

Annual Report of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Membership

Chair – Daniel Maycock

Vice-Chair – Samuel Smith



Members (2022/23)	Appointed for 2022/23 municipal year	Within year retirements
Daniel Maycock (Chair)	Appointed Chair from 28.11.22 (previously Vice-Chair)	
Samuel Smith (Vice-Chair)	Appointed to Committee from September 2022 and appointed as Vice Chair from 24.01.23	
Rosey Claymore	May 2022	Chair from May to November 2022
Chris Cooke	September 2022	
Moira Greatorex	May 2022	
Jason Jones	September 2022	
Richard Kingstone	May 2022	
Roy Rogers	May 2022	
Janice Wadrup	May 2022	
County Councillor Thomas Jay	May 2022	Retired as a Borough Council representative on 27.09.22
Michelle Cook	May 2022	Retired as a member of the Committee on 27.09.22
Peter Thurgood	May 2022	Retired as a member of the Committee on 27.09.22

Chair's Overview

The Committee met XX times in the 2022/2023 municipal year.

During this year there have been some changes to the Committee's membership. Councillor R Claymore initially chaired this Committee, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Claymore for her work as Chair and for her continued contribution as a member of the Committee since I took over the Chair in November 2022. A new Vice-Chair was appointed in January 2023, Councillor S Smith.

In September 2022, in addition to Councillor Smith joining the Committee, Councillor C Cooke and J Jones also joined the Committee. I would like to thank those members who retired from this Committee during the year; Councillors M Cook, P Thurgood and as a Borough Council member, Councillor T Jay.

During the past year, the Committee has focussed on activities associated with mental wellbeing as well as housing and homelessness matters, in particular as it relates to residents health & wellbeing. Scrutiny in several areas including in relation to developing healthier communities, the roles of sport and leisure and open spaces has commenced and is likely to continue into the next municipal year. In addition focussed updates on specific voluntary sector support organisations and the importance of clear sign posting to these has been considered.

As a borough representative on the Staffordshire County Council Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, I have sought to ensure that the views of Tamworth residents and of the members of this Committee in relation to the proposals not to re-open the inpatient mental health services for adults at the George Bryan Centre have been heard. Myself and members of the Committee have attended stakeholder events in relation to this. As Chair I have reported back on activities considered by the Staffordshire Committee and kept this Committee updated on the processes being followed by relevant health bodies.

Cabinet members and officers were invited to attend meetings of the Committee to provide information and to answer questions on these areas. Guests were also invited and during this municipal year, representatives of the Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust attended to provide updates on their transformation of community mental health services where pilot activities were being run in the Borough as well as a representative of a partner organisation, Heart of Tamworth Community project around homelessness activities.

The Committee has used the Council's Forward Plan to focus its work and to help identify areas which would either require pre decision scrutiny and /or post implementation scrutiny.

I would like to thank all members of the Committee, Portfolio Holders, officers and other stakeholders who took part in these meetings for their valuable contributions during the year.

Councillor D Maycock

Chair

Committee's remit and function (Terms of Reference)

The Constitution sets out the Committee's remit which can be summarised as to provide effective scrutiny of the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities by scrutinising the performance of the Executive and external providers in securing a safe environment in which local people can reach their full potential and live longer, healthier lives :-

- Statutory Health Obligation
- Leisure
- Voluntary Sector
- Non HRA Housing
- Disability Service
- Social Care
- Elderly and Vulnerable People Services

Under the joint working arrangements in place between Staffordshire County Council and District and Borough Council's within Staffordshire, the Chair of this Committee is also a member of the County Health and Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and a county representative is appointed as a member of Tamworth Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (during the 2022/23 municipal year; County Councillor T Jay). These joint working arrangements are designed to assist in knowledge sharing and to aid efficient working to avoid duplicating the scrutiny of health related matters. Such that the County scrutiny committee focusses on health matters at a county wide / multi - district level, with individual district & borough council's focussing on activities affecting health & wellbeing within that district / borough.

Spotlight Item - Housing Strategy

At the July 2022 meeting the Assistant Director, Partnerships, provided the Committee with an overview of the four priorities set out in the Housing Strategy along with a highlight of some proposed future actions including work around the Empty House and Older persons needs strategy, as well as work around the First Homes requirement.

The Committee sought Clarification on a number of arrears including how the First Homes project could be administered to ensure that after resale the benefits of the scheme could be retained; the process for residents to apply for Disabled Facilities grant, the importance of addressing housing in terms of reaching Carbon Net Zero targets and the data that the Committee receives. The Committee made number of recommendations following this update one of which was for regular updates on the actions and relevant data as they relate to health and wellbeing of Tamworth communities.

As a result of this, a further detailed report was received in February 2023 from the Assistant Director, Partnerships to update on actions and emerging datasets within the Housing Strategy which directly impact on health and wellbeing of Tamworth communities. The Committee's feedback was sought on the report as well as the regularity with which the Committee wanted to consider the report.

Updates on progress and activities related to each of the 5 Housing Strategy priorities were provided:

- Priority 1: –Enabling the provision of sufficient new homes, where data on the provision of affordable housing and the delivery of the First homes discount were provided
- Priority 2: Making best use of existing housing and related assets, where the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identified that locally fuel poverty and homelessness were an area of focus and strategies to address included the commissioning Beat the Cold to provide home Energy Advice as well as other initiatives such as Home Upgrade Grants
- Priority 3: Ensuring housing plays a key role in delivering Tamworth's response to Climate Change, where the ECO4 Flex initiative was highlighted
- Priority 4: Ensuring everyone who lives or works in Tamworth has access to appropriate housing that promotes wellbeing, where the role of the Tamworth Advice Centre to provide financial and general advice was highlighted as well as the work related to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
- Priority 5: Ensuring appropriate advice and funding is available to support older people to live independently in appropriate accommodation, where it was reported that Healthy ageing was a Staffordshire wide priority and independently living was supported by the Council facilitated Disabled Facilities Grants / Adaption schemes as well as work having been commissioned from Communities Together CIC to support the hospital discharge process.

The Committee discussed the report and welcomed it. The Committee requested that in future reports data on damp and mould in respect of council owned properties was included and asked that reporting continue to be on a quarterly basis.

Update on Health Related Matters Considered by Staffordshire County Council

The Committee receives a regular update to each of its meetings on relevant matters considered by the County scrutiny health committee. This includes a regular written update, the Staffordshire County Council Digest, as well as verbal updates to the Committee by the Chair and County Councillor T Jay.

Items considered at the County Scrutiny Committee and of particular interest to this Committee included:

- Integrated Care System and Integrated Care Board establishment and updates;
- Primary care access
- Inpatient mental health services for adults in south east Staffordshire
- Developing healthier communities work

During the municipal year Councillor Maycock attended the Healthier Communities Workshop organised by Staffordshire County Council which focussed on “thinking health in all we do” and brought together members, officers and partners to gain a broader understanding of the wider determinants of health and the roles of County and District councils in developing healthier communities. This resulted in the County scrutiny committee referring a report, with suggested recommendations, to all District and Borough scrutiny committees for their consideration. This report and its recommendations were considered at the final meeting of the Committee on 18 April 2023 and further details are set out below.

In addition members received by email various stakeholder updates on Staffordshire wide activities including the Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Consultation and Integrated Care Partnership Consultation stakeholder events on Inpatient and Community mental health services.

Safeguarding Updates

The Committee’s workplan includes twice yearly Safeguarding updates.

The first update was received in October 2022 and a further update was received in March 2023.

Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse Report (April to September 22)

The Portfolio Holder for Voluntary Sector, Town Centre, Evening Economy and Community Safety and the Ms Jo Sands the Assistant Director, attended the meeting to provide the first of two biannual reports look at the Councils Safeguarding Processes and Procedure.

The Committee sought clarification on the data presented and whether it reflected pre-pandemic year, the levels of Safeguarding training and suicide prevention training. Information was also sought on modern slavery in Staffordshire which was not available at this time.

Following consideration of this item, the committee made a recommendation to Cabinet regarding suicide prevention / awareness training for public facing staff.

Safeguarding Children and Adults at risk of abuse report (October 22 - March 23)

Notes from Meeting March to be added

Update from Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust – Community Mental Health Services

At the October 2022 meeting the Committee received a presentation from Assistant Director, Partnerships Jo Sands, Mr Upkar Jheeta, the Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust's (MPFT) Head of Primary Care Development & MH Programme Lead (South Staffordshire) and Susan Unwin (Consultant Nurse and Approved Clinician at MPFT). The representatives from MPFT took the Committee through a presentation, and video, which provided them with an update on the local communities mental health services.

The Committee sought clarification on a number of areas including:

- whether the service was facing workforce challenges and any impacts this had on the service. It was highlighted that the involvement of the voluntary sector had assisted MPFT in this area.
- where the 4 week waiting time standard applied and whether MPFT aspired to shorten this period, where it was confirmed that this was a national target and MPFT was working on metrics to measure performance where MPFT aspired to improve on the national standard.
- the Crisis Café proposals in Tamworth which it was reported had been driven by the evidence of need in Tamworth, and that complementary services were being considered to enhance provision, which would be determined by a needs assessment.
- the process for locating mental health practitioners within primary care settings, where it was clarified that this was a Primary Care Network decision, although work in this area continued and alternatives continued to be explored.
- The work to bring buildings, including Cherry Orchard in Tamworth, online for community mental health services.

Homelessness Strategic Update 2022

At the November 2022 meeting the Committee received a presentation which looked at data covering homelessness, achievements of the homelessness strategy, the winter relief project and the proposed Homelessness Hub. This meeting was attended by the Portfolio Holder for Homelessness Prevention & Social Housing, Councillor Alex Farrell, the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods, Tina Mustafa, the Head of Homelessness and Housing Solutions, Sarah Finnegan and Terry O'Brien, a representative of the Heart of Tamworth Community Project.

The Committee sought clarification around a number of areas including:

- how the money from the RSI project had been spent,
- the council's plans for the upcoming winter(2022);
- how local connection rules and rules around 'reasonable living conditions' were applied;
- whether a strategy was in place following the death of Awaab Ishlak in Rochdale, and how this would apply to the private sector;
- funding for the homelessness hub and
- the Committee asked for figures to be shared around successful homelessness prevention.

The Assistant Direct, Neighbourhoods presented a further report to the Committee at the January 2023 meeting to give a breakdown of homeless date/prevention figures, and the key principles proposed for the development of the homeless hub.

The Committee sought clarification around pre 2020 data (when the strategy started) to understand progress, it was confirmed that the homeless figure before this date were positive but the report due to Cabinet would only provide analysis of figures from the start of the strategy, focussing on the housing first principles.

Recovery and Reset

At the November 2022 meeting an update was provided on Recovery and Reset program on the areas of SMART working, Customer Services Offer and Third Sector & Vulnerability.

Smart Working

The Assistant Director, People reported that following an extensive project SMART working had been successfully implemented, that HR Policies were being reviewed to reflect new terms and conditions and that a six-month review was due that month.

The Committee sought clarification around the impact on wellbeing of staff and it was reported that home workers have the option to work on site for 2 days a week and that each team were allocated 2 team days per month in Marmion. The Committee questioned whether heating costs had been highlighted by staff, it was confirmed that home workers were eligible for a home working allowance which reflected the HMRC allowance that was available during COVID.

Customer Services Offer

The Assistant Director People reported on this item that a face to face service continued through the TIC and the Assembly Rooms and that assistance continued through phone calls, emails and web chats.

Clarification was sought around the future plans for a customer facing presence, it was discussed that they would need to reconsider previous plans if the Levelling Up application was unsuccessful.

Vulnerability and Third Sector Workstreams

The Assistant Director Partnerships reported on this item looking at how residents accessed council and partnership services using 5 work streams, Financial exclusion, Social exclusion, Digital exclusion, Mental health and Housing / homelessness and the importance of partnership organisations.

Delivery of Disabled Adaptations in Tamworth

The Assistant Director, Assets introduced the report regarding the delivery of Disabled Facilities Grant Disabled Facilities Adaptations from 1 April 2023.

It was reported that the process remained that applications were to be made to the County Council who would make an assessment of need and if a need was identified refer to the Borough council to continue the process.

Clarification was sought around the annual number of adaptations, which were identified as approximately 200, whether the number of jobs had changed and whether the type had changed. Whether any hardware could be reused and whether adaptations in council owned properties could be considered when rehousing new tenants.

Loneliness and Addiction Support Organisations

In response to an item added to the worked plan, the Assistant Director, Partnerships provided a report on the relevant voluntary sector loneliness and addiction support organisations which the Council interacted with and who provided services in Tamworth around substance misuse, addiction, loneliness and social isolation.

The Committee requested data on referrals into these services to understand the demand and take up of the service. The Committee requested that a 2 yearly members seminar be held at which voluntary organisations could share their work. Clarification was sought on where to access up to date information on the organisations for Councillors, and how to support those without social media and when the data to develop a Wellbeing Strategy, Voluntary Sector Strategy and voluntary sector Commissioning Strategy would be available.

The Committee requested that the Council's website be updated with contact information regarding community support organisations. The website links to 2 umbrella organisations; Staffordshire Connects and Simply Connect Staffordshire, where this information can be found have been added to the Council's website.

The Committee further requested that there be a process to ensure that there were member briefing events with local voluntary sector organisations.

To add

1. *Kings Coronation Weekend Plans*
2. *Indoor and Outdoor Sports Strategy*
3. *Open Spaces*
4. *Developing Healthier Communities*

Consideration of Matters referred to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee from Cabinet or Council

At the July 2022 Council meeting, following a petition it was agreed that Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny committee would conduct a review around public toilet provision and issues related to the Castle Grounds toilets.

Notes from Meeting March to be added

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 recommendations	Cabinet Response
<p>Housing Strategy - July 2022 1. It recommend to Cabinet that a bi-annual report be prepared by Officers for presentation to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, every 6 months, setting out performance metrics relating to each action plan for the 4 Priorities in the Housing Strategy including data over a three year period; 2. A presentation be prepared for consideration by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee regarding the delivery of the Council's climate change agenda in terms of Council's Housing stock and the impact on vulnerable Tamworth residents; 3. It recommend to Cabinet that consideration be given in the development of the criteria for First Homes, for the 20% discount to market price on the initial purchase, being continued in subsequent resales, where possible</p>	<p>August 2022 Cabinet agreed recommendations 1 to 3, with one amendment to ensure that the Report was to be a quarterly report.</p>
<p>Safeguarding update - October 2022 Committee recommend to Cabinet that it consider whether all public facing staff should complete suicide prevention / awareness training</p>	<p>November 2022 Cabinet agreed: 1. that the recommendation as worded is referred to the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service to expediate suicide and awareness training to all public facing staff as appropriate 2. that all Councillors should receive Mental Health First Aid Training 3. that a session is organised for all Councillors to receive a presentation from the Samaritans to update Councillors on the ongoing work; and 4. to release specific contingency where necessary to allow this training to go ahead.</p>

Members Attendance *to be updated*

Member	Number of meetings attended
Daniel Maycock (Chair)	
Samuel Smith (Vice-Chair)	
Rosey Claymore	
Chris Cooke	
Moirra Greatorex	
Jason Jones	

Richard Kingstone	
Roy Rogers	
Janice Wadrup	
County Councillor Thomas Jay	
Michelle Cook	
Peter Thurgood	

Work Plan – *the end of 2022/23 Work plan will be inserted*

DRAFT