



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 22nd FEBRUARY 2023

PRESENT: Councillor D Maycock (Chair), Councillors S Smith, R Claymore, C Cooke, M J Greatorex, J Jones, R Kingstone, R Rogers and J Wadrup

The following officers were present: Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships) and Jo Hutchison (Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer)

57 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor T Jay.

58 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th January 2023 were approved as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor J Jones and seconded by Councillor S Smith)

59 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

60 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair updated the meeting on the information received in response to a Committee member's enquiry about the breast screening unit and its location. He reported that:

- The unit which had been located at the Sir Robert Peel Hospital was a mobile unit which toured around several locations and was generally static at each location for 4-6 months.
- There was a three-year rolling programme.
- Whilst at the location invitations were sent out to eligible persons approximately three weeks before the appointment time.

- If people turn of age whilst the van was not located in Tamworth, they could self-refer to any of the mobile sites, Burton Hospital or Derby Hospital.
 - If any person developed any symptoms or discovered anything of concern then they should contact their GP who could make a 2-week wait referral (urgent referral) which could be conducted at either Burton or Derby.
- The Chair agreed to circulate further website links for members information and for sharing with constituents.

61 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

None.

62 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED TO THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM CABINET OR COUNCIL

No new items.

63 UPDATE ON HEALTH RELATED MATTERS CONSIDERED BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Committee received an update on health-related matters considered by Staffordshire County Council's Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chair provided an overview of the matters discussed at the 30 January 2023 County meeting which included an update on:

- (i) The Integrated Care Partnership Strategy
- (ii) Inpatient mental health services previously provided by the George Bryan Centre
- (iii) Developing Integrated Care Hubs
- (iv) Developing Healthier Communities where the County Committee had requested that all Districts / Boroughs consider the report's recommendations in the context of their own organisation. The Committee discussed this further under the work plan item.

The Chair reported that there had been a further County meeting on 13 February 2023 and he reminded members that a recording of the meeting could be viewed and the meeting discussed:

- (i) Mental Health and Mental Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2028
- (ii) An update on Mental health Support Teams in Schools
- (iii) Childrens Mental Health Update

64 HOUSING STRATEGY UPDATE

The Chair reported that following the overview of the Housing Strategy which was received by this Committee in July 2022, the Committee requested regular reporting on actions and relevant data as they relate to health and wellbeing of Tamworth communities, and the Assistant Director, Partnerships had provided the first of these reports to update the Committee on actions and emerging datasets within the Housing Strategy which directly impact on health and wellbeing of Tamworth communities.

The Assistant Director, Partnerships highlighted the following in terms of each Priority:

1. Priority 1 – Enable the provision of sufficient new homes to meet the needs of the existing population and those attracted to the area for work; ensuring a range of provision to reflect both need and aspiration
An overview of the Affordable Housing requirements was provided as well as the recent figures delivered. It was reported that the First Homes discount was secured through a planning obligation in perpetuity.
2. Priority 2 – Make best use of existing housing and related assets
At a Staffordshire level the high level of fuel poverty and homelessness had been identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment as an area where residents' quality of lives could be improved and the Assistant Director provided an overview of the strategies used by the council to address this and to support residents remaining in their own homes. These included the commissioning (in partnership with Staffordshire County Council) of Beat the Cold to provide HEAT (Home Energy Advice Tamworth) and work with Staffordshire Warmer Homes related to energy efficiency solutions and including Green Homes funding in Tamworth where it was reported that there had been 63 requests leading to 36 installations. Other areas included the Home Upgrade Grants (HUG) fund and work related to Housing of Multiple Occupation (HMO) licensing, data related to damp and mould (in terms of council owned properties)
3. Priority 3 – Ensure housing plays a key role in delivering Tamworth's response to Climate Change
The Net Zero Carbon Baseline Report which had been considered by the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee prior to Cabinet consideration in Autumn 2022 which set out that an action plan would be produced by 31 December 2024. A further initiative was highlighted, ECO4 Flex, which aimed to help certain households in energy inefficient housing (who were not in receipt of means tested benefits) to access funding to improve the property's energy efficiency. The eligibility criteria included household income of under £31,000, meeting certain qualifying criteria, NHS referrals and bespoke targeting. Future reports would include data in this area.
4. Priority 4 – Ensure everyone who lives or works in Tamworth has access to appropriate housing that promotes wellbeing
The Council commissions Citizens Advice Mid Mercia (operating as Tamworth Advice Centre) to deliver an inclusive financial wellbeing and general advice service to support the health and wellbeing of local people through effective advice. In addition the Council's Homelessness and Rough sleeping strategy sets out the strategies to provide support in this area and a separate recent update was provided to the Committee.
5. Priority 5 – Ensure appropriate advice and funding is available to support older people to live independently in appropriate accommodation
Healthy ageing was reported to be a priority for both the Staffordshire health & wellbeing board and the Staffordshire and Stoke Integrated Care System and as part of that work workshops were underway to pull together a plan. In addition to that the council administered the Disabled Facilities Grants / Disabled Facilities Adaptions to deliver adaptions to homes to

support continued independent living, had commissioned Communities Together CIC (CT CIC) to support a hospital discharge service and Tamworth had retained its Dementia Friendly Status, as well as continuing to work with Public Health around supportive communities.

The Committee sought and received clarifications in the following areas:

1. The eligibility criteria for the ECO4 Flex scheme where the Assistant Director confirmed that that applications for this scheme would be through Beat the Cold and funding would be used for energy efficiency measure, and that this was a national Government initiative.
2. Whether hotels utilised for temporary accommodation for asylum seekers were considered as Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) where it was reported that this was a Government initiative and not part of the HMO licensing regime.
3. Whether (and if so where) face to face appointments were taking place with Tamworth Advice Centre, where it was reported that there were taking place at CT CIC premises or at Sacred Heart Church, and that the availability of face to face appointments was publicised by the Advice Centre.
4. The Committee sought further clarification on the large increase in debt reported by the Tamworth Advice Centre for Quarter 4 and whether this doubling in debt from the previous quarter was anticipated to continue and whether this could mean an increased need for resources from the Advice Centre to support the delivery of their advice services. The Assistant Director reported that the Advice Centre had not reported that they expected the debt position to worsen and that in prior quarters the figure had remained fairly consistent. No additional resources had been requested for further staff although they had reported difficulties in retaining their existing volunteers, as was the case with much of the voluntary sector. It was further reported that the council had commissioned CT CIC to undertake work on a wellbeing strategy for Tamworth and a voluntary sector strategy, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which would help inform any areas for further work.
5. How residents were referred into advice services, where it was reported that various teams (including council tenant and revenues and benefits teams) within the council were trained to refer individuals to the Advice Centre services and indeed some voluntary sector partners are also involved in the system and can make referrals.
6. The importance of the voluntary sector in providing support in this area where the Assistant Director reported that the Council was reviewing the voluntary sector strategy and how Council provides support to the voluntary sector, and would take the Committee's appreciation for their work back to the Council's voluntary sector partners.
7. Under the Staffordshire Warmer Homes scheme, it was noted that the new Government scheme for Home Upgrade Grants (HUG) had not yet recorded any leads for Tamworth and the Assistant Director agreed to progress this matter with Staffordshire County further and this would be picked up in the next report.
8. The Committee noted that the funding to the Advice Centre was delivering significant savings to recipients of the service.

9. Whether there were KPIs on damp and mould for council owned properties, noting that the figures in the report related to private sector housing. The Committee requested that future reports include data, including KPIs, on damp and mould related to social / council housing.
10. Further details on what would be delivered under the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy by 2028 in terms of the works to achieve EPC of C+. The Assistant Director reported that she would revert with further detail in the next report.
11. Whether there was any Officer involvement from Tamworth in the Staffordshire Healthy Ageing Partnership work where the Assistant Director reported that contact had been made with public health colleagues at county and as this work progressed and stakeholder engagement progressed, this would help identify how best officers from the council could be involved.
12. How the council was reaching out to residents to promote services available, for example in terms of debt advice, where social media would not necessarily reach residents. It was reported that all council officers were able to refer into services and leaflets were also produced and distributed. The Committee sought clarification on the briefing and training provided to front line staff such as street wardens to assist in getting messages out to the community on the support available from the council and partners. The Assistant Director agreed to action this.

RESOLVED: that, subject to the comments and requests for further information requested, the Committee welcomed the report and the update provided against each of the Housing Strategy priorities and actions and requested that this be presented quarterly to the Committee, with the additional information requested.

65 LONELINESS AND ADDICTION SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

Report of the Assistant Director Partnerships in response to a workplan item of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to provide information on how the Council interacted with voluntary and community groups who provided services in Tamworth around substance misuse, addiction, loneliness and social isolation.

The Committee sought and received clarifications in the following areas:

1. The Committee welcomed the information contained on the voluntary sector organisations and requested any data on referrals from council staff into these services to better understand the demand and take up for these services from Tamworth residents. The Assistant Director reported that further data could be provided from organisations which we commissioned, such as Betterway, which would not necessarily be limited to referrals from council officers.
2. The Committee requested that every two years there was an all members seminar session to which voluntary organisations were invited to share their work which would be face to face event, and in the intervening years, there was online training from Officers for members to ensure that there

was an overview of the work of the voluntary sector partner's work in Tamworth.

3. Where to find access to the most up to date information on voluntary sector organisations operating locally, where the Assistant Director reported that Support Staffordshire provided details via its Staffordshire Connects portal to voluntary sector organisations locally. This was a public searchable database of contact details for voluntary sector organisations. It was agreed that a link to this be circulated to all councillors to ensure that there was access to the most up to date information on services delivered locally.
4. How to support those without access to social media, where the Assistant Director agreed that this area was supported by our anchor organisations and included the loneliness helpline which CT CIC run.
5. When the data to develop the Wellbeing Strategy, the Voluntary Sector Strategy and the Voluntary Sector Commissioning Strategy was expected to be available. The Assistant Director reported that this data was expected to be available by the end of March 2023. From that the Strategies would be developed. The Committee requested a timeline for when the Strategies would be delivered to help support the Committee's work load planning, which the Assistant Director agreed to come back with. The Assistant Director agreed to provide the links to the upcoming stakeholder event being undertaken by CT CIC for members to engage with as appropriate.

RESOLVED: that the Committee

1. Welcomed the Report provided
2. Recommended that every two years there was a face-to-face all members seminar forum to which voluntary organisations were invited and in the intervening years, there was online training from Officers for members on the voluntary sector partners' work
3. Recommended that the Council's website signpost to the Staffordshire Connects website which was a public searchable database of contact details for voluntary sector organisations locally.

66 FORWARD PLAN

The Chair agreed that he would discuss the Community Safety Partnership Plan item on the Forward Plan with the Chair of Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee, as this was identified for consideration by that scrutiny committee.

67 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

There were no working group updates.

68 HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY WORK PLAN 2022-2023

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

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan

Work Plan		
Work Area Themes for the Year		
1. Mental Health & Wellbeing		
Topics	Target Meeting	Additional information
Inpatient mental health pathways and community mental health services pathways		
Mental health / wellbeing support provision for council staff and councillors	18 April 2023	
2. Homelessness & Housing		
Topics	Target Meeting	Additional information
Housing Strategy – performance reporting	Regular (quarterly) reporting – next meeting date – June 2023	Invite Assistant Director, Partnerships
Homelessness Winter Relief Update	June 2023	To receive feedback on the outcomes
Condition of Council Housing stock from a health & wellbeing perspective		Committee has since requested KPIs on damp and mould for council housing to be included within quarterly Housing Strategy updates

Other suggested topics for Committee consideration

Developing Health Communities – see link to Staffs County Report. Developing Healthier Communities Workshop Report (staffordshire.gov.uk)	18 April 2023	Invitation to be extended to relevant officers including Executive Director, Communities, Assistant Director, Partnerships, Public Health Officer at County
Include consideration of the role of schools at sixth form, secondary & primary level.		
Green and open spaces	28 March 2023 meeting	Assistant Director, Operations & Leisure invited
Attainment and Skills in Tamworth (including young people's experiences)	To be confirmed	Working Group (WG) to be formed – WG Chair - Councillor R Kingstone & D Maycock & others
Safeguarding updates (2 per year)	18 October 2022 & 28 March 2023	Invitation to Portfolio Holder and Officers
CPR & Defibrillator awareness and community engagement	Targeting Autumn 2022	Liaise with local charity (Have a Heart) Progress within schools in implementing guidance this area
Recovery & Reset – Customer Service Offer update following LUF bid outcome		
Committee Annual Report (draft)	18 April 2023	

Specific topics to feed in to Staffordshire County Council (separate from main Themes)

Topic	Date of planned Staffs consideration	Additional information
Strategic Transformation Programme (STP)		To tie in with County consideration when dates for County consideration known

Possible Working Group topics

Armed Forces Covenant		Working group to be formed. Cabinet member identified (Cllr T Clements)
Attainment & Skills in Tamworth		WG Chair - Councillor R Kingstone & D Maycock & others
Public Toilets (following full Council referral)	Target meeting - 28 March 2023	Working group members: Councillors Claymore, Maycock and Wadrup
Migrant travelling community		Members to be identified together with members of the IS&G Scrutiny Committee

Upcoming Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Meetings
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Meeting dates:

28 March 2023

18 April 2023 (new)

Upcoming Relevant County Council Meetings
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Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Staffordshire County Council

- 20 March 2023
- 12 June 2023
- 24 July 2023
- 18 September 2023
- 16 October 2023
- 27 November 2023
- 29 January 2023
- 18 March 2023

Chair