

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

15 September 2023 – At a meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee held at 10.30 am at County Hall, Chichester, PO19 1RQ.

Present: Cllr Wall (Chairman)

Cllr Cooper	Cllr O'Kelly, left at 12.53	Cllr Bevis
Cllr Atkins	Cllr Patel, left at 11.57	Cllr Glynn-Davies
Cllr Forbes	Cllr Pudaloff	Cllr Khan
Cllr Johnson	Cllr Walsh	Cllr Long
Cllr Nagel	Cllr Baldwin	Zoehy Harries

Apologies were received from Cllr Ali, Cllr Hastain and Cllr Peacock

Absent: Cllr Dunn and Cllr Loader

Also in attendance: Cllr A Jupp and Cllr Lanzer

13. Declarations of Interest

13.1 No declarations of interest were made.

14. Committee Membership

14.1 Resolved – that the Committee approves the co-optees appointed by Chichester District Council and Healthwatch.

15. Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee

15.1 Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2023 are approved as a correct record and are signed by the Chairman.

16. Responses to Recommendations

16.1 There was a concern raised that the Committee had not been updated on the proposed introduction of a Linear Accelerator (Linac) at St Richard's hospital, Chichester – **Action:** Executive Managing Director, NHS West Sussex, to update the Committee as soon as possible, and at the Business Planning Group at its November meeting.

16.2 Resolved – that the Committee notes the responses.

17. End of June 2023 (Quarter 1) Quarterly Performance and Resources Report

17.1 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Support Services (copy appended to the signed minutes).

17.2 Summary of responses to members' questions and comments: -

Adult's Services Portfolio

- The Council understood the impact of current/future demand on services and the associated costs and was lobbying government on levels of social care funding
- A number of one-off grants are being used to mitigate the overspend, reducing it to £2m
- Savings targets have been challenging with issues regarding delivery (e.g. the fragility of the market) and timescales – the Council was looking at re-profiling the targets so they can be delivered over a longer timescale
- The Council needs to continually recruit good quality permanent and interim staff
- A programme is in place to improve transition arrangements from Children's to Adults' Services to cater for increased demand
- Diagnosis was not a factor in the increased demand as the Council works on level of need under the Care Act, not diagnosis
- Transition, complex needs and the increase in the number of older people is covered in the budget
- Although there is an improved position in the usage of Shaw beds – currently at 92% - any non-usage of a Shaw bed means an increase in spend in other care home beds where market prices are increasing. As we go into winter with increased levels of covid and flu there is a risk with maintaining this improved usage.
- There was a query as to the Care Quality Rating for Shaw homes **Action** - information will be provided by the service to members outside of the meeting on the current Care Quality Commission ratings
- Neighbouring authorities have similar issues with social care in general and adults' services in particular. The Council is learning from others including by meeting treasurers from around the country
- Modelling of next year's budget uses realistic assumptions based on current trends so that an achievable budget can be set
- The Prevention Assessment Team sits in Community Services and works with NHS primary care, including GPs, before people receive a service and has a short waiting list
- Social care assessments are prioritised by needs (including mental health) and although the number of people waiting for an assessment has remained fairly static, individuals do not have to wait too long for an assessment
- Reviews of individuals' care needs are carried out on a priority basis depending on their circumstances and includes information provided by individuals, families and care providers - service provision continues even if a review is still outstanding
- Hospital discharge assessments are also prioritised, but people may need to wait for services to be put in place before being

discharged - due to improvements in the market, this wait has reduced

- The target of reviewing 80% of assessments every year may be reassessed as being too high taking into account risk – any proposals to change the target will come to the Committee for discussion
- The Council works with the NHS on the Home First service to get people back to their own homes quickly, if this is not possible, alternative settings are explored – but for some people it will be more appropriate for them to stay in hospital until they can be discharged
- Although the percentage of adults with a learning disability in paid employment is not improving, the Council supports a range of people with varying levels of need. It can take some people a long time to get into work, if ever. The indicator may need to change to better reflect the overall picture and include volunteering and routes into work.

Public Health & Wellbeing Portfolio

- The issue of disposable vapes is being debated at national level
- Trading Standards can currently prosecute anyone selling vapes to those under age (promotion of vaping to children and young people is totally unacceptable)and district/borough councils may be able to use their licensing powers to prevent illegal sales
- KPIs 60 and 61 are largely about smoking, a risk factor that causes a huge degree of morbidity and mortality and is one of the biggest causes of inequality in our local population
- Vaping as a quit aid is shown to be cost effective, good and an effective way of supporting someone's quit attempt
- Public Health has offered a lunchtime webinar to schools to help inform their policy and practice on vaping - the Council is happy to share this guidance with district and borough councils
- Census 2021 data is coming through on healthy life expectancy measures (KPIs 31 and 32) which are updated annually – a whole range of indicators will impact on improving these measures
- New mental health measure (KPI 53) in the performance report is focused on anxiety and self-reported anxiety. It is recognised that this doesn't reflect all mental health issues, but working on this measure it will likely impact other areas of mental health – **Action** The Director of Public Health to clarify which data are used for life expectancy figures
- Public Health has programmes of work to understand and address HIV late presentation (KPI 54) and chlamydia screening for 15-24 year olds (KPI 55). There may be some data issues, particularly for HIV late presentation, which we are exploring to ensure all data has been captured
- Sexual health services have been impacted by the pandemic, with service users selecting to access online services, probably more than community services, as was before

- Public Health is exploring with providers how uptake of services and diagnosis of chlamydia can be increased, and data is being reviewed
- The Council is due to publish the West Sussex Suicide Prevention Framework and Action Plan, which will be updated following the publication of Government's national suicide prevention strategy. The Sussex Suicide Prevention Strategy is also anticipated to be published shortly.

17.3 Resolved – the Committee asks that: -

- An informal session to be arranged for Committee members to gain a broader understanding of the data contained in the Performance & Resources Report
- The current Care Quality Commission ratings of Shaw Homes be circulated
- The current waiting times for assessments by the Prevention Assessment Team be circulated
- To receive further information on how long people are waiting in hospital for an assessment
- For the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing to make enquiries regarding possible district and borough council enforcement powers around sales of illegal vaping products
- Update on the definition of disadvantaged groups in relation to Key Performance Indicator 60 with further detail to be provided in the next Performance & Resources Report
- An update to be provided on savings delivery as part of the public health portfolio

18. Care Quality Commission Assurance - West Sussex County Council Self-Assessment for the delivery of Adult Social Care

18.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Adults & Health (copy appended to the signed minutes).

18.2 Summary of responses to Members' questions and comments: -

- The Committee praised the self-assessment document, but thought that it could be made easier for the public to understand
- The mental health assessments mentioned in the document are those carried out by social care
- The next version of the document will include benchmarking against other local authorities and importantly, stakeholder feedback
- Design panels will be created to work with the voluntary sector to help direct the way services are developed
- The measure for annual reviews doesn't include the fact that some people have more than one review a year – People with the most complex needs do get annual reviews
- During the inspection it is expected that the Care Quality Commission will speak to a number of people from a group chosen at random who are receiving care and support and are willing and able to give their consent

- The Council currently works well with Police concerning people with mental health issues
- The Council has a suite of services to support people living at home including commissioned reablement services which are being reviewed with national support

18.3 Resolved – that the Committee asks for: -

- i. Clarity on “mental health services” and that it relates solely to West Sussex social care services
- ii. The language in the self-assessment be aimed at a wider audience, particularly on areas for improvement
- iii. The Service to consider whether work with the police concerning mental health should be included as part of the Care Quality Commission self-assessment, or considered as part of wider work for the Committee
- iv. Its Business Planning Group to consider the approach scrutiny may wish to take in terms of challenge to the service as ahead of the Care Quality Commission inspection

19. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

19.1 Resolved – that the Committee notes the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

20. Work Programme

20.1 Resolved – that the Committee asks for: -

- i. An update to be provided on the stroke services consultation and future plans as part of the recommendations tracker and the Business Planning Group in November
- ii. The Business Planning Group to confirm arrangements for the winter planning item at the November meeting
- iii. The Business Planning Group to consider whether further scrutiny is required relating to the impact of the cessation of contract of Impact Initiatives

21. Date of Next Meeting

21.1 The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 22 November 2023 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Chichester.

The meeting ended at 1.02 pm

Chairman