft paper that reflects discussions that I have had with various County Council officers and also colleagues within OCCG. In practice, the proposals build on the good practice that has been established for both the learning disabilities and mental health pools and also some of the improved arrangements for the older people pool that have been introduced in the last year.
6. The purpose of bringing this draft paper to you today is to enable you to discuss the idea of moving towards a genuine pool for older people. I have had informal discussions with Councillor Fatemian who supports this development as do the Cabinet. The same information has also been discussed at the Transition Board of OCCG. This Board brings together all the GP Locality Leads. They expressed their support for the overall direction.

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7. The next stage will be for the two organisations to get together to work through the details in the report. Assuming that we can reach agreement this will be reflected in a new Section 75 agreement which will require Cabinet approval. I am presuming that this Committee will also want to discuss the details as well.

John Jackson
Director for Social & Community Services
23rd November 2011