

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Briefing for Care Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee 10th January 2016

INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT: REFERENCE FROM AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This information briefing refers issues identified by the Audit Sub-Committee as a result of audit activity undertaken in relation to the Learning Disability Service for adults to Care Services PDS Committee for consideration.
- 1.2 A further report providing an update on progress in resolving these issues will be provided to the meeting of Care Services PDS Committee on 21st March 2017.

2. **THE BRIEFING**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 29th November 2016, the Audit Sub-Committee considered a report outlining recent audit activity across the Council which included an update on work being undertaken following the audit of the Learning Disability Service for adults that included Supported Living, Short Breaks, Live in Care and Support, Shared Lives and Shared Ownership schemes.
- 2.2 Following consideration of the report, the Audit Sub-Committee requested that an update on work being undertaken on three Priority One recommendations identified within the Learning Disability Service be referred to Care Services PDS Committee for Members' consideration.
- 2.3 The relevant extract from the Internal Audit Progress Report (Report FSD 16075) is provided below for Members' information:

3.60 Learning Disabilities

- 3.61 The London Borough of Bromley manages the learning disability residential service for adults who have a learning disability and are Bromley service users. The services provided include Supported Living, Short Breaks, Live in care & Support, Shared Lives and Shared ownership schemes. The budget for Learning Disabilities (LD), 2015/16, was £23,942K; with an actual spend of £23,352K. The 2016/17 budget was set at £22,614K, the difference in the two years explained by £150K inflation, £130K changes in ILF arrangements and savings of £1.6m to be delivered by the LD service. The full year equivalent client numbers for the services reviewed in this audit was 498 for 2015/16 but this will vary during the year.

3.62 This service area was previously audited in 2013/14; the final report issued September 2013 gave a nil assurance audit opinion and 12 priority 1 recommendations. A management review and follow up audit review ensured that there was scrutiny for this service to improve the significant areas of weak control. Progress to implement the priority 1 recommendations was reported to Audit Sub Committee. The findings in this report have identified similar issues arising however it is acknowledged that the service have been through a difficult period of operation given management changes and turnover. The Head of Service post has been met by agency appointments, the most recent of which terminated in August 2016. The Department have now transferred the Team Leader (Complex Team East) to manage the LD team and an initial meeting has been held with audit to discuss the issues arising.

3.63 There are three priority one recommendations:

3.64 Assessment: Examination of a sample of 15 clients identified three instances where a core assessment to identify the clients' needs was not carried out and in four instances where an eligibility test to determine the clients' eligibility for publicly funded care and support was not performed. Examination of the sample of 15 clients identified six instances where a client review was not carried out on an annual basis and seven instances where the core assessment was not reviewed every three years.

3.65 Care & Support Plans: It was identified that in 7 instances, the care plan was not reviewed on an annual basis; 3 instances without a core assessment in place and 11 instances where a care plan was not in place within 4 weeks of the core assessment being completed.

3.66 Service Agreements: Examination of 15 clients identified twelve instances where there was no evidence that the panel had authorised the agreements.

3.67 All three priority one recommendations have been accepted for implementation by management. There were no other recommendations. We have given the audit limited assurance.

2.4 The relevant extract from the draft minute of Audit Sub-Committee on 29th November 2016 is provided below for Members' information:

Minute 20 (draft) – Internal Audit Progress Report

Report FSD16075

"...With regard to the audit of Learning Disabilities, a Member noted the three Priority One recommendations around assessment, care and support plans and service agreements, and requested that this issue be referred to Care Services PDS Committee to ensure appropriate scrutiny was undertaken on the measures being implemented to address the issues identified."

2.5 Following consideration of the report, Audit Sub-Committee will continue to monitor all identified Priority One recommendations on an ongoing basis. An update on progress in resolving the issues identified in relation to the Learning Disability Service for adults will be reported to the meetings of Audit Sub-Committee on 4th April 2017 and Care Services PDS Committee on 21st March 2017.

2.6 The redacted report on 'Review of Learning Disabilities Audit' was published to the Council website on 21st November 2016 and is available at Appendix A.