

## **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, 29 JANUARY 2014**

**PRESENT:-** Councillors Nicky Sewell (Chair), Steve Allsopp, Alan Bishop, Wayne Crabbe, John Haines, Derique Montaut, Julie Wright, Andrew Bennett, Roderick Bluh, Michael Bray (Vice-Chair) and Teresa Page

Also in attendance were: Councillor Brian Mattock – Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, Councillor Keith Williams – Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure, John Gilbert (SBC), Nerissa Vaughan (GWH), Sue Wald (SBC), Cherry Jones (SBC), Paula May (AWP), Ian Biggs (NHS England), Newlands Anning (AWP), Frances Mayes (SBC), Dr Peter Crouch (CCG), Heather Mitchell (SEQOL), Val Vaughan (Equality Coalition), Tony Ranzetta (CCG), and Ian Bickerton (SBC).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rochelle Russell, James Robbins and Oliver Donachie.

### **42. Declarations of Interest**

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

### **43. Public Question Time**

Anne Mooney, the Chair of the Service Users Network in Swindon, put forward questions from service users concerning mental health care, and raised concerns over treatment received in this area. The Managing Director of the Avon Wiltshire Partnership (AWP) mental health service provider undertook to provide a written response to the Chair of the Network once their full set of questions had been provided to them. This response will also be circulated to Committee members.

Keegan, a local resident of Swindon, queried why the response from medical health care professionals to issues over mental health was to prescribe anti-depressant medication as the first choice of treatment. This issue will be passed to NHS England for response, with it also being circulated to Committee members once available.

Dale, a local resident of Swindon, raised concerns over the distances he is expected to travel when referred to another service by his GP and the lack of support this provides to him as a carer, and queried what plans are in place to provide support to those people who are contemplating suicide. The AWP undertook to provide a response on the support arrangements in place for preventing suicide attempts, and NHS England could comment on his primary care contract once he provided his address details.

Further to the above issue regarding General Practice surgeries, Cllr Julie Wright queried how the ratio of Doctor's to population is calculated and who determines where they are placed. NHS England undertook to provide a response to this query.

**44.**

## **Minutes**

Resolved - (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2014 be confirmed and signed.

(2) That confirmation would be provided that all of the points raised at the meeting by Rosemarie Philips (a local resident) under Public Question Time have been addressed.

**45.**

## **Suicide Prevention**

The Committee received a report updating members on the latest profile of suicide in Swindon, and the outline actions being undertaken to prevent the occurrence of suicide both in the community and within Secondary Mental Health Services.

Frances Mayes, Senior Public Health Manager, introduced the report and advised that suicide prevention had been a long standing Public Health responsibility. With the transfer of Public Health to the Council in April 2013, suicide prevention is now the responsibility of the Local Authority.

Members were asked to note that the suicide rate is low in England compared to other European countries, with the rates in Swindon being similar to other comparable towns. Once a Coroner has reported a verdict of suicide, Public Health will create a profile for data analysis (the results of which are as set out in paragraph 3.13 of the report). The key actions and achievements in Swindon to prevent suicide so far were highlighted, along with the recommendations for future action.

The suicide and self-harm statistics in Swindon for known Avon Wiltshire Partnership (AWP) service users were noted, along with the control measures in place to ensure learning is taken from incidents and that staff are comprehensively trained. The AWP Suicide Prevention Strategy 2010 – 2013 is currently in draft form and will be made available to members as an appendix to the next AWP update report. The AWP's Care Programme Approach, Suicide Prevention Group Meetings, and the National Patient Safety Agency suicide prevention toolkits were also highlighted.

After the presentation of the report, members and health colleagues asked questions and made observations on the following issues:

- Eliminating all inpatient suicides using non-collapsible rails (an update of which will be contained within the next AWP update report).
- The discrepancies between GP records and hospital attendance logs, and the nature, collection and sharing of data that will feed in to the proposed Self-Harm Register.
- The implementation of the Self-Harm Register (an update of which will be contained within the next AWP update report).
- The broadness of the age ranges being used for data analysis.
- The value of personal support and a friends and family network for vulnerable and isolated people, rather than reliance on medically focussed solutions.
- The services available for people to access in Swindon as an alternative form of therapy, for example talking therapies.
- Potential links between victims of domestic violence and suicide, and patients being made aware of the negative side effects of medication they are

prescribed.

- The relatively low number of 81% of AWP staff within the Swindon locality who have received training on suicide prevention and risk assessment.
- The GP's in the Swindon area who have received a risk assessment tool and training in its implementation.
- The interaction of different drugs prescribed by a GP to an individual and how this is checked.
- The lack of availability of out of hours dispensing of prescription medication.
- The identifying factors of a person who has been described as depressed and who is more likely to attempt suicide, and how these are picked up.
- The scope of complementary medicine available (an update of which will be contained within the next AWP update report).
- Member attendance at local health events and conferences.
- The priority of treatment to patients who have been admitted to hospital after a failed suicide attempt.
- The impact of side effects of medication on people who hadn't previously been highlighted as a potential suicide risk, and the impact of social media on young people raising the number of suicide attempts.

Resolved – (1) That the update report on suicide prevention in the Swindon locality be noted.

(2) That the updates requested by the Committee be incorporated into future reports from the Avon Wiltshire Partnership NHS Partnership Trust.

#### **46. Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care - Question & Answer Session**

The Committee received a report of the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, setting out performance and budget information relative to his portfolio responsibilities, and were presented with an opportunity to ask questions of the Cabinet Member.

Cllr Brian Mattock, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, presented the report which gave updates on: an overview of policy, strategy, governance and working arrangements; key responsibilities; strategic issues to address; the views of service users, carers and people with learning disabilities; a financial overview of Adult Social care; workforce development; performance review; Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership performance; SEQOL performance; Public Health; and the priorities for 2014/15.

Following his presentation of the report, Councillor Mattock responded to members' and health colleagues' questions and observations on the following issues:

- The protocol for checking the work of the Care Quality Commission.
- Increasing the numbers of people who are cared for at home rather than in residential or nursing homes, and the subsequent implications of this.
- The lower life expectancy amongst people living in the 10% most deprived areas in Swindon, and using educational approaches as well as health approaches to achieve the societal changes required to address these issues. This was noted as a potential issue for the Committee to consider adding to the Work Programme for 2014/15.
- The levels of funding received into the area to address health issues.

- Educating people on the importance of Vitamin D to address issues of deficiency which can sometimes be mistakenly perceived as abuse.
- The progress towards getting radiotherapy in Swindon so that residents do not have to travel to Oxford for this treatment (updates on this will be provided in all future reports from the Clinical Commissioning Group until the completion and successful implementation of this project).
- The Better Care Fund (the draft plan to be circulated to members prior to the deadline of 14 February 2014).
- The timescales involved with the Adult Social Care commissioners and SEQOL to develop a draft project plan to look at how learning disabilities and mental health services are offered in Swindon, what additional services may be required and how the skills mix within existing services can be further developed to enhance the current local offer.
- The reduction in waiting times for people being referred to the Memory Service by their GPs.
- The activity of the Local Government Association during pre-election periods, and conflict between the differing aims of services within the Council on issues such as housing.
- Learning lessons from the successful reduction in the numbers of teenage pregnancies, and how these can be applied to reducing the number of people who drink alcohol and smoke.

Resolved – (1) To note the report by the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care.

(2) That any updates requested by the Committee be incorporated into future reports from commissioners and providers.

The Chair thanked Cllr Mattock for attending the meeting.

#### **47. Commissioner and Provider updates**

With the agreement of the Committee, this item was moved forward on the agenda.

Further to Minute 11, the Committee received update reports from the following Commissioners and Providers:

- Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Avon and Wiltshire NHS Partnership Trust
- NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group

The report also included a summary of the reports and decisions arising from the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 13 November 2013. The Committee was invited to review this material and determine whether it required additional information or specific reports in relation to any of the various matters considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Further to Minute 30, the Committee also received a report from NHS England apprising them of the key issues related to commissioning services for the Armed Forces.

During the Committee's consideration of the updates the following issues were raised by members:

- Cleanliness and infection control, and the Great Western Hospitals NHS

Foundation Trust's response to the issues picked up by Inspectors.

- The numbers of permanent army personnel expected to move into the area and provisions being made for commissioning and providing services to them. This was noted as a potential issue for the Committee to consider adding to the Work Programme for 2014/15.

Resolved – (1) That the reports be noted.

(2) That future commissioner and provider reports to the Committee contain updates on issues relating to the provision of Armed Forces health services as necessary.

#### **48. Cabinet Member for Leisure - Question & Answer Session**

The Committee received a report of the Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure, setting out performance and budget information relative to his portfolio responsibilities, and were presented with an opportunity to ask questions of the Cabinet Member. Cllr Keith Williams, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Leisure, presented the report and expanded upon those parts of his responsibilities that relate to health. He noted that libraries provide an opportunity to reduce isolation and that addressing obesity is part of sport development. He also highlighted that leisure services will be contracted out to an external provider, but that every effort will be made to ensure successful contractors are socially conscious and aware of their responsibilities to communities.

Following his presentation of the report, the Cabinet Member responded to members' questions and observations on the following issues:

- Increasing the involvement in sporting activities of people who do not enjoy exercise.
- The results of the Active People's Survey and the success of Swindon Borough Council in achieving higher levels of activity with regards to other comparable authorities.
- The costs of the development of the leisure in Swindon website and any subsequent increase in the number of residents signing up for leisure memberships.
- Seasonal effects on the differing types of sporting activity available.
- Concerns over rising costs of renting football pitches and the effect on youth teams, and mitigating any potential increases once an external contractor takes over responsibility of this leisure provision.
- The effect of potholes on the number of people cycling, and air quality in Swindon.

The Committee noted that a Task Group has already been set up to conduct a review of the health and health care aspects of the Options Appraisal for the transformation of Leisure and Culture commissioning (Minute 23 refers). The Group will be updated following the end of the bidding process in February 2014.

Resolved – To note the report by the Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure.

The Chair thanked Cllr Williams for attending the meeting.

**49.**

**Work Programme 2013/14**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services regarding the development of its work programme for 2013/14.

Resolved – That the Committee's updated work programme, detailed in the report, be noted.