

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

11 March 2020 – At a meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee held at 10.30 am at County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RQ.

Present: Mr Turner (Chairman)

Dr Walsh	Mrs Jones	Katrina Broadhill
Mrs Arculus	Mr Markwell	Cllr Bangert
Mr Boram	Dr O'Kelly	Cllr McGregor
Mrs Bridges	Ms Sudan	

Apologies were received from Lt Cdr Atkins, Ms Flynn, Mr Wickremaratchi, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Bickers and Cllr Peacock

Absent: Cllr McAleney

Also in attendance: Mrs Jupp

The Chairman thanked the Public Health team for the sterling work it had done around the Covid-19 situation.

42. Declarations of Interest

42.1 In accordance with the code of conduct, the following personal interests were declared: -

- Dr Walsh in respect of item 5, Forward Plan of Key Decisions, as Leader of Arun District Council in relation to the proposed decision on the Procurement Housing Related Support Services
- Mr Turner in respect of item 6, Self-harm and West Sussex Suicide Prevention Strategy Priorities as a locum pharmacist

43. Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee

43.1 Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2020 are approved as a correct record and are signed by the Chairman.

44. Responses to Recommendations

44.1 The Committee considered the responses from the Cabinet Member for Adults & Health, Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (copies appended to the signed minutes).

44.2 Summary of responses to the Committee's questions and comments: -

- A whole system response was needed to meet the challenge of nursing and medical vacancies

- Members felt that to careers in health should be promoted in schools - **ACTION:** Chris Clark, Joint Strategic Director of Commissioning, to liaise with the hospital trusts to find out what they were doing about promoting health careers in schools
- A request was made for vacancy figures from acute trusts and other services with the direction of travel – this would be a priority as an item on a future agenda

44.3 Resolved – that the Committee notes the responses to recommendations.

45. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

45.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions (copy appended to the signed minutes).

45.2 Summary of responses to the Committee’s questions and comments: -

- Technical ability had been taken into account in the proposed decision on Specialist Advocacy Service Award of Contract – **ACTION:** Kim Curry, Executive Director for Adults & Health, to circulate a briefing to committee members on how the service will work
- The Local Resilience Forum was putting together plans for extra mortuary capacity in case this was needed as a result of Covid-19 – **ACTION:** Anna Raleigh, Director of Public Health, to provide a briefing update to the Committee

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

46. Self-harm and West Sussex Suicide Prevention Strategy Priorities

46.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Public Health (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced by Amanda Jupp, Cabinet Member for Adults & Health and Daniel MacIntyre, Public Health, who told the Committee: -

- The Suicide Audit showed that a third of people who committed suicide had also self-harmed and that suicide and self-harm were priority areas of focus for Public Health
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health issues should be considered as to why people self-harmed
- Although there were links between self-harming and suicide, most people that self-harmed were young women, whereas most people that committed suicide were middle aged men
- The West Sussex Self-harm Needs Assessment gave a good overview of self-harm in the county
- Significant resource was being allocated to targeted interventions to reduce self-harm

46.2 Summary of responses to the Committee’s questions and comments: -

- Public Health now had an officer working on an 18-month project to educate pupils and parents about the risks of self-harming
- The project covered primary schools to colleges and had identified the need for training for both those at risk of self-harming and teachers so that they knew how to spot signs and speak to pupils/students
- Guidance would be introduced on how to manage self-harming in educational settings including a digital offer
- A mental health support team was being piloted in two areas to help with emotional wellbeing amongst young people
- Work was going on with West Sussex Parent Carer Forum to support parents of children who self-harmed
- Healthwatch West Sussex would be issuing an information pack for young people on 24 March after a review showed that there was a need for peer support and continued communications amongst this age group
- Figures for self-harming were higher in West Sussex than the rest of England possibly due to more referrals of low-level incidents or a shortfall in community services
- Access to services could also be a reason – a combination of psychiatrist vacancies in Worthing and high referral rates meant that there could be a delay of up to two months for patients to be seen
- There was no evidence that children were self-harming as a result of watching videos on social media
- Apps are available that prevent children from sending certain messages and ask if they need support
- The number of patients with mental health issues presenting at A&E had increased sharply as had those who needed psychiatric admission
- It might be possible to share psychiatric staff between Worthing and Brighton, which was fully staffed
- Public Health was engaging with workplace settings to promote mental health awareness and would have a dedicated resource for this next financial year
- Find It Out was one of the few services for low level need whereas more was available for higher needs
- The number of children looked after affected by self-harming wasn't known due to lack of data
- There were data protection issues around sharing personal information from NHS and social care which meant it couldn't be used for targeted interventions
- It was difficult to stop people buying products that could be harmful to them as they could get them from more than one source
- A better understanding of the issues would lead to better performance data

46.3 Resolved – that the Committee asks that: -

- i. Early intervention for those showing signs of mental distress should be prioritised as well as an understanding of what has led to behaviours
- ii. There is a focus on community services and lower level support pathways
- iii. There is creativity in the use of social media to interact with young people

- iv. That services develop the use of peer support and put measures in place in this process
- v. There is understanding of what the current waiting times are for accessing the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service and asks what is being done to support children and young people while they wait by asking Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust for this information

47. West Sussex Joint Dementia Strategy 2020-23

47.1 The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Adults and Health (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced by Amanda Jupp, Cabinet Member for Adults & Health, Irene Loft, Senior Commissioning Officer, Margaret Bracey, Operational Clinical Manager for West Sussex Dementia Services, Ryan Tyler, Services Manager West Sussex for the Alzheimer's Society, Tracey Wooldridge, West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group who told the Committee: -

- The strategy sets out how the Council and Clinical Commissioning Group aim to make West Sussex the best place to live for people with dementia with the support and help they need
- From prevention to diagnosis there must be adequate and meaningful provision for those with dementia
- Statutory and voluntary bodies as well as people living with dementia had been involved in writing the strategy
- It was vital that health and social care worked together
- Task and finish groups had been set-up to drive the strategy forwards identifying key areas in e.g. learning difficulties, alcohol abuse
- The Council was looking at doing things smarter as there was no extra funding available
- A review of the Memory Assessment Service (MAS) had led to a reduction in dropout rates and waiting times although these were still six to nine months
- MAS referrals were constantly increasing and early diagnosis was a struggle, therefore the model was changing so that people were scanned at their first appointment
- Many ways were being tried to increase diagnosis rates including working with GPs
- Increased diagnoses would impact on social care

47.2 Summary of responses to the Committee's questions and comments: -

- It was important to raise awareness of the benefits of physical activity in preventing dementia
- The delivery plan for the strategy will be out in autumn and will include details of timetable and budget for proposals
- Dementia friendly training will be provided via dementia friendly communities
- The Clinical Commissioning Group was currently helping to fund two positions in eight local dementia action alliances. Commissioners were working with district & borough councils to look at ways to help dementia friendly communities become self-sufficient.

- The figure for the number of carers was out of date as the strategy was a long time in preparation and would be re-visited
- Donations to dementia alliances came from local businesses as well as statutory bodies
- There were four admiral nurses in the north of the county linked to GP practices who dealt with the more challenging cases with Carers' Support West Sussex providing help for carers across the whole county
- There were three Older persons' Psychiatrists in the north of the county and several GPs helped with the MAS

47.3 Resolved – that the Committee: -

- Asks that partners work together to ensure 'Preventing Well' is a particular priority within the West Sussex Joint Dementia Strategy 2020-23 when considering its implementation
- Emphasises the importance of ensuring the West Sussex Joint Dementia Strategy 2020-23 is embedded in the commissioning activities of partners
- Asks that the delivery plan of the West Sussex Joint Dementia Strategy 2020-23 is shared with the Committee when available
- Seeks assurance that the messaging of the work within the West Sussex Joint Dementia Strategy 2020-23 is robust
- Requests that a focus on those living alone is part of any targeted work
- Highlights the role of the voluntary sector in the West Sussex Joint Dementia Strategy 2020-23 delivery plan
- Asks for an increased focus on the role of the carer as part of the West Sussex Joint Dementia Strategy 2020-23

48. Proposals to improve mental health services in West Sussex

48.1 Resolved – that the Committee notes the report.

49. Appointment to Business planning Group

49.1 Resolved – that Karen Sudan is appointed to the Committee's Business Planning Group.

50. Date of Next Meeting

50.1 The next meeting of the Committee will take place on 10 June 2020.

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm

Chairman