

**Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee – Monday 16 March 2021  
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 16 March 2021 - link to Agenda and reports pack:-

<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=871&MId=11774&Ver=4>

Agenda Item	District(s)/Borough(s)
<p><b>Covid-19 Vaccination Programme – Update</b></p> <p>The Committee received an oral update on the implementation of the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme in the County. They were encouraged to learn that:- (i) according to data recently published by the Health Service Journal, Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups had the highest level of vaccination uptake in the over 65 year old age group in the Country; (ii) as of 16 March 2021 468,000 vaccine first doses and 38,000 second doses had been administered; (iii) all Care Homes residents in the County had been offered their first vaccine dose resulting in a 94% take-up rate; (iv) vaccinations were to be offered to homeless people in Staffordshire, as a priority, following recent initial roll-out in the Stoke-on-Trent City area; (v) Pop-up clinics aimed at maximising take-up in Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities were also being implemented.</p>	<p>All Districts and Boroughs</p>
<p><b>The Journey Towards an Integrated Care System – Stakeholder Update</b></p> <p>The Committee received an update from Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) regarding proposals for the development of an Integrated Care System in the County which included merger of the six CCGs into one strategic commissioning body. They heard that following all 147 practices having voted in favour of the merger, NHS England and NHS Improvement had approved a request for the application for merger to proceed. As part of this process, the CCGs had recently launched a joint consultation entitled, “Our Journey to Become a Single Strategic Commissioning Organisation” to learn of the views of key stakeholders. The Committee emphasised the need for the above-mentioned changes to achieve real improvements in healthcare provision and undertook to engage further with the NHS to ensure transparency and accountability for performance, as necessary.</p>	<p>All Districts and Boroughs</p>
<p><b>Care Homes for Older People: implications of COVID for Council Strategy</b></p> <p>The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing regarding the impact of Covid-19 on the County Council’s strategy for provision of care homes for the elderly in Staffordshire. They learned</p>	<p>All Districts and Boroughs</p>

that prior to the pandemic the Authority had implemented various measures in order to support the development of the care home market, increase supply and ensure that the needs of older people could continue to be met at a cost-effective price. However, whilst the immediate impact of Covid-19 was now abating, long-term issues such as:- (i) the continued need for enhanced infection and control measures; (ii) ongoing sporadic outbreaks of the virus; (iii) difficulties in recruitment and retention of care home staff and; (iv) lower bed occupancy rates, were expected to further increase costs and reduce the commercial viability of homes. Therefore, projections of future demand were to be remodelled during Spring 2021 with a view to publishing a revised approach to influence the market later in the year. In response, the Committee sought clarification of various aspects of the Authority's existing commissioning arrangements, noted their intentions regarding the forthcoming review and undertook to give further scrutiny to the revised approach, at the appropriate time, with a view to ensuring necessary improvements in service provision.

### **Together We're Better – Digital Programme Update and Key Learnings from Covid-19 Pandemic**

The Committee considered a report of the Director, Together We're Better (Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent's Sustainability and transformation Partnership) updating them on the roll-out of NHS's Digital Programme in Staffordshire which took account key learnings from the Covid-19 pandemic. They heard that the pace of change with regard to the use of digital technology by Health had been accelerated by the pandemic and that many valuable lessons had been learned. However, owing to the extensiveness of the NHS's Digital Work Programme envisaged for 2021/22, they decided that consideration of any further scrutiny required should be deferred until their Work Programme Planning Session for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

Their next meeting will be held on Monday 7 June 2021 at 10.00 am, venue to be confirmed.