

SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Thursday 16th January 2020 at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room 2, Council House, Walsall

Committee Members Present

Councillor K. Hussain (Chair)
Councillor B. Allen
Councillor G. Ali
Councillor D. Coughlan
Councillor A. Nawaz
Councillor S. Neville
Councillor H. Sarohi
Councillor V. Waters

Portfolio Holders Present

Councillor R. Martin – Adult Social Care
Councillor S. Craddock – Health and Wellbeing

Officers Present

Paula Furnival – Executive Director Adult Social Care
Nikki Gough – Democratic Services Officer

Walsall Healthcare Trust

Richard Beekin – Chief Executive
Daren Fradgley - Executive Director of Integration

36/19 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor I. Robertson.

37/19 Substitutions

Councillor A. Nawaz substituted for Councillor I. Robertson for the duration of the meeting.

38/19 Declarations of Interest

Councillor B. Allen declared an interest as an employee of Walsall Healthcare Trust.

39/19 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be considered in private session.

40/19 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th November 2019 were considered by the Committee.

Resolved

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th November 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

The Chair agreed to receive item 7 prior to item 6.

41/19 Walsall Health Care Trust – Stroke Rehabilitation Services

The Executive Director of Integration introduced the report (annexed) and informed the Committee that the report provided an update on the development of community stroke rehabilitation services in Walsall. Service reconfiguration was implemented on 11th April 2018, after this date patients with signs and symptoms of an acute stroke were transferred to Royal Wolverhampton Trust for assessment and treatment. Walsall residents requiring in patient stroke rehabilitation were transferred to Walsall Healthcare Trust.

The Committee were informed that it had been provisionally agreed that the Holly Bank House site would be used by Walsall Healthcare Trust to house stroke rehabilitation patients.

A Member expressed her support for a centre of excellence at Royal Wolverhampton Trust. A desire for information on clinical outcomes for patients was expressed, the Chief Executive (Walsall Healthcare Trust) stated that an evaluation of clinical outcomes could be taken to the Committee at a future date.

In response to a question from a Member, the Trust stated that up to sixteen patients could be accommodated on the current ward. The lowest number accommodated had been four patients and the highest number had been fourteen patients with an average length of stay of three to six weeks. A Member asked for reassurance that patients were not being discharged before they were ready. The Chief Executive stated that the readmission rate within twenty-eight days had not been increasing and that these statistics were publically available.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care was asked by a Member how Walsall Council were assisting the Trust. The Portfolio Holder stated that Social Workers prepared patients for discharge. In response to a further question around capacity, the Executive Director stated that around two hundred and twenty to three hundred people were seen by the intermediate care service.

The Chair invited a Member of the Public to address the Committee; she informed the Committee that her Father had been a patient on the stroke rehabilitation ward. Her experience of the service was described and she gave a detailed account of an unsatisfactory experience of the stroke rehabilitation service at Walsall Healthcare Trust. The Executive Director of Integration stated that the Trust had received

communication from the family and stated that he was unable to comment on specific case but committed to following up in detail outside of the meeting.

A Member asked for reassurance that the issues raised had been dealt with and that the level of care on the ward was satisfactory. The Chief Executive stated that he would bring a report to committee on clinical outcomes and the effectiveness of care. A Member agreed that the Committee needed more than reassurance that the care patients were receiving an adequate service, and suggested that when the report was considered by the Committee that the Member of the Public was invited to attend.

Resolved

That a further report on Stroke Rehabilitation Service is taken to the Committee, before the end of the municipal year, detailing clinical outcomes for patients.

42/19 Walsall Together Update

The report provided an update on the development of Walsall Together. It provided an overview of the work undertaken to date and highlights some key priorities for the partnership over the coming months.

The Committee were informed that the Walsall Together Partnership Board was established in May 2019 and continued to meet on a monthly basis with representation from all partners. The partnership gave an increased level of intelligence, work was underway on a single electronic referral system for those individuals with complex health and care needs to the entire locality team, and offer multi-disciplinary team. It was stressed that this way of working was innovative and placed Walsall in the top 10% of the country. The Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust confirmed the consensus and strength of the partnership.

A Member queried whether number of patients presenting to 'A and E' was reducing. The Chief Executive stated that in order to reduce inappropriate attendance two points of access would be created to better triage patients.

In response to a query around cross border issues, Walsall Healthcare Trust was working with Royal Wolverhampton Trust to create a better offer and improve information sharing through a clinical portal.

A discussion on the abolition of NHS targets ensued, and the Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust stated that these targets were enshrined in the NHS constitution. It was stated that non-planned care waiting times was an effective proxy indicator of safety and effectiveness. The Walsall Together Partnership would continue to monitor such figures.

The Chief Executive stated that the main objective of Walsall Together was to prevent people from becoming chronically ill. A lot of people were presenting in 'A and E' with acute and serious chronic disease however demographics of residents was known by the partnership and would be putting data to good use to redesign pathways to tackle this.

43/19 Areas of Focus

The Committee considered the areas of focus 2019/20 document and agreed to defer the following items; -

- Aids and Adaptations
- Access to GPs

This was to allow capacity for the stroke services item to be reconsidered by the Committee.

Resolved

That consideration of ‘aids and adaptation’s and ‘access to GPs’ would be deferred to the new municipal year.

44/19 Forward Plans

The Committee considered the forward plan documents.

Resolved

That the Committee noted the forward plan documents.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was the Tuesday 25th February 2020.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.30 pm.

Signed:

Date: