



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
HELD ON 13th JULY 2021**

PRESENT: Councillors D Maycock (Vice-Chair in the Chair), P Brindley, J Harper, J Jones, S Peale, R Rogers and J Wade

GUEST Susan Unwin, Consultant Nurse and Approved Clinician, Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust

The following officers were present: Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships)

Apologies received from: Councillor(s) R Claymore, M J Greateorex and County Councillor T Jay

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Claymore and M Greateorex and County Councillor T Jay. Councillor D Maycock chaired the meeting.

12 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2021 were approved as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor S Peale and seconded by Councillor J Harper)

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair reported that there was a Long Covid Assessment Clinic which residents of Tamworth could access if they continued to struggle with symptoms

post Covid which had not improved through self management. Please see the link to the NHS website below:

<https://www.mpft.nhs.uk/service-users-carers/coronavirus-information/coronavirus-resources>,

Access to the Long Covid Assessment Clinic service was via referral from the GP.

15 PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY PROVISION IN TAMWORTH

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Ms Jo Sands, Assistant Director Partnerships and Ms Susan Unwin, Consultant Nurse and Approved Clinician at the Midland Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT). The Chair reported that Upkar Jheeta, Head of Primary Care Development & MH Programme Lead (South Staffordshire) from MPFT was unable to attend this evenings meeting. The Chair invited the Assistant Director Partnerships and the Consultant Nurse and Approved Clinician to provide a brief overview of the mental health services available in Tamworth.

The Assistant Director reported that The Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-23 identified vulnerable persons and contextual safeguarding (including drugs, alcohol and mental health) as a priority and aligned with the Council purpose to help tackle the causes of inequality and increase opportunities, help tackle causes and effects of poverty and financial hardship and help build resilient communities.

The Council continued to work with statutory and voluntary sector partners who were responsible for the delivery of services to support the vulnerable, especially as a result of the current pandemic.

The Assistant Director Partnerships reported that she was a member of the Southeast Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Healthy Communities Partnership, initially formed to bring together key Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) partners with key NHS and local authority organisations in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The purpose of the partnership was to work to address health inequalities by working with residents through community asset based approaches (nurturing the strengths and resources of people and communities) in Southeast Staffordshire.

Tamworth was also represented by the Partnerships team on relevant Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Commissioners Office for Police Fire and Crime meetings working to address wider community safety and vulnerability concerns.

The Assistant Director reported that mental health had been highlighted as a national area of concern and that it was a focus of need in Tamworth and a priority across all partners.

The Consultant Nurse and Approved Clinician provided an overview of the current configuration of mental health services in Staffordshire as well as the transformation model underway and the partnerships involved in that.

In terms of the services delivered these spanned Adult Mental Health Community services, including increased access to psychosocial therapies, memory teams, dementia and memory services, crisis resolution and Core 24 (liaison mental health teams in acute hospitals (Burton hospital)), as well as Adult In-Patient Services, which for Tamworth residents were based at St George's hospital and included Dementia in-patient wards and MOD beds as well a Social Care to support hospital discharge.

The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Community Mental Health Transformation Model aimed to proactively identify local population needs, gaps and emerging demand, using local knowledge in developing priorities and inequalities in health. There would be no wrong door to access services, with a single point of access to services, enabling self-referral and a reduced threshold to access care. There would be a drive for NHS providers to work with all voluntary services to remove boundaries. The model would involve partnerships with social care, substance misuse, housing and the voluntary sector to seek to consider patients holistically understanding that multiple factors impact on mental health and to seek to provide services to patients to support in their recovery in ways that were most effective for them. This was expected to involve building on local assets which existed and addressing gaps, as well as integrating and mutually supporting services to provide a broad rehabilitation and recovery pathway for patients. There would be specific pathway opportunities for community rehabilitation, eating disorders and personality disorders.

It was reported that the Strategy involved engagement and collaboration to hear all views, assessing health data locally to understand areas of deprivation, co-producing high quality services (being informed by service users) and delivering, with partners, high quality care. The Consultant Nurse and Approved Clinician provided an overview of how service users could access support (via GP, mental health practitioner, the integrated response hub, or via self-referral) how needs would be screened and supported, including linking with appropriate support such as housing, debt advice, social prescribing and substance misuse advice, as well as ensuring physical health checks were completed and followed up, and how specialist interventions could be provided where greater support was required.

The Committee sought and received the following clarifications:

- The extent of the additional funding which had been made available.
- Communication of the existence of this support as well as how to access it was considered to be key, and the importance of making sure the communication reached potential service users. The need to use a variety of communication methods and not rely on digital communication was highlighted. It was suggested that posters at relevant sites would assist in communicating this message, as well as any use of digital signage within the town centre if that were to be developed to enable campaigns to be highlighted. It was further highlighted that there would be value in

engaging with the voluntary sector locally who could provide meaningful communication routes to communities and the extent to which these routes had been fully explored within Tamworth.

- The role of the PCSOs in this area and their access to mental health colleagues was raised and it was reported that partnership meetings, involving the police, were held weekly which could assist. It was further reported that there would soon be a mental health worker based within the Tamworth Advice Centre to provide support.
- The training available to council staff in this area, where it was reported that all staff received Level 1 safeguarding training with additional training, including mental health first aid training, provided to staff in certain roles.
- The importance of being able to sign post to a clear first access point for either service users, or those with concerns around others with possible mental health issues, was raised. The value of mental health first aid training in the community was highlighted. The Consultant Nurse advised that the Access Team (based in Lichfield) was available 24/7. Furthermore support and literature was available from Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Cares, if there were safeguarding concerns for any vulnerable adults.
- Whether further details of the granular understanding of local issues could be provided and how quickly there would be plans developed to address any issues specifically identified. It was reported that one of the outcomes for Tamworth of the heat tool exercise undertaken was the decision to fund support into the Tamworth Advice Centre, around debt management issues.
- Clarification was sought on whether the Council website content could be improved to help publicise the Access Team telephone number and to link through to the relevant services on MPFT website.
- How service users were being engaged in this process, where it was reported that current service users were being engaged through service users network and carers organisations and ensuring that there was co-working and co-production of the services.
- How consideration of veterans needs was being accommodated in this process, where the Consultant Nurse and Approved Clinician reported that she would take that query back.
- How the lowering of the threshold to access services would be communication to GPs, where it was reported that GPs were engaged in the processes including with the addition of ARRS workers to local primary care networks.

The Committee thanked the Assistant Director Partnerships and the Consultant Nurse and Approved Clinician for their attendance and presentation and looked forward to welcoming them back in September.

16 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

None to report to this meeting.

17 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED TO THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM CABINET OR COUNCIL

No matters had been referred to this Committee.

18 UPDATE ON HEALTH RELATED MATTERS CONSIDERED BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chair reported that the previous meeting of Staffordshire County Council Health & Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee had taken place on 5 July 2021. At that meeting, the Councillor Claymore had sought clarification, as requested by this Committee, on the uptake of vaccination by homeless people. The response was that when the majority of homeless people had been in temporary accommodation the vaccination teams had been able to locate and offer the first vaccinations leading to good uptake, however, the update for the second vaccinations had fallen off due to difficulties in locating people.

The Digest of the relevant business considered at the meeting on 5 July 2021 was published and made available to members and the Chair reported that the main item of relevance to this Committee appeared to be the Access to GP services item, where it was recognised that this was a Staffordshire wide issue, which the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was taking steps to ease.

19 FORWARD PLAN

The Chair highlighted two items from the Forward Plan:

1. Leisure Services; and
2. Homelessness Winter Relief 2021/22

The Committee agreed that it would like to consider the Leisure Services item prior to any final Cabinet decision, and further that Homelessness was already an area of focus for this Committee and therefore the above item should fit within its work plan.

20 HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY WORK PLAN - 2021/22

The Committee updated the work plan as follows:

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan

Work Plan 2021 – 2022		
Work Area Themes for the Year		
1. Mental Wellbeing		
Topics	Target Meeting	Additional information
Community mental health services transformation – pathways to care in Tamworth	23 rd September 2021	Invitation extended to Assistant Director Partnership & representative of Midland Partnership Foundation Trust
Leisure Services	date to be confirmed	
Substance abuse / addition		
Young people’s experiences in Tamworth		To capture the working groups learnings
Loneliness / isolation		
2. Homelessness		
Topics	Target Meeting	Additional information
Overview of services available to rough sleepers / homeless people in Tamworth		Suggested invitation to representatives of Heart of Tamworth and/ or other relevant voluntary organisations
Housing Allocations Policy – post implementation review		Suggested invitation to Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods
Homelessness Winter Relief Update	19 th October 2021	Invitation to Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods

Other suggested topics for Committee consideration		
Green and open spaces		
Attainment and Skills in Tamworth		
Specific topics to feed in to Staffordshire County Council (separate from main Themes)		
Topic	Date of planned Staffs consideration	Additional information
Wider determinants of health in Tamworth, including diet / food vulnerability / healthy eating / social prescribing		Extend an invitation to voluntary sector to understand current initiatives eg Community Together CIC
Strategic Transformation Programme (STP)		To tie in with County consideration when dates for County consideration known
Possible Working Group topics		
Armed Forces Covenant		Understand the current Staffordshire wide and Tamworth position

Upcoming Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Meetings
23 rd September 2021
19 th October 2021
20 th November 2021
25 th January 2022
29 th March 2022

Upcoming Relevant County Council Meetings

**Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Staffordshire
County Council**

- 9 August 2021
- 13 September 2021
- 25 October 2021
- 29 November 2021
- 31 January 2022
- 15 March 2022
- 19 April 2022

Chair