

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

19 June 2024 – 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, arrived at	Cllr Bevis
Cllr Ali, left at 12.24	10.34, left at 12.29	Cllr Glynn-Davies, arrived
Cllr Forbes	Cllr Pudaloff	at 10.31
Cllr Johnson	Cllr Walsh, arrived at	Cllr Khan, joined at 10.47
Cllr McGregor	10.33, left at 12.29	Cllr Long
Cllr Nagel	Cllr Burgess	Zoey Harries
	Cllr Baine	
	Cllr Bates, arrived at	
	10.33	

Apologies were received from Cllr Atkins, Cllr Patel and Cllr Peacock

Absent:

Also in attendance: Cllr A Jupp and Cllr Lanzer

1. Election of Chairman

- 1.1 Cllr Wall was proposed as Chairman by Cllr Forbes. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Cooper. There were no other nominations.
- 1.2 Resolved – that Cllr Wall is elected as Chairman of the Committee for the year.

2. Election of Vice Chairman

- 2.1 Cllr Cooper was proposed as Vice Chairman by Cllr McGregor. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Wall. There were no other nominations.
- 2.2 Resolved – that Cllr Cooper is elected as Vice Chairman of the Committee for the year.

3. Business Planning Group Membership

- 3.1 The Business Planning Group membership was agreed as Cllr Wall (Chairman), Cllr Cooper (Vice Chairman), Cllr Patel, Cllr Dr Walsh and Cllr Pudaloff.

4. Committee Membership

- 4.1 The membership of the Committee was noted.

5. Declarations of Interest

5.1 None declared.

6. Urgent Matters

6.1 Concerns were raised as to whether Zachary Merton Hospital, Littlehampton would re-open

6.2 Resolved – that the Chairman writes to Sussex Community Foundation NHS Trust asking the Trust to update the Committee and local stakeholders on its plans for the future of Zachary Merton Hospital

7. Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee

7.1 Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2024 are approved as a correct record and are signed by the Chairman.

8. Responses to Recommendations

8.1 Committee members raised concerns over access to dentistry and issues identified in the Local Area Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Inspection

8.2 Resolved – that: -

- i. An update on access to dentistry is given at the next meeting of the Committee's Business Planning Group.
- ii. The Committee agrees to a Task & Finish Group being established in conjunction with the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee to look at issues identified in the Local Area Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Inspection.
- iii. The Committee notes the responses to recommendations.

9. Performance and Resources Report - Quarter 4 2023/24

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

9.2 Summary of responses to committee members' questions and comments: -

Adult Social Care

- The Council is looking to increase community-based reablement – more detail will come to the Committee at a later date
- The backlog in both care assessments and financial assessments is partly due to the number of self-funding customers who have run out of money and need to be re-assessed to see if their needs or placement need to change – this also has a knock-on effect on increasing residential placements as does people who have been in residential care for some time not wanting to leave

- Overdue reviews are prioritised by longest wait and highest need
- Some customers have several reassessments which affects figures
- The Council is trying to develop the market to provide alternative solutions to residential care, especially for people with learning disabilities, but it can take time for providers to build or change provision – one success is Avila House in Worthing
- A pilot scheme is taking place in conjunction with Independent Lives looking at developing individual service funds to enable people to make full use of direct payments – the outcome should be known towards the end of the year after which time a policy will be co-produced
- The Direct Payment system will be made more efficient and the market developed to make sure people are not disadvantaged by using direct payments instead of the council managed budget
- The Shaw Homes occupancy rate of 90% is made up of long-term and rolling respite beds. The long-term beds are more likely to have full occupancy whereas the rolling respite beds will not be used all the time. There has to be some leeway to accommodate people being discharged from hospital.
- 90% of people affected by domestic violence and abuse feel safe upon leaving the service – no information is available for the other 10% - **ACTION:** Assistant Director Improvement Assurance to provide the Committee with information on Key Performance Indicator 44 (Percentage of people affected by domestic violence and abuse who feel safe upon leaving the service) specifically relating to any trends on the percentage of people leaving the service not feeling safe
- The Improvement Programme is refining data and the practice around safeguarding of recording and identifying risk and whether or not it has been removed – **ACTION:** - Democratic Services to circulate the Safeguarding Adults Board annual report to committee members
- An early support project is in development to ensure people are accessing preventative and support options at the earliest opportunity – this is being done in conjunction with district/borough councils, health and voluntary organisations
- The Council and Local information Online is being enhanced and work is taking place on a Prevention Charter to drive forward basic principles of prevention
- There was concern at the overspend in the Adults' Services budget, but acknowledged that this was as a result of key services being delivered to the most vulnerable in our communities
- The Committee recognised that further budget management was key throughout 2024/25, as was exploring further efficiencies both directly and indirectly, and ensuring that work to deliver important savings already profiled and identified continued.
- To reduce overspend, the Council will look at models of care which are more cost effective and have better outcomes for customers

- The Council is looking to maximise people's access to more independent living to reduce the 45% of residential customers for whom an agreed rate is being paid
- There will be a further 100 places in supported living accommodation for people with learning disabilities and/or mental health across 17 different schemes this year
- An officer has been employed to look at transitional living arrangements for people coming through from Children's Services
- There was concern about the percentage of adults with a learning disability in paid employment – **ACTION:** Assistant Director Improvement Assurance to provide more information to the Committee about what the measure 'The percentage of adults with a learning disability in paid employment' is counting

Public Health

- The National Chlamydia Screening Programme is focused on young women aged 16 to 24 due to the higher prevalence, and the risks of untreated infection in this age group – young men and older people may receive a test from local services
- Public Health is exploring new models of testing that will improve access and service availability to supplement the existing service and online services
- Public Health does work with Education in promoting good sexual health, but testing does not currently take place in schools
- Healthwatch West Sussex is delivering a new engagement project focussing on young people's awareness and uptake of chlamydia online self-testing, it will share the results with the Committee when available
- There were also concerns over testing for gonorrhoea and syphilis, the needs for which are also under consideration as part of the review of local provision
- The all-age Public Mental Health Needs Assessment is due to be published in July 2024
- The underspend of the public health grant is in part due to the changing ways people want to access services e.g. smoking cessation services, which although numbers accessing the services are increasing, have not returned to pre-pandemic levels
- Public Health has received £1.07m of ring-fenced funding to increase the availability of smoking cessation services
- Public Health has designed a new model for smoking cessation that works with the existing model and expands into communities, which is due to start in September 2024
- The ring-fenced funding is used to increase the number of people setting and achieving a four-week quit rate, communications and raising the profile of services
- The Tobacco & Vapes Bill has been paused due to the general election, it is hoped it will go through the next parliament
- Core Measure 60 captures those who quit using services. Many more will quit using different methods and support, which cannot be included as part of the measure

- Public Health promotes national non-smoking day
- The priorities of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy are to be determined and agreed by all partners on the Health & Wellbeing Board (which includes representatives from borough/district councils) and is informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Mental Health Needs Assessment, community survey results and consultation events
- It was queried whether Public Health could target a specific group of unpaid carers – **ACTION:** Director of Public Health to look into the possibility and report back
- The Healthy Child Programme will include approaches to improving children’s mental health

9.3 Resolved – that the Committee

- To be provided with more information on how Key Performance Indicator 40 (the percentage of adults with a learning disability living in settled accommodation) is measured
- To be provided with comparative figures for neighbouring counties on Key Performance Indicator 55 (Chlamydia – proportion of 15 – 24-year-olds screened) and further information as to whether other sexually transmitted infections (specifically gonorrhoea and syphilis) are prevalent in West Sussex

10. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

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

11. Work Programme

11.1 The Committee considered its Work Programme and raised queries on dentistry and Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust’s Memory Assessment and dementia services

11.2 Resolved – that the Committee: -

- Requests an update on plans for dental reform and for it to remain on the work programme
- Agrees a joint Task & Finish Group with the Children & Young People’s Services Scrutiny Committee on Issues identified in the Local Area Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Inspection
- Asks for an update to be provided to the Committee on Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust’s Memory Assessment and dementia services ahead of the October Business Planning Group meeting
- Notes its Work Programme

12. Date of Next Meeting

12.1 The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 18 September 2024 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Chichester.

The meeting ended at 12.33 pm

Chairman