

# **HEALTH, ADULT AND CHILDREN SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH 2015**

**PRESENT:-** Councillors Maureen Penny (Chair), Michael Bray (Deputy Chair), Steve Allsopp, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Mary Friend, John Haines, Fay Howard, Oliver Donachie, Ann Richards, James Robbins, Eric Shaw, Carol Shelley, 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, Oonagh Fitzgerald (Great Western Hospital) Toni Lynch (Great Western Hospital), Dr Peter Crouch (Executive Director of Commissioning, NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group), Gill May (Executive Nurse, NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group), Mike Ash (Head of Housing and Community Safety), Dr Simon Manchip (Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gemma McCracken, Timothy Swinyard, Cindy Matthews and Paul Baker, Simon Cowley (Swindon Association of Primary Headteachers) 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.

## **49. 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 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.

## **50. Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **51. Public Question Time**

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

### Questioner

Mr Richard Symonds, Shaw, Swindon.

### Questions

Mr Symonds asked questions concerning a) the purpose of the Health, Adult and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, b) how the Committee related to issues of the Clinical Commissioning Group and Healthwatch Swindon, c) confirmation on whether the nature of the Committee was under review.

### Response

The Chair thanked Mr Symonds for his questions and comments and advised that a written response would be provided.

## **52. Nursing Briefing**

The Committee welcomed Mr Kevin McNamara, Director of Strategy, Great Western Hospital (GWH) who introduced Ms Oonagh Fitzgerald, Director of Workforce and Education for Great Western Hospital and Ms Toni Lynch, Director, Head of Nursing. Ms Fitzgerald gave a presentation updating the Committee on the nursing workforce at the hospital, and responded to questions and comments relating to:

- The retirement age for nurses.
- The overall staff turnover rate at the Great Western Hospital.
- The demographics of nurses at the hospital.
- The various routes available into the nursing profession in addition to university studies.
- The monitoring of departmental staff turnover rates.
- Clarification on the number of weeks practical work experience undertaken by trainee nurses.
- Clarification on midwife staffing levels.

Resolved: (1) That the Director of Workforce and Education and the Director, Head of Nursing at Great Western Hospital, be thanked for their presentation.

(2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Officer be requested to circulate to the presentation to Committee members.

(3) That the Overview and Scrutiny Officer be requested to circulate to Committee members information regarding the number of weeks' practical work experience undertaken by trainee nurses.

## **53. Great Western Hospital 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.

Mr Kevin McNamara, Director of Strategy, Great Western Hospital (GWH), presented the report and highlighted matters of significance. He outlined the "Sprint to Green" initiative that reflected the collaborative work undertaken with the Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group and SEQOL aimed at improving patient through flow and how this impacted on service provision. He referred to improved performance relating to clostridium difficile cases recorded at the hospital and on the reduction of waiting periods for cancer patients.

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

- Explanation of the term "medically fit" in terms of patient flow and the typical resolution time leading to patient discharge.
- A view on the present and future working relationship between the Council and the Great Western Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.
- The importance of a co-ordinated approach between the wide range of partners and stakeholders to the benefit of the patient.
- The excellent work and support provided to cancer patients by McMillan nurses.
- The effect of a lack of transport provision on "bed locking" and discharging patients and if the provision of a "volunteer" transport service needed to be considered by the Trust.
- The underlying reasons why the 18 week patient referral target was likely to be missed during the period January to March 2015 and the actions being undertaken to address this.
- The reasons for the predicted overspend on agency staff during the period 2014/15.
- Clarification on whether any housing issues effected the number of patients being discharged from hospital.
- An update on the establishment of the radiography unit in Swindon and the future provision of service for "out of borough" patients.
- The investment plans to increase the number of pharmacy staff at Great Western Hospital to enable longer opening hours.

Resolved: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That further updates from the Great Western Hospital NHS Foundation Trust be presented at a future meeting of this Committee.

#### **54. 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 introduced Ms Gill May, Executive Nurse and referred to the systems pressures outlined in the report, particularly the national issue of recruitment and retention of nurses and general practitioners. He referred to the requirement by NHS England planning guidance to submit an operational plan and advised that Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group was presently drafting Year Two of the Five Year Plan, listing priorities including the development of a local radiography therapy service. The Committee noted the contributions made by the Clinical Commissioning Group to accelerate the introduction of the service and the collaborative work being undertaken with Great Western Hospital regarding bed capacity. Dr Crouch further commented on various actions to improve funding, the joint co-commissioning work with NHS England and on the event with Healthwatch Swindon.

Dr Crouch and Ms May responded to questions and comments from the Committee regarding the following issues:

- Explanation of the fair share target, the historical reasons for the percentage shortfall and actions being undertaken to address this shortfall.

- An update on the time taken to see mental health and rheumatology patients and the provision for those patients close to the eighteen week referral time limit.
- The possibility of delivering a number of services within general practitioners surgeries, particularly within the five neighbourhood centres across Swindon.
- Clarification on the Vanguard Programme launched by NHS England and on the second wave of funding through the Prime Ministers Challenge Fund.

Resolved: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Officer be requested to contact Simon Manchip, Consultant at the Memory Clinic, Swindon, to obtain and circulate an update regarding dementia service provision in Swindon.

## **55. Healthwatch Swindon Update**

Mr Peter Rowe, Manager of Healthwatch Swindon, presented a report updating the Committee on performance and key issues relating to Healthwatch Swindon. He advised that seven Board members were currently working on the 2015/16 Work Plan relating to the development and forward movement of Healthwatch Swindon. Mr Rowe referred to the top three priorities for health and social care services in Swindon, addressing access to primary care, care homes and dementia services. He commented on the importance of volunteers' assistance for work being undertaken within the community.

Following the presentation of his report, Mr Rowe responded to members' questions regarding access to Primary Care service provision in West Swindon.

Resolved: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Healthwatch Swindon Manager be requested to circulate an update to Members of the Committee regarding primary care service provision in West Swindon by September 2015.

## **56. SEQOL Update**

The Chief Executive, SEQOL, submitted a report updating the Committee on the performance and key issues relating to the service. Mrs Jan Trethewey, Director of Operations, SEQOL, presented the report and referred to the five priorities for the organisation, particularly regarding the collaborative work within the Emergency Department at Great Western Hospital. She further referred to the developing role for social workers, the high regard with which the Children's Clinic was held by parents and the preparatory work being undertaken for the implementation of the Care Act 2014. Mrs Trethewey commented on the actions being undertaken on safeguarding young people and on the transition services being provided for young people with learning or physical disabilities. The Committee noted the benefit of Café Pinetrees for dementia patients and their carers.

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

- Information on the number of patients discharged from hospital.
- Actions undertaken by SEQOL in the patient discharge process from hospital wards.
- The number of young people with learning disabilities and /or physical disabilities utilising the transition services and details of the actions taken to ensure that all those in need of the service were accessing it.

- Explanation of D54 and on the percentage of items delivered to patients within timescales.

Resolved: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Director of Operations, SEQOL, be requested to circulate information to Members of the Committee regarding timescales for patient discharge.

## **57. Commissioning of Adult Social Care Performance**

The Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults submitted a report updating the Committee on the performance and key issues relating to Adult Social Care. Mrs Sue Wald, Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults introduced the report and explained that the first part referred to the challenges faced by the department, including the personalisation of service users and the increase of young people entering residential care. Mrs Wald commented on service achievements, particularly work being undertaken with older people enabling them to remain at home longer and the domiciliary care teams work to ensure a smooth transition for those needing to enter a care home.

Mrs Sue Wald responded to the Committee's questions and comments in respect of the following points:

- Explanation of the various elements of social care provision, particularly relating to patients discharged from hospital and how the interactions between all stakeholders were regularly reviewed to the benefit of patients.
- Explanation on how those subject to safeguarding referrals would be encouraged to become fully involved and actively participate in the process.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

## **58. Children's Services Performance Report**

The Board Director, Commissioning submitted a report on the outturn performance position for Quarter 3, 2014/15 (October to December 2014) of Children's Services.

Mrs Karen Reeve, Head of Children's Social Care, Community Health and Family Services, commented on the reasons for the increased number of referrals and referred to the decrease in the number of children in care.

Mrs Sue Wald, Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults, Mrs Karen Reeve, Head of Children's Social Care, Community Health and Family Services, and Mr Paddy Bradley, Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development, responded to questions and comments from the Committee regarding the following issues:

- An update on the adoption rate figures compared to previous years and a comparison with national averages.
- Work being undertaken to ensure stability for those on short term placement with families.
- Reasons for the high number of statutory assessments remaining open and the work being conducted by the Assessment and Child Protection Team to address this.
- Reasons for the increased number in fixed term exclusions and if this included a higher number of young people with learning disabilities.
- The work being undertaken by the Behavioural and Attendance leads in secondary schools and staff exchange between schools to learn and share

good practice.

- The involvement of pupils at risk of exclusion.
- A review of the Fair Access Panel work and the emulation of the “Risk of NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Indicator Project” being conducted in the Commonweal area.
- Information on the number of first time entrants into the Youth Justice system and the involvement of the Neighbourhood Justice Panel.

Resolved: (1) That the Children’s Services performance report, be noted.

(2) That the Head of Children’s Social Care, Community Health and Family Services be requested to circulate information to Committee members regarding the work of the Youth Justice Panels, particularly addressing first time entrants into the Youth Justice system.

(3) That the Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development be requested to circulate information to Committee members regarding trends in exclusions by schools.

(4) That further to (3) above, the Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development be requested to circulate information regarding the number of fixed term exclusions for pupils with special education needs.

(5) That the Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development be requested to circulate information to Committee members regarding the number of young people excluded more than once.

(6) That the Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development be requested to circulate information to Committee members on the project being undertaken within the Commonweal area.

## **59. Housing and the Health and Wellbeing of Swindon's Residents**

The Head of Housing and Community Safety submitted a report setting out how the emerging Housing Strategy 2015-2026 related to the wellbeing of Swindon’s residents and in particular how local interventions into Swindon’s housing market could benefit the most vulnerable in the community,

Mr Michael Ash, Head of Housing and Community Safety explained the local approach and the three main focus areas for the strategy, including the standard of housing, tenure across Swindon and the link between housing and care support services. He commented on the different overall approach to the strategy and its four priorities. These related to the percentage increase of the private rented sector, the affordability of housing, the importance of independence for older people and those with learning disabilities and on the work being conducted on Council owned properties. He commented on the use of technology within housing services, mainly through the Home Line and Home Line Plus packages.

Mr Ash responded to questions regarding the following issues:

- The implementation and running of the Extra Care Housing Programme in Swindon.
- Concerns regarding the standards of premises in the private rental housing sector.
- Allocating the appropriate premises to the client, particularly those with non-standard housing requirements.
- Actions taken where cases of overcrowding or multi-occupation were identified.

Resolved: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Head of Housing and Community Safety be requested to circulate information to Committee members on the number of people waiting for a wheelchair standard housing.

## **60. End of Year Report 2014/15**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Law and Democratic Services detailing the Committee's updated work programme for the Municipal Year 2014/15. Mrs Sally Smith, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, referred to the two Task Groups that were agreed to be set up at the beginning of the Municipal Year 2014/15. Councillor Julie Wright referred to the task group dealing with dementia and commented on the need for further work to be undertaken.

Resolved – (1) That the report setting out the achievements by the Committee, be noted.

(2) That any future proposals for this Committee's Work Programme be forwarded to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Officer for consideration by the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015.

(3) That the work undertaken by the Task Group dealing with dementia be included in the Committee's Work Programme for 2015/16.

## **61. Any Other Business**

Councillor Steve Allsopp expressed his gratitude and thanks to the Chair and the Overview and Scrutiny Officer for their guidance and support over the past Municipal Year.

Resolved: That the Committee express its appreciation for the work and commitment shown by its Chair and the Overview and Scrutiny Officer over the past Municipal Year.