

ADULTS' HEALTH, ADULTS' CARE AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT:- Councillors Claire Ellis (Chair), Emma Bushell, Steph Exell, Mary Friend, Henderson, Eric Shaw, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Julie Wright and Robert Wright.

Kate Moore (Tenant Scrutiny Panel), Tori Jones (Healthwatch) and Steve Henderson (Equalities Advisory Forum).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alan Bishop and Michelle Howard (Equalities Advisory Forum).

Also present: Councillor Brian Ford, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Councillor Cathy Martyn, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety.

12. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

13. Minutes

Resolved -That the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

14. Public Question Time

In accordance with Standing Order 28, Miss Patricia Strange of Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, submitted a written question regarding the Care Quality Commission's visit to the Ophthalmology Department at Great Western Hospital.

The Chair thanked Miss Strange for her question and advised that a written response would be provided.

15. Clinical Commissioning Group Update

Ms Gill May, Executive Nurse at NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), presented a report providing an update on performance and key issues relating to the service.

Following her introduction of the report, Ms May responded to members' questions and comments on the following issues:

- The review of signage undertaken at the Health Centre on Fleming Way.
- How the Accountable Alliance Board, as commissioners and providers, set up and ran the Accountable Care System model in Swindon.
- The work streams of the Swindon Falls and Bone Health Collaborative and the mapping exercise by which patients were assessed in order to prevent falls during their stay in hospital.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

16.

Avon & Wiltshire Partnership NHS Trust

Mr Newlands Anning, the Managing Director, Avon and Wiltshire NHS Partnership Trust (AWP), submitted a report outlining the achievements of the organisation and the challenges it was facing. He advised that a review of the Places of Safety consultation process had been undertaken and that a response regarding the proposals and addressing concerns would be circulated to partner agencies by Haley Richards, Chief Executive of the Trust in October 2017. The Committee was informed that a public protest regarding the high number of suicides in the South West and NHS funding for mental health was being undertaken by a local pressure group.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

17.

Great Western Hospitals 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. Following his introduction of the report, Mr Kevin McNamara, Director of Strategy, Great Western Hospital (GWH) responded to members' questions and comments on the following issues:

- The hospitals' infrastructure and how the GWH Trust would address service provision following the increase in Swindon's population.
- Quality and safety of patients at GWH and assurance that these would not be compromised as a result of the increase in Swindon's population.
- The range of social factors contributing to an increase in people needing hospitalisation.
- Swindon's walk-in Health Centre and how its work complements local surgeries, particularly when seeing patients unable to be seen by their local doctors.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

18.

Performance for Adult Social Care Commissioning

The Director, Adult Social Services, submitted a report updating the Committee on the performance of Adult Services to end of June 2017. The report had been structured to highlight the strengths and challenges of the work undertaken.

Councillor Brian Ford, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, explained that a Cabinet Member Advisory Group on dementia had been set up and its work would be guided by the findings in the report of the Dementia Task Group submitted to the Committee at its meeting on 25th April 2017.

Following her introduction of the report, the Director, Adult Social Services responded to members' questions and comments on the following issues:

- The positive work being undertaken resulting in an increase of people with disabilities in employment.
- Tackling health inequality through prevention and wellbeing programmes undertaken by the local community navigators, housing department and the public health teams.

- The support available to local community navigators when dealing with members of the community where English is not their first language.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Director, Adult Social Services, be requested to circulate information on the costs of translation services.

(3) That the Director, Adult Social Services and the Director of Health, be requested to submit an update on the work of the Cabinet Member Advisory Group review into dementia at the Committee's meeting on 7th November 2017.

19. Housing Performance Report

The Head of Housing and Community Safety submitted a report updating the Committee on the performance of Housing Services. He explained that the report had been structured to highlight key statistics and headlines reflecting successes of the work undertaken.

Following his introduction of the report, the Head of Housing and Community Safety, responded to members' questions and comments on the following issues:

- The Allocation Policy and how the service area ensures it was inclusive of those in the community needing housing.
- Support available for those unable to pay their housing rent.
- The review of the Green Light to Housing programme after one year in operation
- Changes to funding, specifically the Flexible Homelessness Grant and the impact on the continued use of temporary accommodation in the private rented sector.
- Design of the eligibility banding system and the changes to the Allocations policy in accordance with national guidance to ensure it targets those in the community most in need.
- A review of properties run by private landlords to ensure high standards were maintained.
- The Council Housing Business Plan reflected long term proposals and the Medium Term Financial Plan reflected medium to short term expenditure needed to undertake repairs and improvements of Council housing stock.
- How the Council's deposit guarantee scheme helped tenants with the deposit to secure accommodation
- Homelessness and the work being undertaken by various services, including the Outreach Service, Housing Options and the Community Safety teams, to address the increase of homelessness in Swindon.
 - Actions undertaken by the Voluntary Community to help the homeless in Swindon.
 - Schemes undertaken by other Local Authorities to help the homelessness.

Resolved - (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Head of Housing and Community Safety be requested to present information on repairs and improvements being undertaken on housing stock to the next meeting of the Committee.

(3) That, as part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2018/19, the Committee reviews if there were links between poor living arrangements and health issues.

(4) The review of the Green Light to Housing Programme be submitted to the Committee meeting on the 28th March 2018.

20. Update on Fire Safety to Residential Blocks of Flats

The Head of Housing and Community Safety submitted a report updating the Committee on the existing fire safety measures at the Council's residential blocks of flats and on proposed improvements following the Grenfell Tower fire. He referred to the existing fire safety measures in place and advised that the report was to be considered as a "Green Paper" supporting policy development, in line with the recommendation from the Corporate Governance Review Working Group 27th April 2017. He explained that the emerging recommendations related to both high and low rise buildings in Swindon.

Following his introduction of the report, the Head of Housing and Community Safety, with the Head of Property, responded to members' questions and comments on the following issues:

- The planned work to review the curtain wall panels at David Murray John (DMJ) building.
- The feasibility of the single room suppression system.
- Action undertaken to keep fire safety exits clear at DMJ by contractors due to the Brunel Centre refurbishment.
- Fire safety training for building staff management and neighbourhood housing officers.
- Local tenants' reaction to the work undertaken by the Council following the Grenfell Tower fire.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

21. Work Programme 2017/18

The Committee received a report from the Director of Law and Democratic Services detailing its updated work programme for the Municipal Year 2017/18.

Resolved – That the report be noted.