



## Co-production network meeting notes 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### Venue – MS Teams

#### Attendees

Mike (co-chair), Marjorie (co-chair), David, Marcia, Kevin, Jordan, Diana, Bernadette, Zoe, Bestina, Sally, Anna, Vickie, Karen, Beverley,

#### Apologies:

Jane, Shahanaz, Zhora, Sue, Dolly, Vicky.

#### Agendas

### 1. Fees and Charges Adult Social Care

**Presenter: Anna Grainger- Adult Social Care Senior Manager**

#### Background and National Charging Guidance:

Charging for care" refers to the fees that individuals pay for receiving social care services. These charges can vary based on several factors, including the type of care provided, the individual's financial situation (those who can afford to pay should do so to avoid significant charge disparities across areas), and local policies. **All local authorities follow the same national charging guidance to remain within budget.** [Social care - charging for care and support: local authority circular - GOV.UK](#)

**Aim:** To provide sustainable support for those in greatest need while ensuring independence (homecare, direct payments, support in the community)

#### Slough review of Charging for care:

While there is national guidance, local authorities may have some flexibility in how they implement these charges.

We have reviewed social care charges; Slough has been more generous compared to neighbouring councils but can no longer sustain this due to.

- **Increasing Demand:** Rising numbers of people needing support and increasing costs of providing support requires us to make adjustment necessary for sustainability.
- Addressing current issues is important to continue supporting the most vulnerable.

#### Future Safeguards:

- **Risk Support:** Safeguards will be in place to support those at risk.

- **Complexity:** Charging is complicated; ensuring understanding is essential for meaningful involvement.

**Action:**

- We are asking a small group from the network to assist in making the consultation understandable and effective.
- Seeking advice on what questions to ask as part of the consultation.

**Outcome:**

- Members of coproduction and other stakeholders involved met to review adult social care charges consultation. The consultation is now live and can be accessed here. [Slough.citizenspace.com/adult-social-care-payments](https://slough.citizenspace.com/adult-social-care-payments)
- Consultation has been shared with the 50+ forum and wider community.

**2. Community and Voluntary Sector updates**

Presenter: Diana Balsom – Interim Commissioning Manager – Prevention.

**Achievements in the First Year**

- Slough Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS) has supported voluntary groups to secure £2.5 million in external funding.

**Slough Community Fund:**

- 2024/25 saw the highest number of bids from community groups.
- Health sector agreed to contribute an additional £70,000 annually.

**Outcome:**

More community groups were awarded funding.

**Community Connector Service update:**

**Referral Support Areas:**

The following are the areas where referral is sent.

Health and Physical Community Activities, Mental Health and Wellbeing Support, Housing Advice and Benefits, Cost of Living Support (Food or Fuel), Disability Support, Carers Support

The community connector’s survey respondents were satisfied and would recommend the service.

73% of respondents utilized the referred services, over half reported a positive impact on their wellbeing.

**Noted gaps:** Form-filling assistance and housing advice.

**Feedback from Social Work Teams**

- Reduced care needs
- Time saving/supported in workload.
- Supported wellbeing of service user

- Provides good information and advice.

### **Feedback from the coproduction network**

- Online services restrict people from accessing the service sighting complexity in completing housing application forms, attendance allowance without the right support.
- Recommendation - dedicated place for people to get advice and form filling support ideally by someone familiar with the subject matter.

### **3. Health & Social Care Partnership**

Presenter: Mike Wooldridge - BCF & Transformation Lead, NHS Frimley ICB

The Health and Social Care Partnership (also known as NHS Frimley ICB's Place Board in Slough) is reconvening and would like to have a representative from the Co-production Network as a member and regular attendee at the Partnership meetings.

#### **The purpose of board.**

Develop a shared understanding of local health and care needs by reviewing data and engaging with communities.

Co-produce, design, and implement a plan with joint local priorities to;

- Ensure the Place plan aligns with other strategic partnership boards and system-wide plans.
- Drive collaborative work locally on the prevention of ill health and promote health living to maximising independence enabling residents to stay healthy and active.

Meetings are usually two hours and minimum of 4 x per year. The invitation is extended to the coproduction network, former members are welcome to rejoin.

### **4. AOB**

#### **Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) training**

- An opportunity for the network to train together strengthening our approach to equal partnership in coproduction. Date for EDI training is 29<sup>th</sup> April at Chalvey Community Hub all network members are encouraged to attend.

#### **Meeting notes summary**

- Coproduction network members agreed to receive summary meeting notes, detailed notes will be available on coproduction webpages.

#### **Volunteer event feedback/future events**

- Event well received by network members and community volunteers. Network members agreed to schedule more events as an opportunity to chat and connect.

#### **Guidance for officers attending CPN.**

The network members feedback and said that presentations are being too long and formal. To improve this, a simple guide has been developed for officers to strengthen collaboration and ensure that meetings are more efficient and inclusive. Key points include:

- Officers are encouraged to avoid lengthy PowerPoint presentations and instead be brief and to the point.
- Volunteer Involvement: Volunteers should be involved in setting the agenda for meetings.

## Have your say on the name of the new Community Diagnostic Centre

The new Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) in Slough is currently under construction and is scheduled to open by Christmas 2025. It is part of the national CDC Programme aimed at transforming health in the area.

The current name is "Slough Community Diagnostic Centre." If you would like to suggest a different name or keep the same please vote on the link [slough community diagnostic/have your say](https://www.slough.gov.uk/council-and-civic-life/consultations-and-surveys/slough-community-diagnostic-centre-have-your-say)

## Council tax updates

Presenter: David Coleman-Groom – Interim Executive Director Adult Social Services

Key points

- **Initial Proposal:** Slough Council proposed a 7.99% increase to bridge a financial gap.
- **Minister's Decision:** The Minister did not approve the increase, capping it at 4.99%.
- **Financial Impact:** Even with the proposed increase, there was still a £1 million budget gap.
- **Alternative Measures:** The council is exploring other income generation methods, addressing rent arrears, and adjusting fees and charges, particularly in adult social care.
- **Budget Status:** The council is working on finalizing the budget, with a special cabinet meeting scheduled for March 6th to present a balanced budget.

**Next meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> March In-Person at 25 Windsor Road Ground floor - Council Chambers**

**What words mean...**

**Jargon terminology** or language which is complicated or difficult to understand.