

**Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee – Monday 30 November 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 30 November 2020 - link to Agenda and reports pack:-

<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=871&MId=11772&Ver=4>

Agenda Item	District(s)/Borough(s)
<p>West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust - Reconfiguration of Staffordshire Community First Responders Scheme - Update</p> <p>The Committee received a presentation/report from representatives of West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust updating them on the operation of the Community First Responders (CFR) Service in the County. This followed scrutiny of decisions taken by the Trust in April 2020 to make changes to the:- (i) vehicles used by CFRs; (ii) range of drugs routinely carried by CFRs in their voluntary capacity and; (iii) training received, and qualifications attained by CRFs, at their meeting in June 2020.</p> <p>The meeting was also attended by representatives of Staffordshire CRFs who outlined the impact of the changes from their perspective.</p> <p>Members heard that whilst 37 CFRs had resigned since implementation of the above-mentioned changes, further applications had been received from prospective participants, 97 of which had been shortlisted. The Trust re-affirmed their commitment to the scheme which they said would continue to be an integral part of their service to Staffordshire residents. In addition, they highlighted their performance against national key indicators which had been maintained notwithstanding the changes and additional pressures arising from the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic. However, they sought assistance from Members in providing evidence where service standards had been compromised as a result of the changes.</p> <p>The representatives of the Trust went on to re-assure the Committee of their willingness to improve dialogue with all stakeholders (including CFRs) and that the operation of the Scheme would be kept under review so that any further changes found to be necessary would be made in the interests of improving patient care.</p>	<p>All Districts and Boroughs</p>

Digital Inclusion/Exclusion

The Committee also gave scrutiny to the work of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources in tackling digital exclusion and promoting digital inclusion to health services by residents in Staffordshire. The County Council had compiled a digital Exclusion Action Plan containing practical measures to promote greater connectivity, accessibility, skills and communication for delivery during 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Members highlighted the need for closer scrutiny of the various initiatives included in the draft Digital Exclusion Action Plan 2020/21 to ensure that they were fully aligned with the County Council's aims and objectives. They also drew attention to changes announced in the Government's Spending Review which might impact on the roll out of Broadband connectivity to those communities not currently served. The Committee recognised that connection speed and Broadband width were key to ensuring digital inclusion in the health and care. However, whilst both factors were not always within the County Council's control, wider digital infrastructure requirements had been included in the Plan for co-ordination with Partners, as necessary. Members also expressed concern about the level of intergenerational support available for residents who were not currently IT savvy, during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. They recognised the valuable contribution that the younger generation could make in sharing skills and knowledge and looked forward to a time when schools could re-engage for the benefit of the wider community. These issues were acknowledged by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources who reassured them of his commitment to the on-going development of the Action Plan. In addition, an all Member virtual seminar would be held during the early part of 2021 in which they could contribute further having regard to their health remit. The Cabinet Member also spoke of the County Council's participation in 'NHS X' which involved the trialling of mobile portals in residential care settings in order to support the digital transformation of care and reduction of social isolation.

All Districts and
Boroughs

Their next meeting will be held on Monday 1 February 2021 at 10.00 am, Virtual/on-line.