



Borough of Tamworth

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 April 2021

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will be held in **Online Meeting on Wednesday, 21st April, 2021 at 6.00 pm**. Members of the Committee are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right.

Chief Executive

A G E N D A

NON CONFIDENTIAL

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
- 2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 10)**
- 3 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of Members' interests (personal and/or personal and prejudicial) in any matters which are to be considered at this meeting.

When Members are declaring a personal interest or personal and prejudicial interest in respect of which they have dispensation, they should specify the nature of such interest. Members should leave the room if they have a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of which they do not have a dispensation.

4 Forward Plan

Please see the link to the Forward Plan:

<http://democracy.tamworth.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=120&RD=0&bcr=1>

5 Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse Report (Pages 11 - 20) *(Report of the Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Community Safety)*

6 Young People Working Group

Report of the Chair of the Young People Working Group

7 Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan - 2020/2021 (Pages 21 - 22)

To consider items for 2020/2021 Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Plan

8 Annual Report of the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee - 2020/21 (Pages 23 - 34)

(Report of the Chair of the Committee)

Access arrangements

If you have any particular access requirements when attending the meeting, please contact Democratic Services on 01827 709267 or e-mail democratic-services@tamworth.gov.uk. We can then endeavour to ensure that any particular requirements you may have are catered for.

Filming of Meetings

The public part of this meeting may be filmed and broadcast. Please refer to the Council's Protocol on Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Council meetings which can be found [here](#) for further information.

The Protocol requires that no members of the public are to be deliberately filmed. Where possible, an area in the meeting room will be set aside for videoing, this is normally from the front of the public gallery. This aims to allow filming to be carried out whilst minimising the risk of the public being accidentally filmed.

If a member of the public is particularly concerned about accidental filming, please consider the location of any cameras when selecting a seat.

FAQs

For further information about the Council's Committee arrangements please see the FAQ page [here](#)

To Councillors: R Ford, P Brindley, D Box, J Faulkner, M J Greatorex, M Oates, S People, S Pritchard, R Rogers and County Councillor T Clements

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
HELD ON 17th MARCH 2021**

PRESENT: Councillor R Ford (Chair), Councillors P Brindley, J Faulkner, M J Greatorex, M Oates, S Peuple, S Pritchard and R Rogers

County Councillor County Councillor T Clements

The following officers were present: Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships), Karen Clancy (Partnerships Manager), Jo Hutchison (Democratic Services, Scrutiny and Elections Officer), Jodie Small (Legal, Democratic and Corporate Support Assistant) and Adam Deakin (Technical Infrastructure Engineer)

Apologies received from: Councillor(s) D Box

49 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 26th January 2021 were approved as a true record.

(Moved by Councillor P Brindley and seconded by Councillor S Peuple)

50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

51 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair reported that he intended to bring the draft Annual Report for this Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to the April 2021 meeting for the Committee's consideration prior to its formal presentation to full Council in the new municipal year.

The Chair reported that it had not been possible for the local head teacher to join this Committee meeting due to significant workload at schools following their re-

opening last week, and that accordingly item 9 on the agenda would be deferred to a later meeting of this Committee.

52 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair updated the Committee on the recommendations made to Cabinet following this Committee's discussions on the Green Agenda at its meeting on 26th January 2021. In particular the Chair reported that he presented this Committee's recommendations at the Cabinet meeting on 18th February 2021 and that Cabinet agreed that:

- once full council had elected a new Leader, at its meeting on 23 February 2021, to take leadership on 1 March 2021, Councillor D Cook would write to the new Leader to recommend and supporting scrutiny's recommendation that a portfolio lead for climate change be designated and that portfolio lead also has a member champion and that we also then look to let the portfolio lead and member champion form a working group to meet the aspirations of scrutiny and look to consult with the public; and
- the outcomes of Stage 1, in terms of the baseline report outcomes, when ready, would be reported back to Cabinet and this Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

53 UPDATE ON HEALTH RELATED MATTERS CONSIDERED BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chair reminded members that the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee Digest for the meeting held on 1 February 2021 was included in the agenda pack and invited County Councillor Clements to provide an update on the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee meeting held on 16th March 2021 which both he and County Councillor Clements had attended.

County Councillor Clements reported that:

1. A response from West Midlands Ambulance regarding First Responders was awaited.
2. The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee had received a detailed Vaccination update, which was summarised for the Committee and included details on the uptake where it was reported that Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent CCGs had the highest uptake levels for over 65s vaccinations. It was further reported that the uptake of residents in care homes in Staffordshire was 94% and the vaccination programme to reach homeless people was underway.
3. Integrated Care System update, which focussed on the strategic commissioning aspects. It was also reported that GP membership had recently voted to form a single Strategic Commissioning Organisation across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent with an 84% vote in favour following significant engagement.
4. Digital update, which it was reported was designed to empower patients to remain in their homes for longer. The impact of COVID-19 on digitised care and the increased number of first appointments being done remotely.

5. Care Homes and the Impact of COVID-19, where it was reported that COVID had impacted including in terms of infection control and the recruitment and retention of staff. It was reported that it had been considered important to ensure that care homes were integrated into the community.

The Committee thanked County Councillor Clements for her update.

54 FORWARD PLAN

There were no further items identified from the Forward Plan which were not already included on the agenda.

55 YOUNG PEOPLE WORKING GROUP

The Chair invited Councillor Brindley to update the Committee on the activities of the Working Group on Young People. Councillor Brindley reported that, in order to take into account information from the recent return to schools and other information received by a member of the working group in respect of young people support groups, the working group report to the Committee was deferred until the April meeting.

56 LOCAL HEADTEACHER UPDATE

The Chair reported that this item was deferred to a later meeting of the Committee.

57 OVERVIEW OF TAMWORTH ADVICE CENTRE SERVICES

The Chair invited the Assistant Director, Partnerships and the Community Partnerships Manager to provide an Overview of the Tamworth Advice Centre Services.

The Assistant Director reported that the existing contract with Citizens Advice Mid Mercia to provide the Tamworth Advice Centre Services would expire in March 2022 and therefore accordingly there was a requirement to seek authorisation from Cabinet to re-procure the services and this request to re-tender would be presented to Cabinet in April.

The Community Partnership Manager provided an overview of financial wellbeing, debt and generalist advices services which were provided and which were accessed through three possible routes:

- Self referral by Tamworth residents;
- Homelessness team client referrals
- Tenancy team client referrals

It was reported that;

- Advice on benefits and tax credits comprised around half of all the issues presented; and

- certain referrals were presenting with more complex requirements, in part as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic which led to multiple appointments and contacts between clients, the service and partners.;
- an online 24/7 referral process was being trialled;
- there had been a reduction in the number of appointments which were not attended by clients during the pandemic, which could have resulted from the increased flexibility of the service, utilising telephone and online communication methods, in place of face-to face appointments.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic it was expected that going forwards there would be a requirement for a hybrid model which had the capacity for local services to be provided from an office as well as utilising digital platforms.

The Committee thanked the Officers for their presentation and for all the support provided to local residents during the current pandemic.

The Officers then left the meeting.

58 HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY WORK PLAN - 2020/2021

The Committee discussed the Work Plan and updated it as follows:

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan

Work Plan 2020 - 2021	
DATE	SUBJECT
Each meeting	Update on Staffordshire County Council matters
Ongoing	Together We're Better / STP - brief update post close of initial consultation (end date of initial consultation is 25 August 2019)
Ongoing	Working group updates
Ongoing	Children's wellbeing, including education and mental health issues / anxiety
21st April 2021	Safeguarding update (2) (Councillor Doyle to attend and Officers)
21st April 2021	Young People Working Group Report (PB, SP, MG)
21st April 2021	Annual Report of the Chair of the Committee
June / July 2021 (tbc)	Presentation from headteacher

TBC	Update on PREVENT Agenda / Safeguarding (Staffordshire County Council – First Response)
June / July (tbc)	Food vulnerability and Healthy Eating
TBC	Physical wellbeing
TBC	Mental wellbeing – to cover mental health issues in Tamworth as well as loneliness and partnerships
TBC	The Green Agenda, including Air Quality review
TBC	Discharge to Assess and End of Life Care
TBC	Barriers to accessing GP Services in relation to residents with additional needs / Centralisation of some GP Services
TBC	Update on Young People – SCYVS representative to be invited
TBC	Social Prescribing
TBC	Presentation on CCG / Derby & Burton Hospitals Update

Upcoming Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Meetings

- 21st April 2021

Upcoming Relevant County Council Meetings

Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

- 7 June 2021

Chair

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 21 APRIL 2021

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR REGULATORY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK OF ABUSE REPORT

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to provide a biannual safeguarding update to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That members:

Review the report and raise any questions in relation to the content with the Assistant Director Partnerships in collaboration with the Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Community Safety, and thereafter endorse.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tamworth Borough Council has a legal responsibility to safeguard children and adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect. The safeguarding children and adults at risk of abuse and neglect policy and procedure provides a framework for safeguarding, and demonstrates the council's commitment to safeguard children and adults at risk.

Safeguarding is integrated into the day-to-day operations of the council. The council responds to all safeguarding concerns raised in line with the safeguarding procedure. Reporting of concerns is fundamental in ensuring that children and adults at risk receive the necessary support to safeguard and promote their welfare.

The following information provides an overview of the number of safeguarding referrals received and an update on the safeguarding work that has taken place since the last update provided to the committee on the 8th December 2020.

Safeguarding Statistics

The number of safeguarding concerns referred via the council’s safeguarding reporting procedure for the date period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 are detailed in the table below:

Referral type	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
Child referrals	9	8	3	2	22
Adult referrals	9	11	8	14	42
Total combined referrals	18	19	11	16	64

Table 1: Safeguarding concerns raised by staff 2020-21

Referrals continue to be received from a wide range of council staff including, customer service officers, housing solutions officers, tenancy sustainment officers, sheltered housing managers, private sector housing officers and members.

A quarterly and yearly overview of safeguarding referrals is attached at Appendix 1.

Safeguarding children and adults at risk policy and procedure

The safeguarding policy and procedure has been reviewed, updated and circulated to staff via Astute. Guidance for staff in responding to individuals threatening suicide has been embedded within the safeguarding policy. A number of briefing sessions introducing the guidance to frontline staff have been delivered.

Appropriate staff are also able to access a half day online suicide awareness and prevention training course delivered by Mind via Zoom.

The training will help staff to:

- Tackle misconceptions and stigma regarding suicide
- Recognise the signs that someone may be at risk
- Have open and honest dialogue about suicide
- Use a simple 4 step suicide intervention
- Signpost to local support services

Safeguarding Training

Level 1 safeguarding training is delivered to staff/members via eLearning or face-to-face sessions (due to current restrictions face-to-face sessions are delivered via Microsoft Teams). 2020-21 has seen the development and rollout of two safeguarding eLearning modules to staff and members. Level 1 safeguarding training must be refreshed every 3 years and is delivered as a rolling programme.

Level 2 safeguarding children training is delivered by the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) training team. Staffing roles that require this enhanced level of training have been identified and officers requested to complete this training. The training is delivered via Microsoft Teams and 8 officers attended the training in the

last quarter of 2020-21.

Level 3 safeguarding children training provides subject specific training courses. Appropriate staff are encouraged to attend courses to gain better understanding of the subject area and improve practice; going forward the Partnership Vulnerability Officer will be working with managers to identify relevant safeguarding courses that will support staff in their job role.

Level 4 specialist training i.e. Designated Safeguarding Lead training. This training is specifically for individuals with operational responsibility for receiving concerns about the safety and welfare of children and young people, and who make decisions about what action needs to be taken. The Assistant Director Partnerships attended the training in the last quarter of 2020-21.

Taxi driver safeguarding training

The Partnership Officer has been working with the partnership team at Newcastle Borough Council to develop and pilot a safeguarding training course webinar for taxi drivers. The safeguarding training course webinar will be delivered to small groups of Tamworth licensed taxi drivers throughout 2021-22.

Modern Slavery

The Committee have recently requested an update on the Partnership approach to Modern Slavery which is included within the Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding priority.

Modern Slavery refers to the offences of human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour. This can then be considered as five sub threats: sexual exploitation of adults; trafficking of adults into conditions of labour exploitation; trafficking of adults into conditions of criminal exploitation; trafficking of minors into conditions of sexual, criminal or labour exploitation; and other forms of exploitation. Staffordshire has seen a gradual increase in the reporting of Modern Slavery which is in line with the national picture.

The Partnership approach is as follows:

- The publication of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement [Safeguarding | Tamworth Borough Council](#)
- Staff training to identify threat and risks including partners duty as a First Responder
- Inclusion of Modern Slavery within safeguarding policies
- Attendance at County tactical meetings with Staffordshire Police to identify hotspot areas and emerging trends
- Joint Partnership operations at targeted premises where appropriate
- Information on the Council's webpages on modern slavery and the National Referral Mechanism [National referral mechanism guidance: adult \(England and Wales\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Contextual Safeguarding

As well as threats to the welfare of children from within their families, children may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families. These extra-familial threats might arise at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online. These threats can take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple threats, including: exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines; trafficking; online abuse; teenage relationship abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation. Extremist groups make use of the internet to radicalise and recruit and to promote extremist materials. Any potential harmful effects to individuals identified as vulnerable to extremist ideologies or being drawn into terrorism should also be considered (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018).

The Multi Agency Child Exploitation Panel (MACE) is the forum for safeguarding children at risk of exploitation within a partnership arena. MACE meetings take place bi-monthly, the Partnership Vulnerability Officer attends and contributes to this meeting. The partnership team are currently working with the Staffordshire County Council Families First Child Exploitation Coordinator, to explore how the council can strengthen current partnership working arrangements to prevent child exploitation, and improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people.

The following projects are currently being delivered to provide additional support to vulnerable children and young people.

Sapling Project

The Sapling Project supports young people in the 7-11-year-old age group who are at risk of being excluded from education, via direct / targeted work with the young person and their family.

Vulnerable Adolescence Support Programme (VASP)

The Vulnerable Adolescence Support Programme, delivered through a whole family approach, enables young people and their families to “own their own road to change” through the development of resilience which is empowered by networks of support within the family, education and the community.

Prevent

Prevent’ is part of the government’s overall counter-terrorism strategy which is called CONTEST. The aim of Prevent is to reduce the threat from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The Prevent strategy has three specific objectives:

1. Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
2. Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support
3. Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.

The Assistant Director Partnerships is the district council representative on the County Prevent Board. The Prevent audit has been completed and returned to the Board. The Assistant Director Partnerships along with the Vulnerability Officer will undertake a piece of work to review the current Prevent work stream and develop an action plan in response to audit findings.

Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership (TVP)

The Partnership Vulnerability Officer, Community Partnership Manager, Assistant Director for Partnerships and the Tamworth Harm Reduction Hub Sergeant are currently reviewing the terms of reference and governance arrangements for the TVP.

The weekly partnership meeting continues to be well attended by representatives from statutory organisations. The partnership provides a joined-up response to vulnerability within the community and endeavours to provide help at the earliest opportunity to improve outcomes for vulnerable people.

Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding (including Drugs, Alcohol and Mental Health) remains a priority for the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report. The cost of training and materials will be met from existing budgets.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

The Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect Policy has been risk assessed and no significant risks exist. From a legal perspective the authority is meeting its expectations and requirements in relation to vulnerable children and adults at risk.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The policy and staff in this important service will continue to operate locally and in conjunction with partners to sustain the levels of support, training and guidance required.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tamworth Borough Council has both a legal and moral duty to protect children and adults at risk from harm and abuse. The Children Act 1989 and 2004 along with the associated government statutory guidance sets out our legal responsibilities for protecting children. The Care Act 2014 along with associated statutory guidance recognises and reinforces that organisations make a significant contribution to adult safeguarding.

REPORT AUTHOR

Stephanie Ivey
Partnership Vulnerability Officer

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Children Act 1989](#)

[Children Act 2004](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)

[Care Act Statutory Guidance](#)

APPENDICES

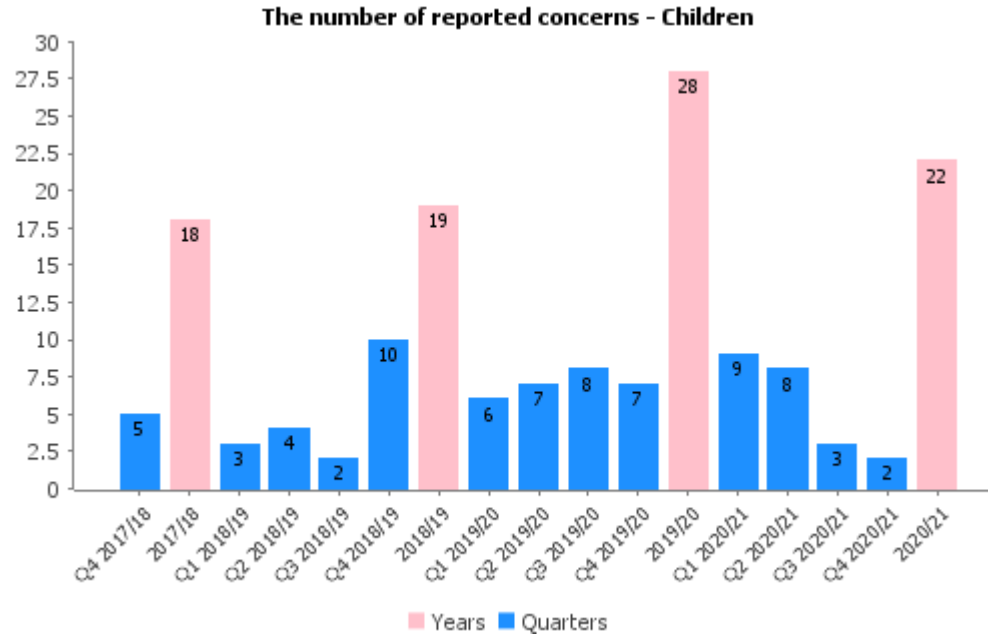
Appendix 1 Safeguarding referral overview

Safeguarding Performance Indicators

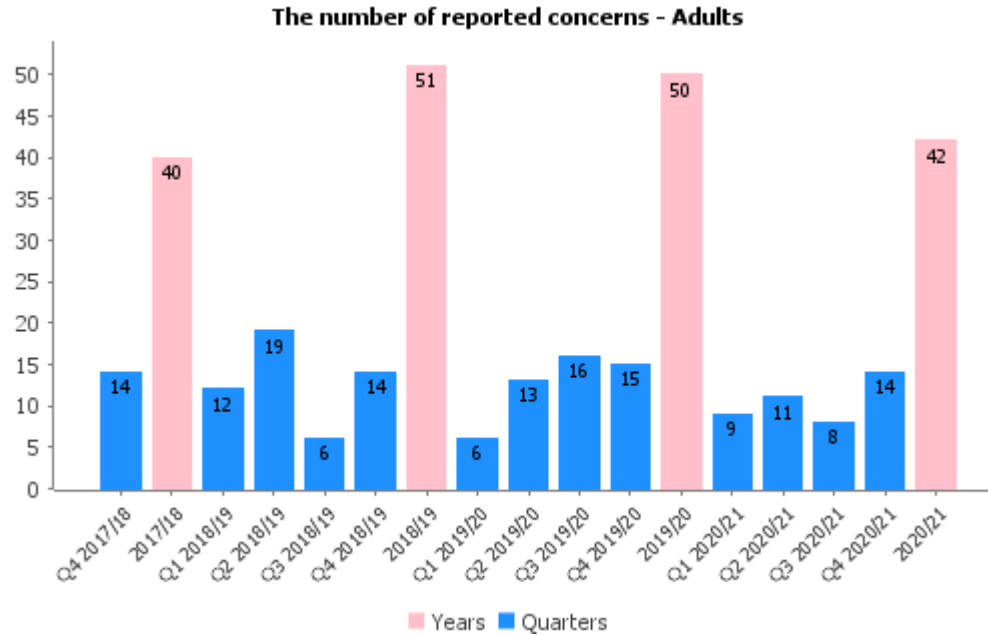
Performance Indicator

Trend Chart

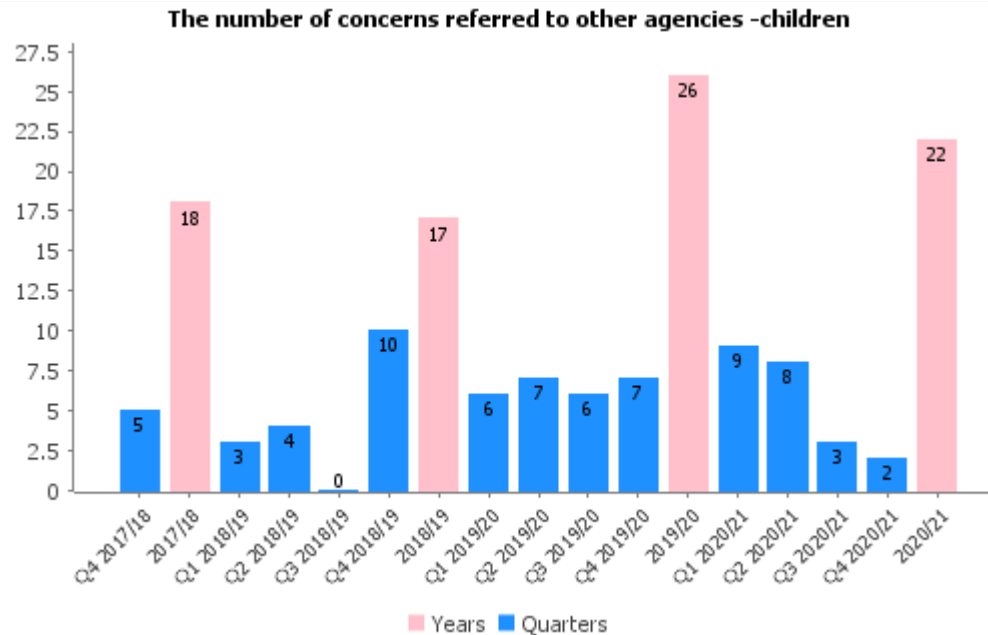
The number of reported concerns - Children



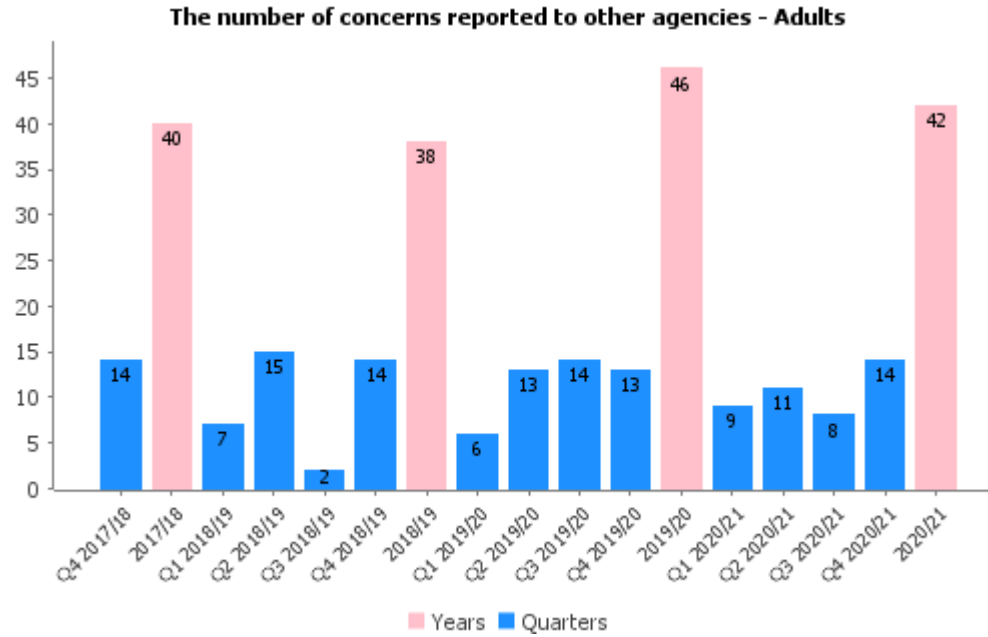
The number of reported concerns - Adults



The number of concerns referred to other agencies - children



The number of concerns reported to other agencies - Adults



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Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan

Work Plan 2020 - 2021	
DATE	SUBJECT
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TBC	Update on Young People – SCYVS representative to be invited
TBC	Social Prescribing
TBC	Presentation on CCG / Derby & Burton Hospitals

Update

Upcoming Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Meetings
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 21st April 2021 |
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Upcoming Relevant County Council Meetings
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Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7 June 2021 |
|---|

WEDNESDAY 21ST APRIL 2021

REPORT OF THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY CHAIR

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None.

PURPOSE

The attached draft Chair's Annual Report of the Committee has been prepared and is circulated for comment by the Committee prior to presentation to full Council in the next municipal year. The attached draft report is intended to formally update Council on the activities of the Committee over the year 2020/21.

The attached draft report will be updated following the final meeting of this Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee consider the contents of the draft Report.

REPORT AUTHORS

Chair of Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee – Councillor R Ford

APPENDICES

Draft Annual Report of Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee – 2020/21

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Council

XXX 2021

Report of the Chair

Annual Report of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Exempt Information

None.

Purpose

To provide full Council with an overview of the work and activities undertaken by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee during the year 2020/21. The draft Annual Report was received by the Committee at its final meeting in the last municipal year and any updates were agreed by the Chair following that meeting.

Executive Summary

This report covers the following:

- Chair's overview
- Working Groups
- Recommendations made in the year to Cabinet
- Committee Terms of Reference
- Membership and Attendance
- Training & Effectiveness
- Work Plan
- Resource implications

Recommendations

Council is requested to:

- Note the Annual Report of the Committee;

Chair's Overview

This year, as result of the COVID-19 pandemic, has seen all the Committee's meetings move to online (remote) meetings. To accommodate this, careful consideration has been given to agenda content for each meeting and to the scheduling of additional meetings or moving meetings where necessary.

The Committee met 7 times in the 2020/21 municipal year.

This Committee has within its remit the scrutiny of the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities by scrutinising the performance of the Cabinet and external providers in securing a safe environment in which local people can reach their full potential and live longer, healthier lives.

Staffordshire County Council, as the upper tier authority responsible for social care in Staffordshire, has the powers to review and scrutinise any matters relating to the planning, provision of health services in its area (Staffordshire) and works with local district and borough councils. The focus for Tamworth Borough Council's health scrutiny function is on local matters with an impact specific to Tamworth. To aid the coordination of activities, a representative of this Council's scrutiny committee is a member of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee (this is currently the Chair, Councillor Ford, or his substitute) and a member of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee is a member of this Council's Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (for this municipal year that has been County Councillor Tina Clements).

In terms of the work of the Committee during 2020/21 municipal year, this has included:

1. Policy Development and /or Review

This is where the Committee has contributed to the Council's policy development processes and / or where the Committee has considered the implementation of policies and feeding back scrutiny views to Cabinet.

The Committee has reviewed, and (in some cases) made Policy Development recommendations in the following areas:

(a) Housing Strategy

The Committee identified from the Forward Plan that this Strategy was an area relevant for the Committee's scrutiny, as a pre-decision item and accordingly requested details prior to the anticipated Council consideration in October 2020.

The Committee received a detailed update from the Executive Director, Communities, the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and members of her team at its October 2020 meeting on the Housing Strategy which ahead of its submission to Cabinet. This policy would inform the Council's role in increasing housing supply, place shaping and promoting housing in the creation of safe, thriving and sustainable communities and supporting economic growth. The Committee sought clarification in certain areas and made recommendations to Cabinet, in particular in respect of the specific wards which could be included for targeted support based on level of need.

(b) Green Agenda / Climate Change Update

At the January 2021 meeting the Committee was updated on the progress made and the anticipated next step following the Council's adoption in November 2019 of the Declaration to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2050.

The Committee recognised the importance of there being an assessment of the Council's carbon footprint which could then lead to the identification of areas which could be targeted to reduce and/or offset the footprint and map out the process. The Committee considered and received clarification on the role of potential wider borough activities and the

infrastructure to support that, such as electric vehicle charging points which was an area of focus for the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee, the role of the Local Plan and planning policy, and the role of the Council's housing stock.

The Committee made recommendations to Cabinet regarding the setting up of a working group involving the relevant Portfolio Holder, Scrutiny Chair and member of the Opposition, together with a commitment to engage with the public following production of the baseline report.

2. Monitoring (scrutiny)

This is where the Committee has undertaken monitoring of the Council's and external providers performance and progress. In particular the Terms of Reference for this Committee set out the specific areas for scrutiny which include scrutiny of the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities by scrutinising the performance of the Cabinet and external providers in securing a safe environment in which local people can reach their full potential and live longer, healthier lives. To assist in the achievement of this the Committee's remit includes scrutinising matters related to:

- (a) Statutory Health Obligation
- (b) Leisure
- (c) Voluntary Sector
- (d) Non HRA Housing
- (e) Disability Service
- (f) Social Care
- (g) Elderly and Vulnerable People Services

Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

Over the year 2020/21, there have been regular written and verbal updates provided to the Committee on the scrutiny work of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee which included:

- (a) An overview of the update provided to the Staffordshire Select Committee on the West Midlands Ambulance Services University NHS Foundation Trust in terms of changes to Community First Responders (CFRs), as well as details of the further update to the Staffordshire Select Committee 5 months later, which was additionally attended by representatives of the Staffordshire CFRs;
- (b) An update on the mental health burden of the COVID 19 pandemic in Staffordshire from the relevant NHS trusts as well as an update on the impact of COVID-19 on Staffordshire Care Homes and the work the County Council had implemented to assist;
- (c) A resume of the update provided from CCGs and hospital trusts on the backlog of hospital appointments arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the steps taken to restoring services following the first wave;
- (d) Details of the presentation provided to the Staffordshire Select Committee on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic and Winter Plans for 2020/21 season from the Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), local hospital trusts and the county council;

- (e) Changes to the Adult Learning Disability Community Offer which were proposed to be recommended to Staffordshire County Council's Cabinet;
- (f) An overview of the restoration of CCG commissioned services following the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (g) Details of work at the County Council level on Digital inclusion / exclusion in relation to health services;
- (h) Further update on the development of an Integrated Care System for Staffordshire;
- (i) Details of the update provided to the Staffordshire Select Committee on the implementation of the COVID-19 Vaccination programme; and
- (j) An update on Care Homes and the Impact of COVID-19.

Consideration of the Forward Plan

At each meeting the Committee received and considered the Forward Plan to assist in its identification of whether there are any forthcoming key decisions which this Committee determined that it would scrutinise, either pre decision or post decision. Examples of areas which were identified for the Committee's scrutiny as a result of regular Forward Plan consideration were; the Housing Strategy and the Climate Change Declaration Update. However, many of the areas identified for scrutiny were not matters which were identified from the Forward Plan.

Safeguarding bi-annual updates

This Committee was updated bi-annually on the safeguarding of children and adults at risk of abuse. The Committee meetings were attended by the Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Community Safety and the Partnership Vulnerability Officer. The first update in this municipal year was slightly delayed and received in December 2020 Committee meeting. The second update was received at the April 2021 meeting.

The safeguarding updates focussed on:

- The continued operation of the service throughout the pandemic;
- Stoke and Staffs Safeguarding Children Board as well as Staffs and Stoke Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board and district partnership subgroups.
- Safeguarding training including the work undertaken to roll out the development of new online e-Learning modules, as well as work to review the taxi driver training in light of the Statutory Taxi & private Hire Vehicle Standards published in July 2020;
- The work of the Multi-agency Child exploitation Panel to identify children at risk of exploitation
- Guidance had been recently issued on the PREVENT agenda which would lead to a review of procedures to reflect the new guidance.

Council Response to COVID-19 – Vulnerable People

At the Committee meeting in July 2020, the Portfolio Holder, Neighbourhoods and the Assistant Directors for Neighbourhoods and Partnerships attended the Committee to provide an update to the Committee on the actions taken to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing actions around the most vulnerable people in the local community. This update covered:

- The immediate response from various anchor organisations which locally mobilised support to vulnerable groups;
- The deployment of Council resources to support the anchor organisations;
- The coordination work of the Local Resilience Forum;
- The tailored support for homeless people;
- The successful lottery bid for resources to support the ongoing support over the next six months.

The Committee questioned and sought clarifications in certain areas, in particular interactions with Staffordshire County Council, the work underway to manage any second wave of the pandemic, research work commissioned, the proactive support to homelessness people and the local situation on domestic abuse during the lockdown.

Impact on Young People of COVID-19

At its September 2020 meeting, the Committee received an update from the Chief Executive of Staffordshire Council of voluntary Youth Services (SCYVS) on the work undertaken and the impact on young people during the COVID-19 period. The work of SCYVS continued in supporting partners and signposting information at a local level. Issues which young people had pre pandemic and continued, and at times were exacerbated, during the pandemic were highlighted which included issues around:

- mental health,
- education and employment,
- early years intervention, and
- inactivity and obesity

Recent research and recommendations made were highlighted to members, as well as a local consultation which was open and which would inform the commissioning of services for young people. Issues of inequality were discussed as well as the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on young people in terms of education and employment.

Following consideration of this item the Committee agreed to form a working group, further details of which are set out below.

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Planning

At its September 2020 meeting, the Committee received an update from the Portfolio Holder and relevant Officers on:

- Response during COVID - 19 to homelessness
- Challenges arising from government legislation &/or guidance ending around furlough scheme and ban on evictions
- Range of housing solution
- The delivery of the Allocations Policy to programme in June 2020.
- Strategies to encourage the sustaining of private tenancies between landlords and tenants.
- The Prevention, Intervention and Recovery process implemented and which will be supported through the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.
- The process followed and next steps for approval of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

Whilst no recommendations were made to Cabinet by the Committee some observations were presented to Cabinet by the Chair including to minimise the use of acronyms in reports.

Reopening High Streets Safely

At its September 2020 meeting the Committee received a presentation from the Portfolio Holder and relevant Officers on the work undertaken to reopen the town centre safely following the initial lockdown in spring 2020. The Committee heard that a highly visible presence by the Shop Safe team had supported local businesses in re-opening as well as highly visible signage. This had developed the Council's knowledge of the business community and increased engagement had forged positive relationships. An update was also provided on the reopening of sports and leisure facilities.

Clinical Commissioning Groups Update on the impact of COVID-19 and on winter preparedness

At the October 2020 meeting, the Committee received an update from representative of the local CCGs on the impact of COVID-19 on planned care, including operation waiting lists and outpatient appointments, cancer treatments (screening, waiting lists and diagnosis) and a brief overview of winter preparedness / plans. The Committee considered and sought clarification from the CCG attendees on various areas including the impact of COVID-19 on the funding of NHS trusts, the collaborative working arrangements which had developed, patient and staff responses to the increased digitisation of health service delivery, the balance between managing the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing service delivery for other health conditions, and the prioritisation process for more routine health services.

University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust

At the October 2020 meeting, the Committee received an update from representative of the NHS trust on how the COVID-19 response had been managed, including:

- the increase in intensive care capacity,
- the concentration and consolidation of staff and services at acute sites, whilst maintaining minor injury units at the local Sir Robert Peel and Samuel Johnson community hospitals
- the reduction in A&E attendances
- The initial impact on the referral to treatment times, which had started to improve but remained a challenge

An update was provided on the delivery of new services at the Sir Robert Peel, where such services had not materialised as quickly as expected due to COVID-19, although good progress in the frailty pathway had.

The Committee considered and sought clarification from the NHS trust attendee on various areas including the testing of the trust's staff for COVID-19, the methodology for determining which health services are provided locally and the reasons behind the drop in attendances at minor injury units.

Headteacher update

The headteacher update which had been planned for the March 2021 meeting was deferred to the next municipal year.

Overview of Tamworth Advice Centre Services

At the March 2021 meeting the Committee received an update from the Assistant Director, partnerships and the Community partnerships Manager in respect of the Tamworth Advice Centre Services, the provision of which was currently contracted to Citizens Advice Mid Mercia (CAMM). It was reported that the contract with CAMM was due to expire in March 2022 and therefore Officers were seeking authorisation from Cabinet to re-procure the service.

The Committee received an update on the financial wellbeing, debt and generalist advice services which were provided and which were accessed through three routes:

- Self referral by Tamworth residents
- Homelessness team client referrals
- Tenancy team client referrals

Learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed including the use of telephone appointments and other online / digital interactions and the increased complexity presented with some client referrals.

Updates from External bodies

The Committee has also during the year received updates from the following external bodies (further detail provided above), with a focus on service delivery in the Tamworth area:

- (a) SCVYS update from its Chief Executive
- (b) CCGs on the impact of COVID-19 and winter preparedness
- (c) University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust update on local services.

Working Groups

The Committee agreed to form Task & Finish Groups in the following areas:

- (a) Impact of COVID-19 on Young People comprised:

Councillor Brindley
Councillor Greatorex
Councillor Peaple

This group produced an interim report to the December 2020 Committee meeting and a final (phase 1) report was made to the April 2021 meeting.

Recommendations made to and Responses received from Cabinet

Recommendations were made to Cabinet on the following Reports and Cabinet's response is highlighted:

Scrutiny meeting item	Cabinet Response
Council Response to COVID-19 – Vulnerable People 14 th July 2020 meeting	Cabinet agreed that a joint letter from all the Leaders of each political group and the Chief Executive be issued to thank all anchor organisations involved in the

	response to COVID-19 in the Borough. Cabinet meeting – 30 th July 2020.
Consideration of Draft Housing Strategy 20 th October 2020 meeting	Cabinet agreed that the proposed actions contained within the draft Housing Strategy be endorsed and could go on to become the final strategy with the amendment that Stoneydelph and Glascote to be included as areas where funding/support should be focussed as they contain areas which have historically had high deprivation. Cabinet meeting – 22 nd October 2020
Green Agenda – Climate Change update 26 th January 2021 meeting	Cabinet agreed that once full council had elected a new Leader, at its meeting on 23 February 2021, to take leadership on 1 March 2021, Councillor D Cook would write to the new Leader to recommend and supporting scrutiny's recommendation that we designate a portfolio lead for climate change and that portfolio lead also has a member champion and that we also then look to let the portfolio lead and member champion form a working group to meet the aspirations of scrutiny and look to consult with the public and Cabinet approved the recommendation to report back to Cabinet and the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the outcomes of Stage 1, when ready. Cabinet meeting - 18 th February 2021

Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee Terms of Reference are set out in Article 6 in the Constitution which can be accessed [here](#).

The Primary Scope, the General Role and the Specific functions detailed there have been largely achieved through the Committee's work this year.

Members and Members Attendance

The following sets out the membership and attendance of members at the 7 Committee meetings during 2020/21. Councillor M Oates joined the Committee in August 2020, and Councillor R Kingstone stepped down at that time, and therefore their attendances are shown out of the number of meetings they were eligible to attend.

Member	Number of meetings attended
Richard Ford (Chair)	
Paul Brindley (Vice-Chair)	
Dennis Box	
John Faulkner	
Moira Greateorex	
Richard Kingstone	1 (out of 1)
Michael Oates	(out of 6)
Sheree People	
Steven Pritchard	
Roy Rogers	
County Cllr Tina Clements (Staffordshire County Council representative on the Committee)	N/A

Training and Effectiveness

A Chairs and Vice-Chairs online training session was held in early June 2020. This training was provided by an external provider and focussed on chairing skills generally and, more particularly, chairing remote (online) meetings.

In early November 2020, a Successful Scrutiny online training session was held. This was led by a different external provider and the workshop was designed to bring together scrutiny councillors, cabinet members, other members and senior officers to consider how to ensure scrutiny is successful and effective in Tamworth. It provided an overview of key aspects of successful scrutiny, including clarifying purpose and roles, understanding critical processes such as developing a strategic direction, prioritising a work programme and ensuring impact.

Work Plan - Items identified for next municipal year

The existing Committee Work Plan is appended as Appendix 1.

Please note that it is expected that the activities of the Committee may continue to be impacted by the ongoing COVID19 pandemic.

Resource Implications

None identified.

Report Author

Councillor R Ford
Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Committee’s Work Plan

Appendix 1 – Committee’s Work Plan

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