

Council

24th May 2022

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 2021/22. 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; and
- Receive the Committee's recommendation that the Committee make Mental Health & Wellbeing a priority for the 2022/23 municipal year.

Chair's Overview

The Committee met seven times in the 2021/22 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 Staffordshire Health & Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (this is currently the Chair, Councillor Rosey Claymore, or her substitute) and a member of the Staffordshire Health & Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee is a member of this Council's Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (for this municipal year that has been County Councillor Thomas Jay).

In terms of the work of the Committee during 2021/22 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) State of Tamworth Debate. Following the full Council debate, the Committee considered whether any of the discussion points raised at the State of Tamworth Debate held on 9th March 2021 should be developed into further work plan items. The Committee considered that the following main areas from that Debate would be considered throughout the municipal year as the work plan developed:

- Access to green and open spaces;
- The voluntary sector;
- Mental wellbeing, including ways of working post COVID
- Homelessness;
- Attainment and skills

(b) Delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants

This Committee received, considered and supported the report on Disabled Facilities Grants prior to a decision by Cabinet. The Committee requested that a further update on this matter be provided to a future Committee meeting.

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

Staffordshire Health & Care Overview and Scrutiny (SH&COS) Committee

Over the year 2021/22, there have been regular written and verbal updates provided to the Committee on the activities and discussions at the Staffordshire Health & Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee which included:

- (a) Areas of focus for the SH&COS Committee for 2021/22
- (b) Regular COVID-19 Updates, including on the Vaccination Programme, on case rates, hospitalisations and other relevant aspects;
- (c) Restoration and Recovery plans, following the pandemic, from the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and NHS providers, including the acute hospital trusts.
- (d) Access to General Practice / Primary Care Access updates which provided context, activities and actions put in place during the pandemic to support general practice, and a detailed action plan for general practice access, and which remained a focus through the year.
- (e) A specific meeting scheduled to consider the health impacts arising from Walleys Quarry, which resulted in a recommendation to write to Government to highlight the length of time odour emissions from Walley's Quarry Landfill site have had, and continue to have, adverse impact on the health and wellbeing of residents in Staffordshire and to request intervention in this matter. A SH&COS Committee meeting later in the year received a further update and continued to monitor relevant trends;
- (f) George Bryan Centre, where the SH&COS Committee was updated on the clinical evidence and the evidence gained from public engagement. The final proposals were to be considered by the SH&COS Committee.
- (g) Maternity services, where updates were provided on the temporary closure of free standing mid-wife led birthing services in Staffordshire, and the next steps. The final proposals were to be considered by the SH&COS Committee.
- (h) Transforming Urgent and Emergency Care update, including the engagement plan. A further update was provided on Urgent and Emergency care from commissioners and providers which looked at three key stages; pre-hospital, in hospital and discharge and the importance of the public knowing how to get the right support.
- (i) Quality Assurance of Independent Hospitals providing care for patients with Mental Health and /or Learning Disabilities which outlined the steps introduced to ensure that patients were safe and receiving the best possible care.
- (j) Performance Overview Dashboard which focussed on referral times, diagnostic timelines, metrics and information relating to Urgent and Emergency care and winter pressures;
- (k) Overview of Public Health Outcomes where the SH&COS Committee considered public health duties, performance data and how services were delivered, and the importance of supportive communities and early intervention, as well as the role of "health in all approach" across the whole system.

- (l) Home Care, and the twin pressures of rising demand and challenges with the workforce, which were issues nationally.
- (m) Further update on the progress in the creation of the Integrated Care System for Staffordshire;
- (n) Care Home update which provided an overview of the care homes situation in Staffordshire and which covered a range of commissioning initiatives underway which would be reported to Staffordshire County Council Cabinet in the next municipal year.
- (o) Clarifications over the provision of interventions available at smoking cessation clinics
- (p) Support in communicating with Clinical Commissioning Groups in terms of the re-opening of local GP surgeries
- (q) Integrated Care System (ICS) update relating to the progress in the creation of the ICS

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; Housing Allocations Policy, Leisure Services, Homelessness and Winter Relief Arrangements, and the Disabled Facilities Grant Report. However, one of the key themes identified by the Committee for its consideration throughout the year related to mental wellbeing and did not directly relate to items identified on 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 relevant Portfolio Holder, the Assistant Director, Partnerships and the Partnership Vulnerability Officer. The first update in this municipal year was received in October 2021 Committee meeting. The second update was received at the March 2022 meeting.

The safeguarding updates focussed on:

- Referrals, in terms of numbers, made through the year;
- The completion of audits related to the Council's activities in supporting staff learning and development to recognise any abuse of children and in the priority areas;
- Safeguarding training including training to assist local taxi drivers as well as suicide prevention training delivered by Staffordshire MIND;
- The work of the Multi-agency Child exploitation Panel to identify children at risk of exploitation, and the work with other local partners to identify trends and share experience on modern slavery.

Homelessness and Winter Relief Arrangements

At its October 2021 meeting, the Committee received an update from the Portfolio Holder and relevant Officers on:

- An understanding of homelessness, and the position in Tamworth
- The progress made on the rough sleeping initiative

- An overview of the proposed Winter Relief Arrangements prior to Cabinet consideration of a report in November 2021.

The Committee sought clarification on how the Council was notified and identified rough sleepers, how the council differentiated between rough sleepers and others who could appear as rough sleepers to facilitate begging and how the Council supported rough sleepers with complex needs.

Leisure Services and Open Spaces

The Assistant Director, Operations and Leisure attended the Committee in November 2021 and January 2022 to provide an overview of the work undertaken in respect of leisure services and open spaces, which included:

- the tender to appoint a consultant to undertake open spaces assessment, indoor and outdoor sports assessment and feasibility work for the Gungate proposal
- an overview of the impact of COVID on leisure activities and the work of the Council to ensure in particular that outdoor spaces were fit for purpose given the heavier use of these spaces
- the increased number of outdoor events held;
- an overview of the reasons for some indoor facilities, eg the cardiac gym, not re-opening
- work with the County Council to encourage the connection of cycle paths around the town;
- an update on the position (timelines and funding) relating to Amington Nature Park (formerly known as Amington Community Woodland); and
- updates on plans for Tamworth in Bloom and the links to the Queens Platinum Jubilee and Commonwealth Games.

Recovery & Reset

At the 25 January 2022 meeting, the Committee received an update on the Recovery & Reset programme aims and the proposed oversight by the three scrutiny committees and the Audit & Governance Committee of the programme and feedback was sought on the arrangements which would be fed into the overall Programme Board.

It was planned that this Committee would be briefed on three work streams:

- Customer Service Offer
- SMART Working
- Third sector and vulnerability

The Committee received updates on the three work streams from the relevant Assistant Directors and the Committee sought clarification on:

- The current customer service arrangements for customers to discuss issues face to face, including the sign-posting to the relevant services;
- The impact of the increased working from home on staff wellbeing, and the arrangements in place to mitigate these;

The Committee made a recommendation to Cabinet regarding the current location of the interim front of house customer services, see details below.

Mental Wellbeing theme

Throughout this municipal year the Committee had focussed on mental wellbeing as a theme to its activities and as such had received updates from the Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT) and relevant Officers at several of its meetings. In particular the MPFT provided updates to the following meetings:

- 13th July 2021
- 23rd September 2021
- 25th January 2022

The Partnerships team attended the above meetings in support and to provide the Committee with an overview of the work of the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership in relation to vulnerable persons and the priority this was in the plan and how the Council worked with statutory and voluntary sector partners who were responsible for the delivery of services to support the vulnerable.

The Committee was updated on the services and role that MPFT had, which was as an integrated organisation that provided physical and mental health, learning disabilities and adult social care services across Staffordshire, and that MPFT was transforming its model of mental health provision. The Committee was updated on the range of services provided by MPFT and the transformation work, which would continue over three years, to proactively identify local population needs, gaps and emerging demand, using local knowledge in developing priorities and inequalities in health.

During these discussions the Committee focussed on and sought further information on:

- the importance of communicating to all potential service users the existence of the services and the importance of digital and non-digital communication methods, the importance of a localised communication plan;
- how to access services and ensuring where possible provision was local, and that it was communicated in a way that residents would understand that they could access it locally and that there was local provision;
- the importance of partnership working and engagement with the voluntary sector to reach marginalised communities;
- overcoming barriers to users accessing services, including support to navigate to the relevant services;
- engagement with service users in the transformation process itself;
- the commissioning by MPFT of further services which local organisation could bid for, including services relating to housing, financial wellbeing, services supporting reintegration into communities.

In addition, during the year, the Partnership Team organised a Voluntary Sector Members Seminar open for all Councillors to attend in October 2021 which was attended by many of the Council's partners and voluntary sector organisations. Following that briefing the Committee considered the benefits of further visible sign-posting in the borough to where mental health support can be accessed and made a recommendation to Cabinet in terms of the importance of mental health service delivery, which is set out below.

At the 25th January 2022 meeting the Committee made a further recommendation to Cabinet regarding the production of the “wellbeing portal”, which is set out below.

3. Call-in

This is where a decision of the Executive has been called in to be considered by a scrutiny committee, after a Cabinet decision has been made but ahead of it’s implementation, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

No decisions have been called in to date.

Working Groups

No use was made of working groups this year.

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
<p>Mental Wellbeing – 30th November 2021 meeting</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Committee recommend to Cabinet that Cabinet’s attention be drawn to mental health service delivery in Tamworth and request that Cabinet make it a priority for their time and concern.</p>	<p>At the Cabinet meeting on 16th December 2021, Cabinet received Scrutiny Committee’s recommendations and</p> <p>Cabinet agreed to hold the recommendation in abeyance following feedback of Staffordshire County Council’s position in terms of Health in Every Policy discussion and invite the Committee back to a later Cabinet for a further discussion.</p>
<p>Update from Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust – 25th January 2022 meeting</p> <p>That Cabinet consider the feasibility of producing ‘wellbeing’ portal on Tamworth Borough Council website linked to MPFT Communications Team</p>	<p>At the Cabinet meeting on 17th February 2022, Cabinet accepted the recommendation</p>
<p>Reset & Recovery – 25th January 2022 meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That</p>	<p>At the Cabinet meeting on 17th February 2022, Cabinet</p>

<p>Cabinet consider another location other than that of the Assembly Rooms for interim front of house customer services as quickly as possible.</p>	<p>Agreed that Cabinet would look at the options and Cabinet moved the following motion:</p> <p>That Cabinet ensure that this is discussed as an agenda item at the next Reset & Recovery Board meeting on 23rd February and feed back to Health & Wellbeing Chair.</p> <p>Feedback was provided to the March meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.</p>
<p>Responses to Reports of the Health & wellbeing Scrutiny Committee – 29 March 2022</p> <p>Following receipt of the feedback from Cabinet on the Committee’s recommendation to consider a location other than the Assembly Rooms for a customer services interim front of house, the Scrutiny Committee moved that the following recommendation be taken back to Cabinet:</p> <p>The Committee recommends to Cabinet to consider another location other than that of the Assembly Rooms for interim, front of house customer services as quickly as possible</p>	<p>This recommendation was presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 7th April 2022.</p>

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 2021/22. Please note that there have been changes to the Committee’s membership during the year and therefore each members attendance is shown out of the number of meetings they were eligible to attend.

Member	Number of meetings attended
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Rosey Claymore (Chair)	4 out of 7
Daniel Maycock (Vice-Chair)	7 out of 7
Paul Brindley (up to 2 December 2021)	3 out of 5
Daniel Cook (from 28 February 2022)	1 out of 1
Moira Greatorex	6 out of 7
John Harper	7 out of 7
Jason Jones	5 out of 7
Sheree Peale	5 out of 7
Roy Rogers	6 out of 7
John Wade	4 out of 7
County Cllr T Jay (Staffordshire County Council representative on the Committee)	N/A

Training and Effectiveness

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee attended a two day Local Government Association run Leadership Essentials course on Effective Scrutiny, which was run virtually due to the pandemic.

The Committee members received details on training modules on Scrutiny and Events offered by the Local Government Association.

MembersZone contains links to external training courses available. MembersZone also provides details of the in-house induction and training events run and organised by council officers throughout the year which include overviews from each Executive Director of their directorates and key projects.

No specific in-house scrutiny training was delivered this year as an all Councillor scrutiny training event had been delivered in November 2020

Work Plan

The existing Committee Work Plan is appended as Appendix 1.

Resource Implications

None identified.

Report Author

Councillor R Claymore
Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Committee's Work Plan

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan

Work Plan		
Work Area Themes for the Year		
1. Mental Health & Wellbeing		
Topics	Target Meeting	Additional information
Community mental health services transformation – pathways to care in Tamworth		
Substance abuse / addiction		
Young people’s experiences in Tamworth		
Loneliness / isolation		
2. Homelessness & Housing		
Topics	Target Meeting	Additional information
Council’s Healthier Housing Policy	21 June 2022	Invite Portfolio Holder & Executive Director, Communities, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods / Partnerships
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
Homelessness Winter Relief Update		

Other suggested topics for Committee consideration		
Green and open spaces		
Attainment and Skills in Tamworth		
Safeguarding updates (2 per year)	18 th October 2022 & 28 th March 2023	Invitation to Portfolio Holder and Officers
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
Provisional dates: 21 June 2022 12 July 2022 22 September 2022 18 October 2022 29 November 2022 24 January 2023 28 March 2023

Upcoming Relevant County Council Meetings

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

- 11 April 2022
- 30 May 2022
- 11 July 2022
- 1 August 2022
- 19 September 2022
- 17 October 2022
- 28 November 2022
- 30 January 2023
- 20 March 2023

Appendix 1 – Committee’s Work Plan

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