



OPEN FORUM

ARMC

DATE/TIME OF MEETING:	3rd September 2019
VENUE:	Marsham Arms, Felthorpe.
ATTENDEES:	James Bullion (NCC), Emma Cliffe*, Alison Holmes, Michael Millage (Joint Chair/Chair for this meeting), Bob Pritchard*, Bernadine Pritchett*, Cynthia Phillips, Mark Talbot*, Tobias Talbot and Lawrence Trussell (MVA Training)
APOLOGIES:	Rachael Dittrich
MINUTE TAKER:	Caroline Payne

*Management Council Members

ITEM NO.		NAME	ACTION COMPLETION DATE
1	<p>Michael Millage welcomed everyone to the Open Forum. Special thanks extended to James Bullion for attending.</p> <p>Notes from previous open forum held on 16th January 2019 - Agreed as a correct record.</p>		
2	<p><u>Guest Speaker – James Bullion, Executive Director, Adult Social Services</u></p> <p>JB said that Local Government were experiencing interesting times and not getting an answer from Central Government on short term/long term proposals regarding additional funding for social care. JB said that consequently painful decisions were having to be made affecting service users. NHS will only work if sufficient funding is given for social care. The Government green paper is still awaited and JB said that the Government might announce any decisions the following day.</p> <p>Recruitment and retention was a major problem for the sector, there being a 10% staff vacancy currently. Training given in social care is less than NHS. If funding allowed things would improve if national living wage could be paid. JB said that “dip tests” are made in the sector to ensure minimum wage is paid.</p>		

	<p>MM said he felt it would be beneficial to ensure that all social care staff have the same level of training as NHS staff.</p> <p>JB said that the workforce will diminish after BREXIT and Providers will be trying to recruit from a smaller workforce. However, the Government have assessed that the risk is minimal. There are currently less than 200 job seekers in mid Norfolk.</p> <p>MM asked if NCC could do more to help Providers if food, medicines and fuel etc. were affected. JB said these issues would have to be addressed when and if it happens.</p> <p>JB talked about assistive technology and whether this could assist Providers. Some funding for Norfolk was to become available and a Providers Forum will be set up to discuss.</p> <p>JB said it was important to connect with the NHS and continuing healthcare funding was discussed. Bernadine P said it would be advantageous for continuing healthcare to be co-commissioned as it is in Scotland.</p> <p>JB said he was meeting with CQC for a quarterly summit on 8th October with key people round the table. JB invited a member of ARMC to attend. There have been significant closures in Norfolk and discussion needed to take place.</p> <p>JB then outlined the new Commissioning staff structure (attached).</p> <p>JB said that radical reforms will take place, the new people will build new structures.</p> <p>MM then asked on behalf of ARMC and NIC why the H&SCCF meetings had been cancelled before the new Care Association was in place. MM said all members were keen for these to be re-instated. JB agreed and said he may call it something else but meetings will definitely be re-instated.</p> <p>MM also asked if JB could confirm the Councils commitment to the new Care Association as there had been a significant reduction in funding originally earmarked. JB said that NCC were committed to the new Association and the funding was coming from the Market Development Fund. Although funding had been reduced, JB said that specific projects would be funded in addition to the general running costs of the new Association.</p> <p>MM asked JB who the appropriate person was to speak to regarding margins/property costs for Providers when assessing the cost of care. JB said it would be appropriate to discuss with his new team and suggested they were invited</p>		
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	to the next Open Forum meeting. This was agreed.		
	JB was thanked for attending the meeting.		

NEXT MEETING
DATE: 13 th November 2019
TIME: 1.15 pm
VENUE: Marsham Arms, Hevingham.

Signed.....

Date.....