

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 12 June 2023.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 12 June 2023

Primary Care Dental Overview

The Committee considered the Primary Care Dental Overview and were informed that Dental Commissioning was delegated to Integrated Care Boards from 1 April 2023.

The Committee were informed that a two-phase approach would be adopted to firstly understand, in depth, the legacy inherited from NHS England relating to operational performance and then use those findings to inform future planning and improvement for 2024/25.

It was reported that there were 168 dental practices in Staffordshire.

The Committee noted the update and requested a further update and to see the Dental Strategy later in the year.

Primary Care Access

The Committee received an update on Primary Care Access and were informed that there were 142 GP practices in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (SSOT) and that these were currently offering more appointments than before the pandemic however SSOT had the lowest number of appointments per 10,000 patients in the West Midlands.

The Committee were advised that the national GP patient survey had shown that the patient experience in getting GP appointments was poor.

It was reported that the national delivery plan for recovering access to General Practice aimed for improve patient experience through:

- Better digital telephony (cloud-based telephony)
- Simpler online requests (online consultation)
- Faster navigation, assessment, and response
- Better use the wider GP workforce – ARRS roles
- Improve retention of current staff.

The Committee noted the update and agreed to add Primary Care Access to the Work Programme later in the year.

Primary Care Estate

The Committee received an update on Primary Care Estate and were informed that across the 142 GP practices in SSOT there were 190 buildings. The Committee noted the following:

- 40% of our GP estates were owned by the GP.
- 30% of our estate was built pre-1984, with 22 sites built pre 1948.
- Facing increasing pressure from additional workforce and housing developments
- Voids Space project to make the best use of the estate.
- Recurrent investment into estate through capital 66%/34% funding split

The Committee discussed housing developments and requested a briefing note on the model for assessing new development sites.

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

[Agenda for Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday 12th June 2023, 10:00am - Staffordshire County Council](#)

The next meeting will be held on Monday 24 July 2023 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.