

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday 15 March 2022

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 Tuesday 15 March 2022 - links to Agenda and reports pack:

[Agenda for Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 15th March 2022, 10:00am - Staffordshire County Council](#)

For further detail of items considered view the webcast of the meeting following the above link.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 15 March 2022

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

Walley's Quarry Landfill Site Health Implications Update

UK Health Security Agency UKHSA presented a report relating to the monthly health risk assessment of the site. The Committee considered data from January 2022 which showed further spikes in H2S levels, indicating that emissions remain uncontrolled. Residents in the immediate area continued to report foul odour and suffer from a range of symptoms. The Committee were concerned that elevated levels of hydrogen sulphide (H2S) from the landfill site continued to have detrimental impact on residents' health and mental well-being and that there was not a clear plan to resolve the problem. Committee resolved to write to Government to express concerns that the Environment Agency had not attended the meeting to respond to questions, and to request Government consider a decisive and urgent solution to the problems at Walley's Quarry Landfill Site. They agreed to receive a further report if no progress had been made in two months.

Transformation Programme Update

The Clinical Commissioning Group provided a presentation and update report relating a series of involvement activities, held in summer/autumn 2021, related to the system-wide transformation programme. Committee considered the process and the involvement activity being undertaken and planned. A report would be considered when the involvement activity was complete. A verbal update was also provided relating to the Cannock Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) an update report would be presented to 11 April 2022 meeting.

Performance Overview

The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) presented a report and dashboard to give an overview of CCG performance against key constitutional standards and targets. The report updated committee on referral to treatment times, diagnostic test waiting times, cancer waits, accident and emergency provider and general practice. The Committee understood that challenges and effects of Covid-19 had impacted on performance against national standards, and this was reflected in the dashboard. A particular challenge had been the high level of infections and staff absence across the winter months of late 2021 and early 2022. Committee noted the report and indicated it would continue to monitor performance, access to GP surgeries and it would receive a report on the backlog of elective surgeries a future committee.

Covid-19 Update

The Covid Defence Lead provided an update which detailed the current position in relation to management of Covid-19. Committee understood that the 'Living with Covid' paper announced on 21 February 2022, had made two significant changes – (1) the legal duty to isolate following a positive Covid test was replaced with guidance to limit contact from ~~20~~ Feb and (2) the intention to cease pre-public testing from 1 April 2022.

Committee understood that Covid-19 was endemic in the environment now. Committee thanked the Covid Lead for their regular updates over the duration of the pandemic and agreed to remove Covid updates from future agendas but to invite the Covid Lead to advise of any emerging situation.

Their next meeting will be held on Monday 11 April 2022 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.