

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 29 January 2024.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Access to General Practice in Staffordshire

The Committee considered a report from the ICB around access to GP in Staffordshire. The Committee were reminded that NHSE had released a National Delivery Plan for recovering access to Primary Care.

There were four ambitions set out in the National delivery plan for recovering access to primary care:

- Empower patients by rolling out tools to monitor own health and expand services offered by community pharmacy.
- Implement a modern general practice model so patients know on the day how their request will be handled.
- Build capacity.
- Cut bureaucracy to give practice teams time to focus on patients' clinical needs.

The Committee received the local response to each national ambition. The System Level Access Improvement Plan was due to be signed off by the ICB in March 2024.

The Committee noted the report and requested to receive the System Level Access Improvement Plan when it has been signed off by the ICB.

The Committee will consider when it will next consider Access to GPs in Staffordshire.

Social Prescribing

The Committee received three reports from the ICB, Support Staffordshire and Staffordshire County Council relating to Social Prescribing. The Committee learned that the NHS long term plan was to have 9000 Social Prescribing posts by 2036.

The Committee discussed that the benefit of Social Prescribing was not measured which may impact on the evidence base to better fund Social Prescribing. The Committee also commented the need for collaboration between the different organisations.

The Committee made a number of recommendations around coordination/ collaboration and data collection.

Primary Care Dental Overview

The Committee considered a report from the ICB on Primary Care Dental Overview.

The Committee were reminded that dental commissioning was delegated to the ICB from 1 April 2023 which created the opportunity to provide better support for Staffordshire residents to ensure dental services met the local need.

The Committee learned that the main issues preventing recovery was a national shortage of dentists. The ICB were supporting a range of initiatives to improve dental access.

The Committee made a number of comments and received the report. They agreed to write to Keele University to determine any progress made for a proposed dental school.

The Committee will consider when it will next consider Dentistry in Staffordshire.

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 18 March 2024 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.