

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	
Thomas Jay	May 2022	Retired as a Borough Council representative September 2022
County Councillor Thomas Jay	May 2022	
Michelle Cook	May 2022	September 2022
Peter Thurgood	May 2022	September 2022

Chair's Overview

The Committee met 8 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 areas 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.

At the October 2022 meeting, the Committee sought clarification on the data presented and whether it reflected pre-pandemic years, 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.

At the March 2023 meeting clarification was sought on the areas of the council's business which made the most safeguarding referrals, and the Committee reconfirmed its request for data to be included in the report for two years before the start of the COVID pandemic so that trends could be more easily identified.

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 private sector housing;
- funding for the homelessness hub and
- the Committee asked for figures to be shared around successful homelessness prevention.

The Assistant Director, 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 figures before this date were positive but the report 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 had the option to work on site for 2 days a week and that each team were allocated 2 team days per month in Marmion House. The Committee questioned whether heating costs had been highlighted by staff, and 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 Work 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.

Kings Coronation Weekend Plans

At the March meeting the Committee received an update from the Theatre, Artistic and Events Manager on the King's Coronation Weekend Plans. Details of a four-day celebration starting 5th May were received by the Committee.

The Committee sought clarification over a few areas including whether the Coronation itself was being screened, what additional facilities were being provided and how community and charity groups would be involved.

Indoor and Outdoor Sports Strategy

In March the Committee received an update from officers on the work related to the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Strategy and the Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy which was being undertaken by external leisure consultants.

The Committee sought clarification on a number of areas including how the strategy was being linked in with Communities Together CIC who were also carrying out wellbeing work, the additional areas that the consultants had been asked to consider, the longevity of the work, the cost, what facilities were being considered and how the younger generations were being engaged.

The Committee endorsed the outline report and approved the timetable for bring the Strategy to this Committee.

Open Spaces Update

In March the Committee received an update from officers on the work related to the Open Spaces Assessment being carried out by external leisure consultants. The consultants had been asked to look at some gaps in provision and further information was expected. The timetable to bring the item back to the Committee was endorsed.

Developing Healthier Communities

Staffordshire County Council Health & Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee organised a county councillor and district councillor workshop earlier in this municipal year to discuss Developing Healthier Communities. Following the workshop the Staffordshire County Council Health & Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee highlighted the recommendations made and received by them and requested that they be raised with the District and Boroughs.

Accordingly, an additional meeting was scheduled for 18 April 2023, to receive an update from the Executive Director, Communities, Rob Barnes, the Assistant Director, Partnerships, Jo Sands and a representative of Staffordshire County Council's Public Health team.

The Committee received an update which included, the health in all policies agenda and the role that social circumstances and the environment and broader health behaviour patterns, as well and the provision of health services, played in creating healthy communities and how resilience in communities could be developed the work, the work that the County Council was progressing to develop locality based health data which was expected to be ready late this year (Autumn 2023) as well as the broader governance framework within which health operated at a county level, including the Staffordshire Health & Wellbeing board, and the priorities set by that Board.

Following discussion Committee sought further clarification on how liaison and communications from the Staffordshire wide Health & Wellbeing Board operated, the Committee noted the role of the Local Plan in developing healthier communities and the Committee considered the recommendations contained within the County report and noted that the activities reported in this update

would be contribute to those recommendations and a further update to this Committee once certain activities were progressed would be made.

The Committee made a recommendation to Cabinet to support Recommendation 3 in the County report (to Identify a named district lead to act as the conduit between the county and other districts and to be the health “champion” or advocate for this work).

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.

The Assistant Director, Assets attended the March 2023 meeting to provide a report which highlighted the current facilities in place, the cleansing arrangements in place and the alternatives available to improve public access.

The Committee sought clarification on whether the Changing Places facility could be accessible on a 24/7 basis, the Assistant Director confirmed that this could be possible as access was controlled by CCTV, and a feasibility assessment was discussed. The Committee discussed whether the current hours of cleaning were adequate, particularly around busy times and whether the Council had explored the Community Toilet Scheme.

Following the discussion a number of recommendations were made for Cabinet.

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;</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>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>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>
<p>Public Toilet Provision In Tamworth – March 2023 The Committee made the following recommendations to Cabinet: 1. That Cabinet explore the allocation of contingency funds to adequately resource and fund the cleaning of the Castle Grounds toilets, with sufficient cleaning allocated to weekends and holiday periods 2. That Cabinet explore with Officers the Community Toilet Scheme with local businesses 3. That Cabinet continue with the current daily (7 day a week, 9-5pm) opening of the Castle Grounds toilets and explore extending the opening hours during the summer period to 7pm in the evening 4. That Cabinet explore the installation of an intercom in the Changing Facilities.</p>	<p>April 2023 RESOLVED; That Cabinet Consider the four recommendations and produce a response and respond to Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to get feedback from Health & Wellbeing Committee.</p>
<p>Work Plan – March 2023 Following consideration of the wellbeing support provision available to councillors the Committee: RESOLVED to recommend to Cabinet that a member benefit scheme in terms</p>	<p>Cabinet Meeting April 27th Resolved: That Cabinet 1. Consider what support is available 2. Discuss if it supported by the Council or other means</p>

of mental wellbeing support only be considered.	
Developing Healthier Communities The Committee RESOLVED to recommend to Cabinet that from a councillor perspective, the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee should be considered as this conduit between the Borough and County.	Recommendation to be made to Cabinet meeting in new municipal year

Members Attendance

Member	Number of meetings attended
Daniel Maycock (Chair)	6 out of 8
Samuel Smith (Vice-Chair)	5 out of 6
Rosey Claymore	7 out of 8
Chris Cooke	4 out of 6
Moira Greatorex	4 out of 8
Jason Jones	5 out of 6
Richard Kingstone	4 out of 8
Roy Rogers	8 out of 8
Janice Wadrup	5 out of 8
Thomas Jay	1 out of 2
Thomas Jay (County Councillor)	Not applicable
Michelle Cook	1 out of 2
Peter Thurgood	0 out of 2

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan

Work Plan		
Work Area Themes for the Year		
1. Mental Health & Wellbeing		
Topics	Target Meeting	Additional information
Inpatient mental health pathways and community mental health services pathways		
Wellbeing support provision for councillors		Recommendation made to Cabinet at meeting on 27 April 2023.
2. Homelessness & Housing		
Topics	Target Meeting	Additional information

Housing Strategy – performance reporting Committee has since requested KPIs on damp and mould for council housing to be included within quarterly Housing Strategy updates	Regular (quarterly) reporting – next meeting date – June 2023	Invite Assistant Director, Partnerships
Homelessness Winter Relief Update	June 2023	To receive feedback on the outcomes

Other suggested topics for Committee consideration		
Developing Healthier Communities – see link to Staffs County Report. Developing Healthier Communities Workshop Report (staffordshire.gov.uk) Include consideration of the role of schools at sixth form, secondary & primary level.		
Indoor and Outdoor Sports Strategy and Open Spaces Assessment	Summer 2023	An item to be brought to the Committee following completion of the work by the Consultant and consideration by Officers
Attainment and Skills in Tamworth (including young people's experiences)	To be confirmed	Working Group (WG) to be formed – WG Chair - Councillor R Kingstone & D Maycock & others
Safeguarding updates (2 per year)	October 2023 & March 2024	Invitation to Portfolio Holder and Officers
CPR & Defibrillator awareness and community engagement	Targeting Autumn 2022	Liaise with local charity (Have a Heart) Progress within schools in implementing guidance this area
Recovery & Reset – Customer Service Offer update following LUF bid outcome		
Public Toilets (following full Council referral)		Recommendations made to Cabinet from 28 March 2023 meeting
Committee Annual Report (draft)	March 2024	
Specific topics to feed in to Staffordshire County Council (separate from main Themes)		

Topic	Date of planned Staffs consideration	Additional information
Strategic Transformation Programme (STP)		To tie in with County consideration when dates for County consideration known
Possible Working Group topics		
Attainment & Skills in Tamworth		WG Chair - Councillor R Kingstone & D Maycock & others
Migrant travelling community		

Upcoming Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Meetings
Meeting dates:

Upcoming Relevant County Council Meetings
<p>Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Staffordshire County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 June 2023 • 24 July 2023 • 18 September 2023 • 16 October 2023 • 27 November 2023 • 29 January 2024 • 18 March 2024