

Council

XXX 2021

Report of the Chair

Annual Report of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Exempt Information

None.

Purpose

To provide full Council with an overview of the work and activities undertaken by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee during the year 2020/21. The draft Annual Report was received by the Committee at its final meeting in the last municipal year and any updates were agreed by the Chair following that meeting.

Executive Summary

This report covers the following:

- Chair's overview
- Working Groups
- Recommendations made in the year to Cabinet
- Committee Terms of Reference
- Membership and Attendance
- Training & Effectiveness
- Work Plan
- Resource implications

Recommendations

Council is requested to:

- Note the Annual Report of the Committee;

Chair's Overview

This year, as result of the COVID-19 pandemic, has seen all the Committee's meetings move to online (remote) meetings. To accommodate this, careful consideration has been given to agenda content for each meeting and to the scheduling of additional meetings or moving meetings where necessary.

The Committee met 7 times in the 2020/21 municipal year.

This Committee has within its remit the scrutiny of the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities by scrutinising the performance of the Cabinet and external providers in securing a safe environment in which local people can reach their full potential and live longer, healthier lives.

Staffordshire County Council, as the upper tier authority responsible for social care in Staffordshire, has the powers to review and scrutinise any matters relating to the planning, provision of health services in its area (Staffordshire) and works with local district and borough councils. The focus for Tamworth Borough Council's health scrutiny function is on local matters with an impact specific to Tamworth. To aid the coordination of activities, a representative of this Council's scrutiny committee is a member of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee (this is currently the Chair, Councillor Ford, or his substitute) and a member of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee is a member of this Council's Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (for this municipal year that has been County Councillor Tina Clements).

In terms of the work of the Committee during 2020/21 municipal year, this has included:

1. Policy Development and /or Review

This is where the Committee has contributed to the Council's policy development processes and / or where the Committee has considered the implementation of policies and feeding back scrutiny views to Cabinet.

The Committee has reviewed, and (in some cases) made Policy Development recommendations in the following areas:

(a) Housing Strategy

The Committee identified from the Forward Plan that this Strategy was an area relevant for the Committee's scrutiny, as a pre-decision item and accordingly requested details prior to the anticipated Council consideration in October 2020.

The Committee received a detailed update from the Executive Director, Communities, the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and members of her team at its October 2020 meeting on the Housing Strategy which ahead of its submission to Cabinet. This policy would inform the Council's role in increasing housing supply, place shaping and promoting housing in the creation of safe, thriving and sustainable communities and supporting economic growth. The Committee sought clarification in certain areas and made recommendations to Cabinet, in particular in respect of the specific wards which could be included for targeted support based on level of need.

(b) Green Agenda / Climate Change Update

At the January 2021 meeting the Committee was updated on the progress made and the anticipated next step following the Council's adoption in November 2019 of the Declaration to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2050.

The Committee recognised the importance of there being an assessment of the Council's carbon footprint which could then lead to the identification of areas which could be targeted to reduce and/or offset the footprint and map out the process. The Committee considered and received clarification on the role of potential wider borough activities and the

infrastructure to support that, such as electric vehicle charging points which was an area of focus for the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee, the role of the Local Plan and planning policy, and the role of the Council's housing stock.

The Committee made recommendations to Cabinet regarding the setting up of a working group involving the relevant Portfolio Holder, Scrutiny Chair and member of the Opposition, together with a commitment to engage with the public following production of the baseline report.

2. Monitoring (scrutiny)

This is where the Committee has undertaken monitoring of the Council's and external providers performance and progress. In particular the Terms of Reference for this Committee set out the specific areas for scrutiny which include scrutiny of the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities by scrutinising the performance of the Cabinet and external providers in securing a safe environment in which local people can reach their full potential and live longer, healthier lives. To assist in the achievement of this the Committee's remit includes scrutinising matters related to:

- (a) Statutory Health Obligation
- (b) Leisure
- (c) Voluntary Sector
- (d) Non HRA Housing
- (e) Disability Service
- (f) Social Care
- (g) Elderly and Vulnerable People Services

Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

Over the year 2020/21, there have been regular written and verbal updates provided to the Committee on the scrutiny work of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee which included:

- (a) An overview of the update provided to the Staffordshire Select Committee on the West Midlands Ambulance Services University NHS Foundation Trust in terms of changes to Community First Responders (CFRs), as well as details of the further update to the Staffordshire Select Committee 5 months later, which was additionally attended by representatives of the Staffordshire CFRs;
- (b) An update on the mental health burden of the COVID 19 pandemic in Staffordshire from the relevant NHS trusts as well as an update on the impact of COVID-19 on Staffordshire Care Homes and the work the County Council had implemented to assist;
- (c) A resume of the update provided from CCGs and hospital trusts on the backlog of hospital appointments arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the steps taken to restoring services following the first wave;
- (d) Details of the presentation provided to the Staffordshire Select Committee on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic and Winter Plans for 2020/21 season from the Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), local hospital trusts and the county council;

- (e) Changes to the Adult Learning Disability Community Offer which were proposed to be recommended to Staffordshire County Council's Cabinet;
- (f) An overview of the restoration of CCG commissioned services following the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (g) Details of work at the County Council level on Digital inclusion / exclusion in relation to health services;
- (h) Further update on the development of an Integrated Care System for Staffordshire;
- (i) Details of the update provided to the Staffordshire Select Committee on the implementation of the COVID-19 Vaccination programme; and
- (j) An update on Care Homes and the Impact of COVID-19.

Consideration of the Forward Plan

At each meeting the Committee received and considered the Forward Plan to assist in its identification of whether there are any forthcoming key decisions which this Committee determined that it would scrutinise, either pre decision or post decision. Examples of areas which were identified for the Committee's scrutiny as a result of regular Forward Plan consideration were; the Housing Strategy and the Climate Change Declaration Update. However, many of the areas identified for scrutiny were not matters which were identified from the Forward Plan.

Safeguarding bi-annual updates

This Committee was updated bi-annually on the safeguarding of children and adults at risk of abuse. The Committee meetings were attended by the Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Community Safety and the Partnership Vulnerability Officer. The first update in this municipal year was slightly delayed and received in December 2020 Committee meeting. The second update was received at the April 2021 meeting.

The safeguarding updates focussed on:

- The continued operation of the service throughout the pandemic;
- Stoke and Staffs Safeguarding Children Board as well as Staffs and Stoke Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board and district partnership subgroups.
- Safeguarding training including the work undertaken to roll out the development of new online e-Learning modules, as well as work to review the taxi driver training in light of the Statutory Taxi & private Hire Vehicle Standards published in July 2020;
- The work of the Multi-agency Child exploitation Panel to identify children at risk of exploitation
- Guidance had been recently issued on the PREVENT agenda which would lead to a review of procedures to reflect the new guidance.

Council Response to COVID-19 – Vulnerable People

At the Committee meeting in July 2020, the Portfolio Holder, Neighbourhoods and the Assistant Directors for Neighbourhoods and Partnerships attended the Committee to provide an update to the Committee on the actions taken to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing actions around the most vulnerable people in the local community. This update covered:

- The immediate response from various anchor organisations which locally mobilised support to vulnerable groups;
- The deployment of Council resources to support the anchor organisations;
- The coordination work of the Local Resilience Forum;
- The tailored support for homeless people;
- The successful lottery bid for resources to support the ongoing support over the next six months.

The Committee questioned and sought clarifications in certain areas, in particular interactions with Staffordshire County Council, the work underway to manage any second wave of the pandemic, research work commissioned, the proactive support to homelessness people and the local situation on domestic abuse during the lockdown.

Impact on Young People of COVID-19

At its September 2020 meeting, the Committee received an update from the Chief Executive of Staffordshire Council of voluntary Youth Services (SCYVS) on the work undertaken and the impact on young people during the COVID-19 period. The work of SCYVS continued in supporting partners and signposting information at a local level. Issues which young people had pre pandemic and continued, and at times were exacerbated, during the pandemic were highlighted which included issues around:

- mental health,
- education and employment,
- early years intervention, and
- inactivity and obesity

Recent research and recommendations made were highlighted to members, as well as a local consultation which was open and which would inform the commissioning of services for young people. Issues of inequality were discussed as well as the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on young people in terms of education and employment.

Following consideration of this item the Committee agreed to form a working group, further details of which are set out below.

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Planning

At its September 2020 meeting, the Committee received an update from the Portfolio Holder and relevant Officers on:

- Response during COVID - 19 to homelessness
- Challenges arising from government legislation &/or guidance ending around furlough scheme and ban on evictions
- Range of housing solution
- The delivery of the Allocations Policy to programme in June 2020.
- Strategies to encourage the sustaining of private tenancies between landlords and tenants.
- The Prevention, Intervention and Recovery process implemented and which will be supported through the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.
- The process followed and next steps for approval of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

Whilst no recommendations were made to Cabinet by the Committee some observations were presented to Cabinet by the Chair including to minimise the use of acronyms in reports.

Reopening High Streets Safely

At its September 2020 meeting the Committee received a presentation from the Portfolio Holder and relevant Officers on the work undertaken to reopen the town centre safely following the initial lockdown in spring 2020. The Committee heard that a highly visible presence by the Shop Safe team had supported local businesses in re-opening as well as highly visible signage. This had developed the Council's knowledge of the business community and increased engagement had forged positive relationships. An update was also provided on the reopening of sports and leisure facilities.

Clinical Commissioning Groups Update on the impact of COVID-19 and on winter preparedness

At the October 2020 meeting, the Committee received an update from representative of the local CCGs on the impact of COVID-19 on planned care, including operation waiting lists and outpatient appointments, cancer treatments (screening, waiting lists and diagnosis) and a brief overview of winter preparedness / plans. The Committee considered and sought clarification from the CCG attendees on various areas including the impact of COVID-19 on the funding of NHS trusts, the collaborative working arrangements which had developed, patient and staff responses to the increased digitisation of health service delivery, the balance between managing the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing service delivery for other health conditions, and the prioritisation process for more routine health services.

University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust

At the October 2020 meeting, the Committee received an update from representative of the NHS trust on how the COVID-19 response had been managed, including:

- the increase in intensive care capacity,
- the concentration and consolidation of staff and services at acute sites, whilst maintaining minor injury units at the local Sir Robert Peel and Samuel Johnson community hospitals
- the reduction in A&E attendances
- The initial impact on the referral to treatment times, which had started to improve but remained a challenge

An update was provided on the delivery of new services at the Sir Robert Peel, where such services had not materialised as quickly as expected due to COVID-19, although good progress in the frailty pathway had.

The Committee considered and sought clarification from the NHS trust attendee on various areas including the testing of the trust's staff for COVID-19, the methodology for determining which health services are provided locally and the reasons behind the drop in attendances at minor injury units.

Headteacher update

The headteacher update which had been planned for the March 2021 meeting was deferred to the next municipal year.

Overview of Tamworth Advice Centre Services

At the March 2021 meeting the Committee received an update from the Assistant Director, partnerships and the Community partnerships Manager in respect of the Tamworth Advice Centre Services, the provision of which was currently contracted to Citizens Advice Mid Mercia (CAMM). It was reported that the contract with CAMM was due to expire in March 2022 and therefore Officers were seeking authorisation from Cabinet to re-procure the service.

The Committee received an update on the financial wellbeing, debt and generalist advice services which were provided and which were accessed through three routes:

- Self referral by Tamworth residents
- Homelessness team client referrals
- Tenancy team client referrals

Learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed including the use of telephone appointments and other online / digital interactions and the increased complexity presented with some client referrals.

Updates from External bodies

The Committee has also during the year received updates from the following external bodies (further detail provided above), with a focus on service delivery in the Tamworth area:

- (a) SCVYS update from its Chief Executive
- (b) CCGs on the impact of COVID-19 and winter preparedness
- (c) University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust update on local services.

Working Groups

The Committee agreed to form Task & Finish Groups in the following areas:

- (a) Impact of COVID-19 on Young People comprised:

Councillor Brindley
Councillor Greatorex
Councillor Peaple

This group produced an interim report to the December 2020 Committee meeting and a final (phase 1) report was made to the April 2021 meeting.

Recommendations made to and Responses received from Cabinet

Recommendations were made to Cabinet on the following Reports and Cabinet's response is highlighted:

Scrutiny meeting item	Cabinet Response
Council Response to COVID-19 – Vulnerable People 14 th July 2020 meeting	Cabinet agreed that a joint letter from all the Leaders of each political group and the Chief Executive be issued to thank all anchor organisations involved in the

	response to COVID-19 in the Borough. Cabinet meeting – 30 th July 2020.
Consideration of Draft Housing Strategy 20 th October 2020 meeting	Cabinet agreed that the proposed actions contained within the draft Housing Strategy be endorsed and could go on to become the final strategy with the amendment that Stoneydelph and Glascote to be included as areas where funding/support should be focussed as they contain areas which have historically had high deprivation. Cabinet meeting – 22 nd October 2020
Green Agenda – Climate Change update 26 th January 2021 meeting	Cabinet agreed that once full council had elected a new Leader, at its meeting on 23 February 2021, to take leadership on 1 March 2021, Councillor D Cook would write to the new Leader to recommend and supporting scrutiny's recommendation that we designate a portfolio lead for climate change and that portfolio lead also has a member champion and that we also then look to let the portfolio lead and member champion form a working group to meet the aspirations of scrutiny and look to consult with the public and Cabinet approved the recommendation to report back to Cabinet and the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the outcomes of Stage 1, when ready. Cabinet meeting - 18 th February 2021

Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee Terms of Reference are set out in Article 6 in the Constitution which can be accessed [here](#).

The Primary Scope, the General Role and the Specific functions detailed there have been largely achieved through the Committee's work this year.

Members and Members Attendance

The following sets out the membership and attendance of members at the 7 Committee meetings during 2020/21. Councillor M Oates joined the Committee in August 2020, and Councillor R Kingstone stepped down at that time, and therefore their attendances are shown out of the number of meetings they were eligible to attend.

Member	Number of meetings attended
Richard Ford (Chair)	
Paul Brindley (Vice-Chair)	
Dennis Box	
John Faulkner	
Moira Greateorex	
Richard Kingstone	1 (out of 1)
Michael Oates	(out of 6)
Sheree People	
Steven Pritchard	
Roy Rogers	
County Cllr Tina Clements (Staffordshire County Council representative on the Committee)	N/A

Training and Effectiveness

A Chairs and Vice-Chairs online training session was held in early June 2020. This training was provided by an external provider and focussed on chairing skills generally and, more particularly, chairing remote (online) meetings.

In early November 2020, a Successful Scrutiny online training session was held. This was led by a different external provider and the workshop was designed to bring together scrutiny councillors, cabinet members, other members and senior officers to consider how to ensure scrutiny is successful and effective in Tamworth. It provided an overview of key aspects of successful scrutiny, including clarifying purpose and roles, understanding critical processes such as developing a strategic direction, prioritising a work programme and ensuring impact.

Work Plan - Items identified for next municipal year

The existing Committee Work Plan is appended as Appendix 1.

Please note that it is expected that the activities of the Committee may continue to be impacted by the ongoing COVID19 pandemic.

Resource Implications

None identified.

Report Author

Councillor R Ford
Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Committee’s Work Plan

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