

Healthier & Safer Scrutiny Committee

2015/16 Annual Report

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Introduction

2015/16 has been another busy year for Tamworth Borough Council's Healthier & Safer scrutiny committee members.

The committee carried out an in-depth scrutiny of the Borough Council's updated Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect policy prior to it being presented to Full Council.

The opening hours of the minor injuries unit at Sir Robert Peel hospital were discussed with the local CCG and the Chief Executive of Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the committee submitted a unanimous response to the CCG's public consultation.

DBS checks for current and future elected members of Tamworth Borough Council and the Dosthill Park public space protection order were also been examined by the committee.

The committee will start looking at the inequality of life expectancy across the Borough of Tamworth at the end of March, as part of a joint scrutiny with the Aspire and Prosper scrutiny committee.

The committee had also planned a joint scrutiny of teenage pregnancy in Tamworth, however, this will start in June after Staffordshire County Council's review of the MAC project has been completed and the results have been published.

2015/16 has also seen the start of what is possibly the biggest piece of scrutiny ever undertaken by any of Tamworth Borough Council's past or present scrutiny committees. The Healthier and Safer committee is working in conjunction with Alzheimer's UK to make Tamworth a Dementia Friendly Community.

The work to make Tamworth a Dementia Friendly Community started in February 2016 and may take up to a year to complete. It is important to take enough time to get this right for the current and future residents of the Borough of Tamworth.

11 June 2015 / 2 July 2015

Work plan for 2015/16

The committee voted to scrutinise several items during 2015/16

- Invite Cllr Lees for a discussion on the Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board
- Teenage Pregnancy (from a safer sex/health point of view)
- Safeguarding of Children & the Vulnerable
- ASB/Safety Hub, policy changes over the coming year
- Dementia/is Tamworth Dementia friendly?

13 August 2015

Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect Policy

A scoping document was produced asking Scrutiny to evaluate how has Tamworth Borough Council learned from the recent reports e.g., Rotherham and how confident are the Borough Council that the public can be reassured that the policies, systems and processes in place are robust and embedded.

In response, Tamworth Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Communities and Public Health and the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer reported to the committee in relation to the draft policy and procedure on Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect.

The policy had been updated to take account of the Care Act 2014 and other associated requirements. The policy is to be presented for approval to Council at its next meeting on 15 September 2015.

Following several questions and comments from the members, the committee resolved to endorse the policy and procedure ahead of Council on 15 September 2015 and to receive a quarterly statistical report on referrals made through the Safeguarding Channel at Tamworth Borough Council arising from and under the Policy.

DBS Checks

The committee voted for all elected members have a DBS check completed. The Chair agreed to take the proposal to the next Cabinet meeting and seek approval for all current and future elected members of Tamworth Borough Council to undertake a DBS check.

17 September 2015

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board

Staffordshire's southern area elected representative on the Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board, Cllr Roger Lees of South Staffordshire Council, gave a presentation on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Proposed Changes to the Opening Hours of the Minor Injuries Unit at Sir Robert Peel Hospital

Three representatives from NHS South East Staffordshire & Seisdon Peninsula Clinical Commissioning Group and the Chief Executive of Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust met the committee and gave a presentation on the proposal to change the opening hours of the Minor Injuries Units at Sir Robert Peel and Samuel Johnson Hospitals. Several probing questions and comments were put by all members of the committee and the committee agreed to hold another meeting to discuss the issues further and agree a submission to the CCG's public consultation.

15 October 2015

Committee Submission to SES and SP CCG Consultation on Sir Robert Peel MIU

Following a discussion on the presentation given at the previous meeting of the Healthier and Safer committee, the members voted unanimously to submit the following submission to CCG Consultation on Sir Robert Peel MIU.

This Committee regrets the proposed potential overnight closure of the Robert Peel Minor Injuries Unit and urges the CCG to consider and implement all back office savings elsewhere rather than closing this front line service.

DBS Checks for Current and Future Elected Members of Tamworth Borough Council

The Chairman reported that the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 took Councillors outside of the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 regime entirely. It was then stated that members could undertake DBS Scotland checks, however, due to Scottish Law these checks would only show unspent convictions committed in Scotland and not the rest on the United Kingdom.

Several members pointed out that they had DBS checks from their involvement in local schools and community groups. However,

The Chairman pointed out that to continue with DBS checks would produce a two-tier system for elected members with those who have DBS checks from their involvement in local schools and community groups and those who work in the private sector and have no involvement in groups or projects that require a DBS check.

Following a discussion the committee voted unanimously to take no further action on DBS checks.

19 November 2015

Consultation - Dosthill Park Public Space Protection

Tamworth Borough Council's Neighbourhood Service Manager gave a report on the Dosthill Park public space protection order.

The committee approved delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Public Health for the implementation of a Public Space Protection Order at the access road to Dosthill Hall, Dosthill Park and agreed that if any changes are proposed following a review then they shall be reported back to the Committee.

7 January 2016

The meeting was postponed and rearranged for 10 March 2016 to allow time to send out invitations to discuss dementia.

4 February 2016

Update from Staffordshire Health Select Committee

It was agreed for the Chairman, in conjunction with Tamworth Borough Council's Legal Officer, to ask the South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust of their involvement in the use of the Libraries across Staffordshire and what are they doing?"

Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect

Further to the recommendation at 13 August 2015 meeting, The Committee received the first quarterly report written by Tamworth Borough Council's Children and Families Safeguarding Officer.

The Committee reviewed and endorsed the report and agreed future reports would be bi-annual for a 6-month period at the July and January meetings.

Dementia

Prior to the meeting the Chairman and Vice Chairman met with representatives of Alzheimer's UK at their office in Cannock to gain information on Dementia Friendly Community status and it was agreed for an Alzheimer's UK Officer to meet with the Healthier and Safer committee to discuss in detail the required process.

The committee met with Kat Horner, Alzheimer's UK Dementia Action Alliance Co-ordinator (West Midlands) and was briefed about the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) and how Tamworth could become "dementia-friendly." The committee was informed membership is completely free and there are 3 initiatives in becoming a Dementia Friendly Community.

1. Dementia Friends Initiative – This is an Alzheimer's initiative raising awareness and understanding about dementia by organising a free, one-hour Dementia Friends awareness session to inform people and educate people so that dementia is understood.
2. Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) – This was launched in 2012 as part of the Prime Minister's Challenge on dementia and aims to improve the lives of people living with dementia and their carers through concerted action. They work with local business and organisations to see how they can become more dementia friendly, and ask them to sign up as a member of the DAA by completing a simple action plan. All that is asked is that members take steps to better support anyone living with dementia in their local area.
3. A Local Dementia Action Alliance (LDAA) is the coming together of the member organisations in a local area. This can include local businesses, high street shops, community groups, faith groups, schools, colleges, libraries, residential homes, health and social care providers as everyone can help.

Once a LDAA is formed, the organisation can then apply to the Alzheimer's DAA for recognition as a Dementia Friendly Community.

This means the organisation will have its own page listed on www.dementiaaction.org.uk. It will be able to use the DAA logo and the "Working to become Dementia Friendly" symbol.

The organisation will have recognition as a dementia friendly business and will be part of the wider Dementia Friendly Community across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent giving access to networks, support and information and it will be part of a Social Movement to bring about change, working with other organisations across the county in partnership and helping to raise community spirit.

A Question and Answer session ensued, it was confirmed that Staffordshire County Council is already a member of the Dementia Action Alliance as is South Staffordshire Council.

The Chairman asked how much it will cost Tamworth Borough Council to become a Dementia Friendly Community and Ms Horner replied that of all of the West Midlands councils who have gone through the process only one spent any money and that £2,000 to produce leaflets after the accreditation had been gained.

The committee agreed unanimously to start the process of becoming a Dementia Friendly Community but bear in mind the possible cross over implications with Staffordshire County Council (mental health services) & the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Partnership.

The Chairman agreed to take the lead and Cllr S Goodall and Cllr A Couchman offered to support; however, it may require a cabinet decision further down the line.

Inequality of Life Expectancy Across the Borough of Tamworth

The committee agreed for Cllr James to meet the Chair of Aspire and Prosper Scrutiny Committee and discuss a joint scrutiny committee meeting to discuss Inequality of Life Expectancy Across the Borough of Tamworth,

10 March 2016

Presentation by Community Pharmacy Contractors

A presentation on the current Government consultation on proposed changes to community pharmacy with PSNC and other pharmacy and non-pharmacy bodies, including patient and public representatives will be given by Stacy Kelly on behalf of South Staffordshire and North Staffs and Stoke Pharmacy committees.

Dementia Update

The committee will be updated on the ongoing process to make Tamworth a Dementia Friendly Community.

Inequality of Life Expectancy Across the Borough

The committee will be updated on the scrutiny of inequality of life expectancy across the Borough.

Forward Plan 1 March 16 - 30 June 2016

The forward plan for 1 March 16 - 30 June 2016 will be discussed and any additions to the work plan for the remainder of 2015-16 will be considered.

24 March 2016

The agenda will be confirmed at the Healthier and Safer meeting on 10 March 2016. However, the following items will be on the agenda.

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Inequality of Life Expectancy Across the Borough

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21 April 2016

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Inequality of Life Expectancy Across the Borough

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Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

The Healthy Staffordshire Select committee have held nine committee meetings and has one meeting planned to take place before the end of the current electoral year.

The Select committee have scrutinised a wide range of health issues during 2015/16


- Hearing aid commissioning policy for the North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Hearing aid commissioning policy for the South Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Improving Lives Programme
- End of Life and Cancer Care Programme
- Joint working between the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee and Healthwatch
- Minor Injuries Unit at Sir Robert Peel Hospital, Tamworth and Samuel Johnson Hospital, Lichfield
- Proposed changes to the provision of specialist inpatient haematology services at Stafford County Hospital
- “Living My Life My Way” - Strategy for Disabled People
- Independent Futures
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services Working Group - Final Report

The Healthy Staffordshire Select committee also held eight public accountability sessions during 2015/16 with the various NHS Foundation Trusts that cover the health of Staffordshire.

Two meetings each with Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospitals North Midlands NHS Trust and one each with Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust, South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust and West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Full details of all County Council Health Select committee meetings and public accountability sessions are available on the County Council's website

<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=871>



Cllr Andrew James – Chairman
Healthier & Safer scrutiny committee