

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday 29 November 2021 and Monday 13 December 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 Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 29 November and 13 December - links to Agenda and reports pack:

[Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 29 November 2021](#)
[Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 13 December 2021](#)

The webcast of the meeting can also be viewed following the above link to mod.gov.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 29 November 2021

The Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following matters:

Overview of Public Health Outcomes and Services

The Committee considered public health statutory duties, performance data and how services were delivered. They considered the work of supportive communities in prevention and early intervention, the wider determinants of health in all that public health do and determined that health and wellbeing was everyone's responsibility.

Members highlighted the role of District and Borough Councils to look at local plans and consider the 'health in all approach' across the whole system. They agreed to look at diabetes and obesity as topic for further scrutiny and asked for further information on public health funding, backlog of social care assessments and information on vaping risk. Public Health work with Children's Services will be considered at a separate session in February 2022.

Covid-19 Update

The Covid update provided current information on case and testing rates, vaccine roll out including Covid, flu and booster jabs, and information about the new variant Omicron to provide assurance that Covid-19 was being carefully monitored and measures were in place and adapting to need, including targeted work to encourage take up and

additional sites to roll out vaccines.

The Committee highlighted the need for Members to continue to encourage people to take up vaccines, get tested and to stay safe in their areas by retweeting and promoting communications.

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System Pressures:

The three items in the meeting were interlinked and clearly highlighted the knock-on effects of pressures in the system as we moved into the Winter period. The seniority of witnesses and expertise in the room to present and respond to questions was valued and demonstrated the importance of the strong partnership approach and the commitment to address the issues.

Primary Care Access

Committee scrutinised data and detail in a report and presentation relating to improving general practice access and the GP action plan. Committee appreciated the work being done to progress the action plan and the approach to let data drive and focus on the actions. The future plan and work on performance indicators was progressing and Committee would continue to monitor progress. Committee gave support for zero tolerance of abuse on staff and highlighted the need for members to communicate this message and point public in the direction for information available to them re primary care access, how to access the range of professionals and to find the right access for them.

Committee added an item to the work programme to consider the estate, asked for further information relating to the vaccine plan for roll out of booster vaccines announced on 12 December, asked to see the Primary Care Strategy and to receive a further update on Primary Care Access in 6 months.

Urgent and Emergency Care

Partners from Integrated Care System (ICS), Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS), University Hospitals Midlands North (UHMN), University Hospitals Derby and Burton (UHDB) and Royal Wolverhampton Trust (RWT) were in attendance to provide detail and context to the paper and to respond to questions relating to the current pressures across the system. The report moved away from organisational boundaries and looked in detail at three key stages: pre-hospital, in hospital and discharge.

Members raised concerns about the impact on residents, they understood the priorities, issues raised by partners and the impact on services. Committee welcomed the level of detail in the report and the responses to show how partners,

system wide, were working together to find solutions. They highlighted the benefits of Community Rapid Intervention Scheme (CRIS) in reducing numbers of people having to go to hospital and the opportunity to roll it out further, the need for public to use 111 service for advice and guidance to the best service for them and the need to have patience in these times of extreme pressure on the system. The Committee asked for the system wide action plan to be shared. Committee highlighted the need to mobilise all available resources, to get neighbourhoods and communities involved to help look out for elderly and vulnerable neighbours and to highlight members roles to make the public aware of the current situation and alternatives to seek and get help. It was important for the public to know how to get the right support and for the public to know that if they were in need of medical attention they should not delay in contacting NHS services.

Home Care

The twin pressures of rising demand and challenges with the workforce were national problems. The 20% increase in demand since July had created pressure in terms of supply workforce and that it was getting more difficult to recruit staff to address the backlog in people asking for homecare and to increase homecare supply. The system pressure challenge was to move people through the system as efficiently as possible. Committee considered mitigations to the immediate pressures, the medium and long term approaches and noted the actions being implemented to support the sector and increase capacity, especially over the winter period.

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Their next meeting will be held on Monday 31 January 2022 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.

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