

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
2018/19 Annual Report

Committee Dates

12/06/2018

24/07/2018

16/09/2018

27/11/2018

22/01/2019 (Rescheduled from 19/09/2018)

27/02/2019

04/04/2019 (Additional meeting added)

Work plan for 2018/19

The committee agreed in the first meeting of 2018/19 (12th June) to look at several items to potentially scrutinise and gain further information on. Include in this was items carried over from the previous year as well as items that were added on throughout the year:

- Housing Allocations Policy
- Tamworth's Offer in relation to Ear Wax Removal
- Staffordshire mental health provision
- GP Provision
- Midwifery Care
- Blood Donations
- Loneliness
- Adoption of the MNDA Charter
- Cancer Screening
- First Response
- Training offered to members (Safeguarding and Equality and Diversity)

As well as the above work plan items, the committee had updates regarding the merger between Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (DTHFT) and Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT).

In addition to this, the committee has received the first of the bi-annual reports of the Children & Families Safeguarding Officer with the second coming to the committee on 04/04/2019.

24/07/2018

Adoption of the MNDA Charter

<http://www.mndcharter.org/the-mnd-charter/>

A representative from the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MDNA), an MDNA volunteer and members of a local family affected by Motor Neurone Disease (MND) attended this meeting to assist the committee on this subject matter.

The MDNA representative provided a presentation to the Committee on the MND Charter and how it could support residents affected by MND and how councils could improve the lives of those affected by MND by adopting and implementing the MND Charter.

The five principles of the MND Charter were considered by the Committee:

- the right to an early diagnosis and information
- the right to access quality care and treatments
- the right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect
- the right to maximise their quality of life
- carers of people with MND have the right to be valued, respected, listened to and well-supported

A family in Tamworth, with a member who has been diagnosed with MND, attended the meeting and shared their personal experiences of the disease and their interactions with local authorities. They highlighted the importance of staff at the Council who had an awareness and understanding of the progressive nature of the disease and the need for expeditious decisions.

It was reported that if the Council adopted the MND Charter, the MNDA could work in partnership with the Council to raise awareness in respect of MND and also to provide training to staff.

The committee voted that it be recommend that the MND Charter should be adopted by Tamworth Borough Council and be implemented expeditiously.

Support Teams / First Response

Councillor Kingstone gave a verbal update to the Committee on work undertaken to understand the challenges faced in schools to support young people and their families.

A guest from a local secondary school who managed the provision of such support to share her experiences of how the services available had been eroded and the challenges faced to meet the needs required.

It was reported that the role provided by schools had evolved over time from support to the pupils only, to wider support to pupils and their families to look at the wider picture as to why pupils did not attend school. The school's support team's experience showed that many families did not engage with organisations to which the families were sign-posted (such as local support teams or First Response) which often led to no action being taken and any safeguarding issues remaining unaddressed.

It was decided that Councillor Kingstone bring a written proposal forward and invite First Response to attend a future meeting of this Committee.

16/10/2018

Housing Allocations Policy

Councillor M Thurgood (now Cook) was invited to attend the meeting. She introduced the Executive Director Communities and the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods to the Committee who presented an overview of the Housing Allocations Policy review underway and the timescales to complete the review.

The Assistant Director Neighbourhoods reported that the aims of housing allocations were to:

- Support the Council's vision and strategic ambitions;
- Enable choice and informed decision making;
- Prioritise those in most housing need;
- Seek to prevent homelessness;
- Support a range of housing options and solutions;
- Be outcome focussed.

The challenges faced by the Council in terms of housing allocations were also highlighted.

It was reported that the Council was due to commission Housing Quality Network, an independent organisation, to support the Council in looking at insight and intelligence to understand impacts and trends and to inform both Housing Allocations Policy and Homes Strategy.

It was reported that given the complexity of housing need and the pressures which existed, it was important to ensure that the principles around housing allocations were clear and applied consistently.

The Assistant Director Neighbourhoods highlighted that the draft Housing Allocations Policy was being prepared which was planned to be presented to Cabinet at the end of November 2018 to enable the commencement of the statutory consultation period. The following principles were under consideration for inclusion in this draft Housing Allocations Policy:

- Managing expectations and ensuring there was a realistic assessment of housing needs;
- Robust review process, with more frequent reviews to ensure that real housing need was clear;
- Consideration of financial resources and the need to balance this with access to subsidised housing;
- Strengthening local connection;
- Focussed management of households in most need;
- Improved delivery.

The next steps for consideration, consultation and approval of the revised Housing Allocations Policy were reported which included consideration by Cabinet of the draft policy at the end of November 2018, which would start the statutory consultation period.

Tamworth Offer - Ear Wax Removal

Councillor Bilcliff reported that following a review of GP practices in Tamworth, only one practice did not provide an ear wax removal service. Furthermore, both the Robert Peel Hospital and the Samuel Johnson Hospital provided a removal service on referral by a GP.

Councillor Bilcliff agreed that he would seek further clarification on why the one GP practice had discontinued provision of the service and report back to a future meeting.

27/11/2018

Safeguarding update

The committee received the report of the Children & Families Safeguarding Officer..

The Committee requested further clarification on the extent to which sub-contractors received Tamworth Borough Council safeguarding training and it was reported that confirmation was being sought from sub-contractors as part of an on-going audit.

Tamworth Offer - Ear Wax Removal

Councillor Bilcliff updated the Committee on a letter received from a GP practice which confirmed that there had been a temporary suspension of the ear wax removal service due to equipment availability.

The Committee thanked Councillor Bilcliff for his work and agreed that this matter could now be removed from the Work Plan.

22/01/2019

University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust Update on Merger

The Director of Integration from the University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust (UHDB) attended the meeting to provide an update on the merger.

An overview of the objectives driving the case for the merger was provided for the committee. This focussed on sustaining clinical services at Queen's Burton Hospital, developing specialist services at the Royal Derby Hospital and making the best use of community hospitals in Lichfield, Tamworth and Derby. Since the merger there had been a focus on the following six clinical areas to drive improvement for patients:

- Cardiology – pathways had been redesigned to improve clinical outcomes, to repatriate complex cases to Burton hospitals and to deliver angioplasty services from Burton reducing the need to refer patients out of the area.
- Trauma & Orthopaedics – work was underway to enhance the offer at the Sir Thomas Peel Hospital by delivering more outpatient clinics in Tamworth.
- Stroke – in this clinical area, where acute specialist care was required, the acute phase would be delivered from the Royal Derby with patients repatriated closer to home thereafter.
- Renal – consultants from UHDB were managing dialysis patients at the Community hospital in Lichfield and work continued to deliver and extend services in Lichfield as well as delivering renal dialysis from home.
- Urology – consultants were now undertaking outpatient sessions at Queens Burton and cancer pathways were being remodelled with radiology and pathology input to deliver best practice at all sites.
- Radiology – work continued to recruit clinicians to radiology and to improve the imaging systems to improve clinician access to imagery and therefore enable patient benefits.

Questions were raised in the following areas:

- The latest financial position of UHDB
- Staff vacancies at UHDB
- Consultation process and distance of travel for treatment

The Director of Integration responded that he could not provide details on the latest financial position of the trust as a whole, however, the merger looked to deliver £23m of savings over the next five years and there was a significant cost improvement programme which was ongoing.

27/02/2019

County Councillor J Oates provided the committee an update to the committee on matters that had been considered by the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee, as well as matters requested by members at previous meetings.

George Bryan Centre

County Councillor Oates reported that since the previous meeting of this Committee there had been a significant fire at the centre which had led to the need to move 18 residents of the centre, either to alternative residential centres or to alternative arrangements. Staffordshire County Council were maintaining contact with the Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, however, there was no update which could be provided on future plans.

Breast Screening in Tamworth

It was reported that the new breast screening facility at the Robert Peel hospital had been installed following work to upgrade the platform.

Broader Mental Health Care

County Councillor Oates reported that Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee had considered and recommended to its Cabinet an Approach to Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health 2018-2023. This set out the principles which underpin the change which were:

- To ensure that this area would be a priority within strategic plans and in our partners' organisational structures;
- have collaborative commissioning arrangements in place making best use of our collective resources
- ensure that all commissioning decisions are informed by robust assessment of need
- participate fully in the developing and implementing the National Minimum Dataset across commissioned provision and the new outcome measures
- be transparent about what is invested in local services and the outcomes delivered
- participate fully in developing and implementing the National Minimum dataset across all levels and ensure that arrangements are fully embedded in all contractual arrangements with regard to services for children and young people with mental health and emotional wellbeing needs
- recognise and act on opportunities to influence local and national policy to the benefit of children and young people and their families.

County Councillor Oates reported that this approach aimed to raise Children's' and Young People's mental health up the agenda.

GP Provision Update

Councillor M Oates gave an update to the committee on the outcomes and findings of the GP provision working group. Councillor Oates reminded the committee that the intention of the working group was to discover if there was (and if so why) a difference of services between GP surgeries across Tamworth.

Councillor Oates reported that following discussions, the working group understood further details regarding the commissioning arrangements for GPs and the fact that GPs were self-employed.

The GPs could determine whether to work in groups, and the working group understood that funding for additional services, such as blood testing, ECGs and elderly care clinics, was often linked to the size of the surgeries and number of GPs in the surgeries.

The working group did not feel there was any further recommendations which would be appropriate to make at this time.

New Member Support

Following the Corporate Scrutiny recommendation to Cabinet regarding new member support, the Committee felt that they should consider areas regarding members training and/or support, such as in terms of Safeguarding and Equality and Diversity.

The Committee considered that it would be appropriate for both Members and officers to be involved in developing a programme of training and support and that Members from all scrutiny committees could be invited to join a working group on this matter.

It was agreed that this item would be added on its Work Plan.

Richard Ford

Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee