

**Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee – Monday 14 September 2020  
District/Borough 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 meeting of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee held on Monday 14 September 2020 - link to Agenda and reports pack:

<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=871&MId=11770&Ver=4>

Agenda Item	District(s)/Borough(s)
<p>The Committee received a joint presentation/report from (i) Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs); (ii) University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust; (iii) University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust and; (iv) Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and (v) County Council regarding the impact of the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic and their Winter Plans for the 2020/21 season.</p> <p>Members were provided with a PowerPoint presentation, in advance of the meeting, setting out detailed information on Health and Care's Winter Plans including:- (i) Phase Three National Restoration and Recovery Priorities; (ii) Restoration and Recovery: Waiting Lists Update; (iii) Assumptions this Winter informed by data relating to Accident and Emergency Attendances, Primary Care Appointments, NHS 111 Analysis; (iv) Areas of Focus; (v) Mental Health; (vi) Planning for Covis-19 Surges; (vii) Communications and Engagement; (viii) Risks and Mitigations; (viii) National Discharge Service: Policy and operating Model; (ix) Discharge Pathways – System Success; (x) additional submitted Trust specific information.</p> <p>Following a brief oral instruction from Staffordshire CCGs Accountable Officer, Members scrutinised and held the Trusts/organisations to account over the scope, timeliness and details of their Plans, asking questions and seeking clarification where necessary. They were encouraged by the extent of the preparations which had been made notwithstanding existing system pressures during the year and continued uncertainty surrounding the course of the Pandemic. They learned that Health and Care's focus would be to restore services previously stood down or curtailed whilst ensuring patients/service users remained safe. In addition, measures were being implemented to maintain capacity in primary and secondary care whilst endeavouring to manage demand by keeping people well through eg implementation of the extended national flu vaccination programme and preparing for a Covid-19 vaccine to become available. However, the Committee noted the various challenges which were likely to continue over the winter period, including recruitment of Doctors to General Practice, waiting times for certain elective procedures and the adverse effects of the outbreak on mental health in the general population. In response to requests for assistance, the Committee stated their willingness to work jointly with system Partners, particularly in area of communication and engagement, as necessary, for the benefit of residents in the County.</p>	<p>All Districts and Boroughs</p>

## NHS Hearing Aid Provision In Staffordshire

The Committee received an update report from Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCGs) Accountable Officer regarding NHS hearing aid provision in Staffordshire. This followed reconfiguration of the existing service for people with mild age-related hearing loss by North Staffordshire CCG and subsequent County-wide review by all CCGs following publication of the findings of a Cochran review in 2017 and change in guidance from The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Initial consultation and engagement with stakeholders regarding future hearing aid provision had taken place between January and March 2020 as part of the Difficult Decisions programme's Listening Exercise. However, formal consultation had been postponed owing to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the need to support frontline services and adhere to social distancing requirements. Whilst the CCGs could not give an indication, at this stage, when the work would resume, they undertook to recommence it as soon as it was safe to do so.

In response to a request, the CCGs Accountable Officer undertook to share the information received during the above-mentioned listening exercise, together with details of cost savings achieved from the revised policy, with the Committee, in the interim.

Their next meeting will be held on Monday 26 October 2020 at 10.00 am Virtual/on-line.