

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY BOARD - 7 March 2023

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: A Burrow, S Gethen, R Long, A Mackenzie, M McCarthy (Chairman), R Sexton and Mrs G Sleigh (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor T Diccico, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor K Grinsell – Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Well-being and Chair of Health and Well-being Board

Councillor A Wilson joined the meeting remotely.

Officers: Jenny Wood – Director for Adult Care and Support
Lizzie Edwards, Assistant Director: Service Delivery, Adult Social Care
Caroline Potter, Strategic Commissioner: Strategy and Planning

The following officers joined the meeting remotely:
Ruth Tennant – Director of Public Health
Karen Murphy, Assistant Director for Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships, Adult Social Care
Andrew McKirgan, Chief Officer, Out of Hospital Services, University Hospitals Birmingham
Alan Butler, Associate Director of Delivery and Development, Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board
Mohammed Irfan – Adult Social Care and Support Finance Manager

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3. QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

There were no questions or deputations.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board meeting held on 23rd January 2023 were submitted.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

5. CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH: UPDATE ON PRIORITIES FOR 2022/23

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health presented the report, which set out the progress in regard to the priorities of his Portfolio for 2022-23. It was explained how the priorities were aligned with the two relevant directorates, the Adult Social Care

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Directorate and the Public Health Directorate. The Cabinet Member took Members through a number of key pieces of work undertaken within both Directorates.

Members raised a number of questions which, in summary, included the following:

- In response to a query from a Member, the Cabinet Member explained it was unknown, at that point, when Central Government may make an announcement on the future funding of the Public Health Grant, nor what impact this may have. He outlined how he received regular briefings on this from the Director of Public Health.
- A Member welcomed the Great Care, Great Careers Workforce Strategy. They queried the impact this had had, including on adult social care worker recruitment and vacancies.
- The Cabinet Member detailed how a range of courses were delivered via Solihull College, to help people start a career in nursing, social care and social work.
- The Assistant Director for Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships, Adult Social Care detailed how, through the Workforce Strategy, the Council sought to ensure a local social care workforce was available and equipped with the knowledge, skills and resources to support Adult Social Care services. As part of the Strategy, there was particular emphasis upon ensuring workers were valued, as well as recruitment support.
- A Member requested an update on the work being undertaken to help ensure the Adult Social Care system was easy for residents to navigate.
- The Cabinet Member explained that, as part of the Adult Social Care Five Year Plan, there was focus upon communicating the support available and how to access help. Ongoing engagement was also undertaken with key stakeholders.
- The Director for Adult Social Care also highlighted the 'Our Offer to You' document, which outlined the wide range of care and support that could be accessed. The Directorate also closely reviewed the findings of the Adult Social Care information and advice survey results, as well as complaints and compliments to learn from feedback and make further improvements. Information and advice was also available via the Council website, whilst residents could also directly call the Adult Social Care One Front Door service.
- A Member queried the data collection and analysis undertaken to support improvement in the delivery of Adult Social Care services.
- The Cabinet Member detailed how he received regular reporting on a range of performance measures, in line with the Department of Health and Social Care national Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, with a focus on continuous improvement.
- The Director for Adult Social Care explained the work undertaken as part of the priority enabler High Performing Teams. Here performance had been benchmarked against the highest quartile local authority performance. This approach of using both feedback and performance information had informed the development of services and establishment of new services. The Director for Adult Social Care gave the establishment of the new Mental Health re-enablement service as an example.
- A Member highlighted the work undertaken to support High Performing Teams and queried whether staff satisfaction was taken into account as part of this.
- The Cabinet Member explained the emphasis upon ensuring Adult Social Care workers were valued, as well as clear opportunities for career progression. He detailed how he visited Care Homes and engaged with front line staff.
- The Director for Adult Social Care highlighted the 'Great Care Great Careers' Workforce Strategy and plan, which was aimed at developments in the

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independent sector and also detailed the work undertaken to engage with and support SMBC employed staff. Examples of this included the equality, diversity and inclusion survey. This informed a 'you said we did' exercise, to demonstrate how staff feedback had been taken into account. Annual staff development conferences were also undertaken. A monthly feedback session was also held which all Adult Social Care Directorate staff were invited to, where Senior leads within the Directorate were available to hear any matters, staff wished to raise.

- A Member raised the Health Inequalities priority area and requested further information on this, including on the housing strategy.
- The Director of Public Health confirmed a housing and health group was being established. She also explained how there had been a focus upon ensuring practical housing advice and support was available, including a help line for front-line health professionals, and webinars held with health visitors and other health professionals so they can advise residents how to reduce the risk of damp and mould and where to report any concerns they may have in regards to housing quality.

RESOLVED

The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board:

- (i) Noted the update on the Cabinet Member priorities for 2022/23 for Adult Social Care and Health.
- (ii) Agreed that the ongoing delivery of these priorities be taken into account as part of future Scrutiny work planning.

6. CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND WELL-BEING: UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD IN 2022/23

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Wellbeing presented the report, which updated Members on the progress of the Health and Wellbeing Board over the municipal year. She outlined the key issues overseen by the Board, which included the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Scorecard reporting, the Health Inequalities Strategy, the ongoing development of place-based working as the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System (BSOL ICS) established itself, as well as the Council's response to the cost-of-living crisis.

Members raised a number of queries, which in summary, included the following:

- In response to a Member query, the Director for Adult Social Care explained the role of the Solihull Place Committee, including how BSOL ICB could delegate commissioning responsibilities to this Committee.
- A Member requested an update on the development of the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- The Cabinet Member confirmed there was an existing Health and Wellbeing Strategy in place, for up to the end of 2023. A new Local Health and Well-being Strategy would be developed during the next Council year, which would need to be developed alongside the ICB 10 Year Masterplan, with a development session being held to support this. The proposed new Strategy would be presented to the Scrutiny Board.
- A Member queried how the Health and Wellbeing Strategy had influenced the health system.
- The Cabinet Member detailed how health partners took the Strategy into account, as part of the development and delivery of their services, including, especially, the Integrated Care System. As an example of partnership working, she highlighted the focus on the best start in life and the first 1001 days.

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- A Member highlighted how the Health and Wellbeing Board had considered a refreshed summary children's needs assessment and requested further information on this.
- The Director of Public Health explained how the Health and Wellbeing Board had a statutory responsibility to publish a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The children's needs assessment summary included a wide range of high level indicators, including on early health needs and vaccination rates, which informed the commissioning of services.
- In regards to potential future reporting to Scrutiny, A Member raised the work across the health partnership on helping reducing dependency on prescribed medication and pain killers.
- A Member also requested consideration of the range of Mental Health services and support offered across the Borough, especially for mild conditions, to help prevent escalation to crisis.

RESOLVED

The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board:

- (i) Noted the key activities and priorities of the Health and Well-being Board in 2022/23, and
- (ii) Agreed that the ongoing delivery of the priorities, as outlined in the report, be taken into account as part of future Scrutiny work planning.

7. SOLIHULL HOME FIRST

The Assistant Director for Service Delivery provided a presentation, updating Members on Solihull Home First progress achievements to date and proposed next steps.

Members raised a number of queries and observation which, in summary, included the following:

- A Member queried whether any benchmarking or learning from other areas had informed Home First.
- The Assistant Director for Service Delivery detailed how, nationally, a range of indicators relating to the percentage of people expected to be discharged onto each discharge pathway were provided on the use of different hospital discharge pathways and Solihull was performing well against these.
- The Chief Officer for Out of Hospital Services, UHB, explained how they recorded and reviewed the volume of patients who had a right to reside in hospital – as well as those patients who may benefit from some form of community support. They also reviewed the volume of patients who used hospital discharge services and did not subsequently need any form of longer-term support, to understand effectiveness.
- A Member queried how the hospital discharge and recovery services took into account the patient and carers' emotional wellbeing. They also emphasised the range of services and support in place and queried how this could be clearly communicated.
- The Assistant Director for Service Delivery explained how everyone leaving hospital would have a care co-ordinator, a single point of contact for support, as well as signposting to the relevant service. The Assistant Director for Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships detailed the role of the Carers Trust Solihull, who delivered a range of support, information and advice.
- A Member queried the services available when carers were no longer able to provide support and questioned how quickly this could be introduced.

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- The Assistant Director for Service Delivery explained how, through the Carers Trust, people were encouraged to establish an emergency care plan for such instances. The Adult Social Care Duty Team also provide support on the same day if needed, alongside the Emergency Duty Team for out of hours support if needed.
- A Member noted that, as part of the community therapy to support admissions avoidance and reablement, people may require physiotherapy. They queried whether sufficient capacity was available locally to provide this within a reasonable timeframe.
- The Associate Director of Delivery and Development, BSOL ICS, detailed the focus upon ensuring physiotherapy capacity across all pathways and settings. They had also looked at flexible working arrangements to support recruitment and increase capacity.
- A Member raised the shared care records, noting the volume of staff who may have access to this.
- The Assistant Director for Service Delivery explained how they had established a Shared Care Record that could be accessed by staff supporting care arrangements, including Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Nurses, and Social Workers. Everyone accessing the system needed to adhere to confidentiality rules, and only access information they should be accessing. It was possible to conduct audits, to identify which records staff had accessed. Privacy notices had been published for Adult Social Care and a communications plan was implemented to raise awareness of the Shared Care Record, and the process for opting out of this if people wished. In response to a Member query, the Assistant Director for Service Delivery confirmed she would establish whether an 'easy read' version had been developed for this.

RESOLVED

The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board:

- (i) Noted the update on Solihull Home First progress to date.
- (ii) Requested that the key points raised by Members be taken into account as part of the future delivery of Solihull Home First.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The meeting was not open to the public during discussion of the following items because the report contained exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.