

HEALTH, ADULT AND CHILDREN SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2015

PRESENT:- Councillors Maureen Penny (Chair), Michael Bray (Deputy Chair), Steve Allsopp, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Mary Friend, John Haines, Fay Howard, Cindy Matthews, Gemma McCracken, Ann Richards, James Robbins, Eric Shaw, Carol Shelley, Timothy Swinyard, Nadine Watts, Steve Weisinger and Julie Wright.

Kevin McNamara, (Director of Strategy, Great Western Hospital [GWH]), Jan Tretheway (SEQOL), Rosemarie Phillips (Equalities Advisory Forum), Paul Sunners (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education), Peter Rowe (Healthwatch Swindon), Alison Paul (Swindon Association of Special School Headteachers), John Gilbert (Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults), Paddy Bradley (Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development), Sue Wald (Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults), Karen Reeve, Head of Children's Social Care, Community Health and Social Services.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Baker, Simon Cowley (Swindon Association of Primary Headteachers), Sharon Kirwan (Swindon Association of Secondary Headteachers), (Andrew Wild (Church of England Diocese) and David Dawson (Catholic Diocese).

Also Present: Councillors Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Brian Mattock, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care.

36. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

Councillor James Robbins made a personal and non-prejudicial declaration of interest as he was a foster carer for Swindon Borough Council.

Councillor Fay Howard made a personal and non-prejudicial declaration of interest as she was employed by Great Western Hospital.

Councillor Eric Shaw made a personal and non-prejudicial declaration of interest as he was a Council appointed representative on SEQOL.

37. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

38.

Public Question Time

The following questions were asked in accordance with Standing Order 28 –

Questioner

Mrs Rosemarie Phillips, Equalities Advisory Forum.

Questions

Mrs Rosemarie Phillips put a series of questions relating to (a) out of hours transport provision for patients with eye problems attending out of borough hospitals, (b) whether this information had been cascaded to the Swindon Talking Newspapers (STAN), (c) news / media reports of extra pressure on GWH staff, and (d) What actions were being undertaken by the Trust Board to ensure staff health was not adversely affected.

Response

The Chair thanked Mrs Phillips for the questions and advised that a response had been prepared and circulated.

Questioner

Councillor Mike Bray, Ward Councillor for Lydiard and Freshbrook.

Questions

Councillor Bray submitted a series of questions regarding the closure of the Rheumatology Department at Great Western Hospital.

Response

The Chair thanked Councillor Bray for the questions and advised that a response had been prepared and circulated at the meeting.

39.

SEQOL Update

The Chief Executive (SEQOL) submitted a report updating the Committee on the performance and key issues relating to SEQOL.

Jan Tretheway (SEQOL) referred to work being undertaken with commissioners to modernise services prior to the implementation of the Care Act, the recruitment of a dementia specialist, staff training undertaken regarding support and service delivery for people with dementia and their carers, and SEQOL being awarded the title Public Service Mutual of the year.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

40.

GWH NHS Foundation Trust update

The Committee received a report by the Chief Executive of the Great Western Hospital (GWH) NHS Foundation Trust on key issues and developments at the Great Western Hospital.

Kevin McNamara, Director of Strategy, Great Western Hospital (GWH), presented the report and highlighted matters of significance, particularly, the high volume of patients over the past months and the resulting pressure on the hospital. He commented on the Trust's preparedness for any Ebola incidents.

Following the presentation of his report, Mr McNamara responded to Member's questions and comments on the following issues:

- How the workload of existing rheumatology patients was to be managed following the closure of the Rheumatology department at the Great Western Hospital.
- The need for effective communication by the Great Western Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.
- The effect of the growing population of Swindon on health care service delivery, particularly orthopaedics, and if the Trust had plans to expand the hospital.
- Transport Service delays particularly affecting rheumatology patients.
- Progress made towards the achievement of the 'Cavendish Certificate' and its impact on staff recruitment.
- How improvement areas were identified (paragraph 3.2 of the report refers).
- How the recent increase in patient attendance at the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department affected routine medical procedures.
- An update on the Older Person's Short Stay Unit that opened at the Great Western Hospital in November 2014.
- The Trust's Financial Position and plans to reduce the financial deficit.

Resolved: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Officer be requested to circulate to Committee Members information regarding the Cavendish Certificate.

(3) That, further to paragraph 3.2 of the report, the Overview and Scrutiny Officer be requested to circulate to Committee Members information regarding how the improvement areas were identified.

(4) That the Overview and Scrutiny Officer be requested to circulate to Committee Members information regarding the number of routine medical procedures cancelled due to the recent A&E situation.

(5) That the Chief Executive of the Great Western Hospital (GWH) NHS Foundation Trust be requested to provide information on the management of patient through put at the Older Person's Short Stay Unit to the next meeting of this Committee in March 2015.

(6) That, further to the decision in (5) above, the Overview and Scrutiny Officer be requested to invite the manager of the Older Person's Short Stay Unit to the next meeting of this Committee to update Members on service provision at the Unit.

(7) That the Overview and Scrutiny Officer be requested to circulate a copy of the monitoring report relating to the financial position of the Great Western Hospital (GWH) NHS Foundation Trust to Committee Members.

41. Avon & Wiltshire Partnership NHS Trust

The Committee received a report by the Clinical Director, Avon and Wiltshire NHS Partnership Trust's (AWP) outlining challenges and achievements for the organisation.

Resolved: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That, if required, Members of the Committee be requested to submit any questions to the Overview and Scrutiny Officer for circulation to the Trust.

42.

NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group

The Executive Director, Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group, submitted a report updating the Committee on the performance and key issues relating to the service.

Dr Peter Crouch, Executive Director of Commissioning at NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) introduced the report and commented on the Group's priorities and actions being undertaken. He referred to future primary care commissioning that included proposals for closer working with NHS England. The Committee noted the recent pressure placed on the Hospital's Accident and Emergency Department and on the excellent partnership work during this period carried out to the benefit of the patients.

Dr Crouch and Dr Liz Mearns, General Practitioner, responded to questions and comments from the Committee regarding the following issues:

- The financial arrangements for the transfer of the under 5's commissioning from the NHS to the Borough Council.
- The size of the new medical centre in Swindon Town Centre.
- The need to recruit more General Practitioners following the population increase in Swindon.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

43.

Care Act 2014

The Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults, submitted a report on the implications of the Care Act 2014.

Mrs Sue Wald, Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults introduced the report and referred to the implementation plans for the Act. The presentation was accompanied by a short video that introduced the Care Act 2014 (Available at: <http://vimeo.com/108552705>) and a briefing note prepared by Skills for Care was circulated at the meeting. Mrs Wald explained the changes in practice and in law coming into effect from April 2016 and referred to the new processes to be undertaken that included the Local Safeguarding Board becoming a statutory body.

Following her presentation, she responded to Members' questions and observations on the following issues:

- The actions being undertaken prior to implementation of the Act to ensure safeguarding within Adult Social Care.
- How interpretation and implementation of the Act would be undertaken and how any differentiation impact would be experienced by care recipients crossing between Borough or County domiciliary locations.
- The number of staff working within the 'Circle of Support'.
- How would services be funded once the 'Care Cap' had been reached.
- Clarity on the scope of cross partnership working with other agencies and how resources might be utilised in order to optimise service delivery.

Resolved: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults, be requested to include information regarding work being undertaken for the implementation of the Act in future Performance Reports submitted to this Committee.

44. Children's Services Performance Report

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director, Commissioning submitted a joint report on the outturn performance position for Quarter 2, 2014/15 (July to September 2014) of Children's Services.

Mrs Sue Wald, Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults, Mrs Karen Reeve, Head of Children's Social Care, Community Health and Family Services, Families and Communities and Mr Paddy Bradley, Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development, highlighted changes and the direction of travel for the various areas. They responded to Members' questions and observations on the following issues::

- Clarity on the "first time offending" data for Quarter 2.
- Comparison between Swindon and national average figures for young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET).
- Reasons for the increase in the rate of children in need and those starting a protection plan for the second or subsequent time.
- Actions undertaken following the Local Safeguarding Children's Board neglect case review.
- An update on the recruitment drive for social workers.
- Details of work being undertaken between Great Western Hospital, the Localities Teams and their 'Circles of Support', and the commissioning of services from Age UK and the Red Cross.
- An explanation of the term "an episode of reablement", as indicated in the "front door activity" for Adult Social Care Headline Activities referred to on page 59 of the report.

Resolved: That the Children's Services performance report, be noted.

45. Implementing the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Reforms Committee

The Board Director, Commissioning submitted a report on the approach adopted in Swindon to implementing the Special Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 and highlighting progress achieved to date.

Mr Paddy Bradley, Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development, explained that the changes gave children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families an important opportunity to define the support they required to achieve the best level of support. He confirmed that the changes would see a switch from professional led support to a parent driven approach. He responded to questions regarding the participation of all Swindon schools in implementing the reforms and explained how the Committee would be updated on the Risk Log (Appendix 5 of the report).

Resolved: (1) That changes introduced by the Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms and their intended impact, be noted.

(2) That the progress achieved to ensure that Swindon Borough Council and its partners were compliant with the requirements by 1st September 2014, be noted.

(3) That the priorities for further development required to ensure that the reforms have a positive impact on the lives and life chances of young people, be noted.

(4) That the draft vision statement and associated outcomes that will provide a framework around which to coordinate the work of the wide range of partners and stakeholders, monitor progress and strengthen transparency and accountability, be

noted.

(5) That the Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development be requested to submit an update on progress made during the implementation process to a future meeting of this Committee.

46. Standards and Provision

The Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults and the Head of Commissioning, Economy, Skills and Property Development submitted a joint report on performance and standards in maintained schools and academies across Swindon.

Mr Paddy Bradley, Head of Commissioning, Economy, Skills and Property Development referred to the performance and standards in all Swindon schools and advised that the report outlined the successes, areas for development and challenges to be addressed to ensure every school in Swindon was successful for all its students. He drew attention to Appendix 1 of the report that reflected the comparative data and particularly referred to Key Stage 4 results that were adversely affected due to the changes implemented whilst students were studying for their examinations. He explained that this was a national trend.

The Committee welcomed the report and Mr Bradley responded to Members' questions and observations on the following issues::

- Why the level of attainment fell between Key Stages 1 and 2.
- The level at which the Council would intervene and notify the Department for Education should an academy cause concern.
- An explanation of the term "English Baccalaureate" and how Key Stage 4 pupils attained it.
- Swindon's levels of attainment ranking compared with other local authorities across Key Stages 2 and 4 and the work being undertaken to improve the level.
- The work being undertaken on the curriculum by schools at Key Stages 1 and 2 to prepare pupils for Key Stage 4, how the structure of assessment varied over the various Key Stages and the impact of the new school structures available in Swindon.
- School governors training enabling them to review the educational achievement of pupils at their schools.
- Clarity on the "All Attainment Phases" data as highlighted in Appendix 1 of the report and its differences if it took into account pupils that attended out of Borough schools.
- Clarity on the structure of Education Strategy Board and its reporting criteria.

Resolved – That the report on the performance and standards in maintained schools and academies across Swindon, be noted.

47. Work Programme 2014/15

The Committee received a report from the Director of Law and Democratic Services detailing its updated work programme for the Municipal Year 2014/15.

Resolved – (1) That the Medical Director, NHS England, be requested to submit a report to this Committee's meeting in March 2015.

(2) That the Scrutiny Officer be requested to circulate to Members an electronic link to the papers of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

(3) That further to (2) above, Members be requested to forward any comments to the Scrutiny Officer.

(4) That the Scrutiny Officer be requested to update the work programme as agreed.

48. Health and Wellbeing Board

The Chair referred to the Health and Wellbeing Board minutes of 7th October 2014 and advised that these had been submitted for the Committee's information.

Resolved: (1) That the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 7th October 2014, be noted.

(2) That, further to (1) above, the Scrutiny Officer be requested to circulate an electronic link to the above minutes to Committee members.