



Borough of Tamworth

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 September 2023

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will be held in **Town Hall, Market Street, Tamworth on Thursday, 21st September, 2023 at 6.00 pm.** Members of the Committee are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chief Executive

A G E N D A

NON CONFIDENTIAL

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 12)**
- 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 Update from the Chair

5 Responses to Reports of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

(Update on responses to the Reports of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee)

6 Consideration of matters referred to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee from Cabinet or Council

(Discussion item)

7 Update on health related matters considered by Staffordshire County Council (Pages 13 - 18)

(To receive the Digest from Staffordshire County Council's Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and an update from County Councillor T Jay)

8 The Impact of the Closure of the George Bryan Centre on residents

(Verbal update)

9 Forward Plan

Please see the link to the Forward Plan:

[Browse plans - Cabinet, 2023 :: Tamworth Borough Council](#)

10 Working Group Updates

11 Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan (To Follow)

To review the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Plan

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.

If a member of the public is particularly concerned about being filmed, please contact a member of Democratic Services before selecting a seat.

FAQs

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

To Councillors: C Bain, R Claymore, T Clements, D Cook, S Daniels, C Dean, J Jones, D Maycock, J Oates and County Councillor T Jay

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
HELD ON 11th JULY 2023**

PRESENT: Councillor C Bain (Chair), Councillors R Claymore, T Clements, D Cook, S Daniels, C Dean and D Maycock

County Councillor County Councillor T Jay

CABINET Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Samuel Smith

The following officers were present: Anica Goodwin (Executive Director Organisation), Tina Mustafa (Assistant Director Neighbourhoods), Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships), Sarah Finnegan (Head of Homelessness & Housing Solutions), James Hazlehurst (Sports Development Officer) and Leanne Costello (Democratic and Executive Support Officer)

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor J Jones and Councillor J Oates.

14 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st June 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor S Daniels and seconded by Councillor R Claymore)

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

16 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

None.

17 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

None.

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

None.

19 UPDATE ON HEALTH RELATED MATTERS CONSIDERED BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor T Jay confirmed that there had not been any meetings since his last update.

He apologised for his absence at the previous meeting as he had only received an invite on the day.

20 ARMED FORCES COVENANT

The Assistant Director, Partnerships introduced the report which is being presented to Cabinet on the 20th July 2023 to reaffirm the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant following the Armed Forces act in 2021.

It was highlighted that recommendation number 5 should state 2024 not 2023.

The Portfolio Holder commented that taking on the role of Champion was an honour following his experience first hand in the armed forces.

The Committee acknowledged that a number of members had Armed Forces experience and therefore recognised the importance of this item.

The Committee made then made following comments/observations and asked the following questions:

1. Clarification over how we meet our Commitment to give Armed Forces personnel extra weighting for housing with the reduction in housing stock? The Assistant Director Neighbours confirmed that households containing one or more former veterans or member of the Armed Forces is currently 7.3%. The Council has seven active applications on the Housing register from former Armed Forces personal who are prioritised in line with the allocations policy and Government guidelines as well as being supported in line with the Covenant. It was confirmed that data does not show that there is an issue with the onward housing solution.
2. Why there were no communications around Armed Forces Day last month? The Assistant Director offered apologies and confirmed that this

was an oversight but that this is now on the calendar for next year and that the flag on Marmion House will be the Armed Forces flag on that day.

3. Further Clarification was sought around the employment recognition scheme. The Assistant Director confirmed that by signing up to the Covenant the Council were awarded bronze award status. It was confirmed that all HR policies are compliant and give due regard to Army Service and ex personnel. Information is available on the Website for resettlement teams. The Assistant Director Confirmed that there is further work to carry out.
4. The Committee expressed their support for the delegation of Councillor Cooper as the Champion. It was highlighted that under Section 2.7.9 of the Constitution that a Member of the Executive could not be appointed a Member Champion and was suggested that instead it could be requested that this be written into his Portfolio.
5. It was requested by the Committee that when the report returns to the Committee that there are examples/evidence of positive action which have been taken to support Veterans within the community. The Assistant Director confirmed that this is the intention upon bringing the report back to Committee, this was reinforced by the Portfolio Holder who confirmed he would ensure that examples of positive action would be included in future reports.

RESOLVED: That the Committee

1. Recommended the re-affirmation by the Council to the re-signing of the Armed Forces Covenant in February 2023 endorsing the Covenant Duty for recommendation to Cabinet on 21st July 2023.
2. Endorsed commitment to the Staffordshire County Council plan.
3. Considered the Tamworth Borough Council Armed Forces Covenant work plan.
4. Endorsed the recommendation to Cabinet to delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Entertainment and Leisure (as named Armed Forces Champion) and Assistant Director Partnerships to oversee the associated work plan.
5. Endorsed the recommendation that a report on progress will be considered on an annual basis to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee commencing April 2024.

(Moved by Councillor T Clements and seconded by Councillor C Dean)

21 HOMELESSNESS HUB

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods Tina Mustafa and the Head of Homelessness and Housing Solutions, Sarah Finnegan introduced a presentation to the Committee to provide an update on Housing Solutions and the Homeless Hub.

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and The Head of Homelessness and Housing Solutions highlighted the following information –

- Ensuring access to Council services including housing and adequate supply of affordable housing is at the heart of Homelessness.
- The Council have approximately 1000 people per year presenting as homeless which is a fairly static figure. Around 47% of those cases are closed with advice and assistance without the need for triggering a formal homelessness duty.
- The team were appointed to a taskforce due to their best practise around homelessness by the homelessness advisory support team.
- figures in Bed and Breakfast remain low (single figures or 0) and the last Rough Sleeper count was 2 and are recognised for using creative and innovative approaches to homelessness.
- The challenges faced from neighbouring authorities including Birmingham, and the need to continue working with partners and invest in Third Sector as well as the need to continue to monitor external pressure such as impact of the War in Ukraine.
- Homelessness services costs are just over 1 million pounds per year but over half of this is met from a range of Government grants.
- The Data within the presentation shows that strategy is making a difference.
- The data shows that the ‘reason for approaches’ and ‘support needs’ have remained the same but the numbers have reduced significantly showing that strategic interventions including partnership working are having an impact.
- The principles of the Homeless Hub that were agreed at Cabinet on the 16th March.
- Evidence base shows that homeless household have a range of support needs as well as accommodation needs and therefore they are working with partners to provide a hybrid package of support.
- The aim of the service to support those in Tamworth who may have accessed the service.

The Committee made the following comments/observations and asked the following questions:

- Whilst the Government pledge is to eliminate rough sleeping by 2027 this does not take into account those that chose to live that way without removing their freedom.
- Rough sleeping is not a major problem in Tamworth, historically Sofa Surfing is a greater problem, and therefore hidden homelessness is where efforts should be concentrated. Officers confirmed that Tamworth does not have an entrenched rough sleeper issue, but there is an issue with begging which presents as homelessness and this is being looked at as part of the strategy.
- Clarification with regards to slide on page as to what 'left institution' covers. Officers confirmed that this related to leaving prison on a mental health institution.
- Aspirationally, how we would work with other authorities? Officers confirmed that this is recognised as important but that there is a varied response from other authorities. Local partners within the county are keen to work together and that best practice is currently shared.
- Clarification around how we deal with those who are evicted from supported housing, that are usually vulnerable? Officers confirmed that they work with individuals and partners to ensure this as is a last resort, as if an individual is judged as made intentionally homeless then there is no onward statutory requirement to provide support. That as part of their Personal Housing Plan they do work with partners beyond the area and will work with individuals to find the best outcome.
- Whether other Councils who do not run an in house out of hours service, that Tamworth do, are they still directing individuals to Tamworth? Officers confirmed that Tamworth do still offer and 24/7 in house service but that they are very robust in challenging those that make contact from out of the area and redirecting them. Many other councils do outsource this service this is something that this is in the early stages of being looked at, but no decisions have been made.
- It was commented that a Councillor had accessed the service to support a family and that the service had worked to resolve the situation quickly.
- More information was requested around priority 3, 'to improve access and supply of affordable and supported housing'. It was confirmed that the Homelessness Strategy identifies the need for new and affordable housing and that this manifests itself in a number of ways; looking at solutions with other providers; how we use our existing stock and how we target our acquisitions within current resources.
- It was asked whether the condition of the temporary accommodation properties could be improved? The officers said this would relate to the lettable standard and would be fed back to the Assistant Director, Assets.

The Portfolio Holder was invited to sum up the item. He reinforced the importance of focussing on the prevention method, maintaining expansion on mental health services and commented that homelessness is an evolving situation with changing legislation and refugee situations that needed to be kept on top of.

The Chair commented that there were no recommendations but asked the. The Committee acknowledged that they were happy with the report.

The Chair thanked the Officers for attending and invited them to leave the meeting.

22 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee did not identify any new items.

23 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The Committee discussed the items that were previously on the workplan and asked the Vice-Chair to update them on these.

It was confirmed that the Migrant Travelling Community item was looked at by the Committee in the previous year but that the work had been completed.

There was another item on the plan related to Attainment and Skills in Tamworth. Councillor Daniels volunteered to liaise with Councillor Kingstone who had raised this item for an update.

24 HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY WORK PLAN

The Chair asked for the Workplan to be added as a major item at the next meeting.

25 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider excluding the Press and Public from the meeting by passing the following resolution :

“That in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meeting and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, and Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public”

RESOLVED: That members of the press and public be now excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

(Moved by Councillor T Clements and Councillor D Maycock)

Councillor Cook gave his apologies and left the meeting at 19:05

26 ANKER VALLEY SPORTS AND COMMUNITY COMPLEX 3G

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Entertainment and Leisure to detail the work to date and the decisions required in order to progress the grant claim in order to deliver the proposed Football Foundation/Football Association project.

RESOLVED: That Committee endorsed the contents of the report and the five recommendations for Cabinet

The Chair closed the meeting at 19:50

Chair

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Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

District and Borough Council Digest

Under the Health Scrutiny Code of Joint Working with District and Borough Councils, Authorities have undertaken to keep relevant Partners informed of their consideration of health matters having regard to the general working principle of co-operation and the need to ensure a co-ordinated Staffordshire approach. Therefore, the following is a summary of the business transacted at the meetings of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24 July 2023 and 31 July 2023.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 24 July 2023 & 31 July 2023

Integrated Care Partnership Operating Plan

The Committee considered the Integrated Care Partnership Plan and were informed that the plan set out key priorities as a system for 2023/24 and a collective aim to reduce the number of Category 2 and 3 ambulance calls. The four system level priorities were identified:

- Urgent and Emergency Care
- Tackling backlogs
- General Practice
- Complex individuals

The Committee noted the final version of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICP Operating plan and agreed to work with Healthwatch in their scoping of a deep dive into primary care and to review the patients journey for the frail and elderly into the care system.

System Performance

The Committee received an update on the system performance from the ICB. The Committee received the Performance Overview Dashboard from 2022/23 and an overview of the approach and progress to date in developing the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB Performance Report for 2023/24.

The Committee noted the performance overview dashboard for 2022/23 and the development of the 2023/24 performance report.

System Pressures

The Committee considered the system pressures and were informed that the ICS had developed a full system winter plan to manage winter 2022/23 however the position in Staffordshire was challenged with high levels of pressure and cumulative factors contributed to the system declaring a Critical Incident from 29 December 2022 to 12 January 2023. It was reported that there were three key components which exacerbated pressure:

- Workforce
- Demand
- Supply

The Committee were informed that the ICB agreed that a priority action would be to carry out a thorough assessment and review of the plans effectiveness in March 2023 and a lessons learned workshop event was held with all constituent system partner organisations. The Committee were advised that the Urgent and Emergency Care Improvement Plan had been

agreed. The Committee were updated on current performance of 111, Ambulance Activity, ED Activity, Medically Fit for Discharge and Discharge pathways.

The Committee noted the system pressures and requested the full winter plan be brought to Committee before Winter 2023/24.

Update on Elective care performance and recovery

The Committee received an update on Elective care performance and recovery.

It was reported that COVID had a significant impact on the delivery of Elective care and as a result there were significant backlogs of patients awaiting treatment. The Committee were informed that NHS England required all 104-week waiters to have been treated by March 23 however in Staffordshire there were 10 patients awaiting treatment, although 9 of these patients would be treated in July. It was also reported that the NHS England had set a target to treat all patients who had been waiting more than 78 weeks by June 2023, however there were still a number of patients awaiting treatment. The NHS operational planning guidance for 2023/24 required local ICS to have treated all 65-week waiters by the end of March 2024.

The Committee noted the report and actions being taken to reduce waiting times.

SSOT ICS People, Culture and Inclusion Annual Report and update.

The Committee received the SSOT ICS People, Culture and Inclusion annual report and it was reported that the report was developed in collaboration with ICS clinical workforce leads alongside partners across the system.

Adult Social Care Enhanced Assurance

The Committee received a presentation on Adult Social Care Enhanced Assurance.

It was reported that the Health and Care Act 2022 gave the Care Quality Commission (CQC) new regulatory powers to undertake independent assessment of local authorities' delivery of the statutory duties set out in part 1 of the Care Act 2014. The Council has commenced preparations for Enhanced Assurance, including a "CQC readiness review" from West Midlands Association of Directors Social Services in March 2023.

It was reported that the CQC had released a framework that they intended to use for assessment which comprises of four themes and within those themes there were nine quality statements:

1. Assessing needs
2. Supporting people to live healthier lives
3. Equity in experiences and outcomes
4. Care provision, integration and continuity
5. Partnerships and communities
6. Safe systems, pathways and transitions
7. Safeguarding
8. Governance, management and sustainability
9. Learning, Improvement and innovation

The Committee agreed to set up an Adult Social Care Enhanced Assurance Working group.

To see the reports in full and view the webcast of the meeting see the links below:

[Browse meetings - Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Staffordshire County Council](#)

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11 September 2023 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.

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Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

District and Borough Council Digest

Under the Health Scrutiny Code of Joint Working with District and Borough Councils, Authorities have undertaken to keep relevant Partners informed of their consideration of health matters having regard to the general working principle of co-operation and the need to ensure a co-ordinated Staffordshire approach. Therefore, the following is a summary of the business transacted at the meetings of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 12 June 2023.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 12 June 2023

Primary Care Dental Overview

The Committee considered the Primary Care Dental Overview and were informed that Dental Commissioning was delegated to Integrated Care Boards from 1 April 2023.

The Committee were informed that a two-phase approach would be adopted to firstly understand, in depth, the legacy inherited from NHS England relating to operational performance and then use those findings to inform future planning and improvement for 2024/25.

It was reported that there were 168 dental practices in Staffordshire.

The Committee noted the update and requested a further update and to see the Dental Strategy later in the year.

Primary Care Access

The Committee received an update on Primary Care Access and were informed that there were 142 GP practices in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (SSOT) and that these were currently offering more appointments than before the pandemic however SSOT had the lowest number of appointments per 10,000 patients in the West Midlands.

The Committee were advised that the national GP patient survey had shown that the patient experience in getting GP appointments was poor.

It was reported that the national delivery plan for recovering access to General Practice aimed for improve patient experience through:

- Better digital telephony (cloud-based telephony)
- Simpler online requests (online consultation)
- Faster navigation, assessment, and response
- Better use the wider GP workforce – ARRS roles
- Improve retention of current staff.

The Committee noted the update and agreed to add Primary Care Access to the Work Programme later in the year.

Primary Care Estate

The Committee received an update on Primary Care Estate and were informed that across the 142 GP practices in SSOT there were 190 buildings. The Committee noted the following:

- 40% of our GP estates were owned by the GP.
- 30% of our estate was built pre-1984, with 22 sites built pre 1948.
- Facing increasing pressure from additional workforce and housing developments
- Voids Space project to make the best use of the estate.
- Recurrent investment into estate through capital 66%/34% funding split

The Committee discussed housing developments and requested a briefing note on the model for assessing new development sites.

To see the reports in full and view the webcast of the meeting see the links below:

[Agenda for Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday 12th June 2023, 10:00am - Staffordshire County Council](#)

The next meeting will be held on Monday 24 July 2023 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.