

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

District and Borough Council 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 meetings of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24 July 2023 and 31 July 2023.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 24 July 2023 & 31 July 2023

Integrated Care Partnership Operating Plan

The Committee considered the Integrated Care Partnership Plan and were informed that the plan set out key priorities as a system for 2023/24 and a collective aim to reduce the number of Category 2 and 3 ambulance calls. The four system level priorities were identified:

- Urgent and Emergency Care
- Tackling backlogs
- General Practice
- Complex individuals

The Committee noted the final version of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICP Operating plan and agreed to work with Healthwatch in their scoping of a deep dive into primary care and to review the patients journey for the frail and elderly into the care system.

System Performance

The Committee received an update on the system performance from the ICB. The Committee received the Performance Overview Dashboard from 2022/23 and an overview of the approach and progress to date in developing the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB Performance Report for 2023/24.

The Committee noted the performance overview dashboard for 2022/23 and the development of the 2023/24 performance report.

System Pressures

The Committee considered the system pressures and were informed that the ICS had developed a full system winter plan to manage winter 2022/23 however the position in Staffordshire was challenged with high levels of pressure and cumulative factors contributed to the system declaring a Critical Incident from 29 December 2022 to 12 January 2023. It was reported that there were three key components which exacerbated pressure:

- Workforce
- Demand
- Supply

The Committee were informed that the ICB agreed that a priority action would be to carry out a thorough assessment and review of the plans effectiveness in March 2023 and a lessons learned workshop event was held with all constituent system partner organisations. The Committee were advised that the Urgent and Emergency Care Improvement Plan had been

agreed. The Committee were updated on current performance of 111, Ambulance Activity, ED Activity, Medically Fit for Discharge and Discharge pathways.

The Committee noted the system pressures and requested the full winter plan be brought to Committee before Winter 2023/24.

Update on Elective care performance and recovery

The Committee received an update on Elective care performance and recovery.

It was reported that COVID had a significant impact on the delivery of Elective care and as a result there were significant backlogs of patients awaiting treatment. The Committee were informed that NHS England required all 104-week waiters to have been treated by March 23 however in Staffordshire there were 10 patients awaiting treatment, although 9 of these patients would be treated in July. It was also reported that the NHS England had set a target to treat all patients who had been waiting more than 78 weeks by June 2023, however there were still a number of patients awaiting treatment. The NHS operational planning guidance for 2023/24 required local ICS to have treated all 65-week waiters by the end of March 2024.

The Committee noted the report and actions being taken to reduce waiting times.

SSOT ICS People, Culture and Inclusion Annual Report and update.

The Committee received the SSOT ICS People, Culture and Inclusion annual report and it was reported that the report was developed in collaboration with ICS clinical workforce leads alongside partners across the system.

Adult Social Care Enhanced Assurance

The Committee received a presentation on Adult Social Care Enhanced Assurance.

It was reported that the Health and Care Act 2022 gave the Care Quality Commission (CQC) new regulatory powers to undertake independent assessment of local authorities' delivery of the statutory duties set out in part 1 of the Care Act 2014. The Council has commenced preparations for Enhanced Assurance, including a "CQC readiness review" from West Midlands Association of Directors Social Services in March 2023.

It was reported that the CQC had released a framework that they intended to use for assessment which comprises of four themes and within those themes there were nine quality statements:

1. Assessing needs
2. Supporting people to live healthier lives
3. Equity in experiences and outcomes
4. Care provision, integration and continuity
5. Partnerships and communities
6. Safe systems, pathways and transitions
7. Safeguarding
8. Governance, management and sustainability
9. Learning, Improvement and innovation

The Committee agreed to set up an Adult Social Care Enhanced Assurance Working group.

To see the reports in full and view the webcast of the meeting see the links below:

[Browse meetings - Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Staffordshire County Council](#)

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11 September 2023 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.

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