

SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Thursday 17th January 2019, 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room 2, Council House, Walsall

Committee Members Present

Councillor D. James (Chair)
Councillor B. Allen
Councillor O. Butler
Councillor G. Clarke
Councillor D. Coughlan
Councillor S. Neville
Councillor J. Rochelle
Councillor H. Sarohi
Councillor I. Shires

Portfolio Holders Present

Councillor T. Wilson – Children’s Health and Wellbeing

Officers Present

Walsall Council

Paula Furnival – Executive Director Adult Social Care
Barbara Watt – Director of Public Health
Emma Thomas - Public Health Intelligence Manager
Nikki Gough – Democratic Services Officer

Walsall CCG

Simon Brake – Chief Officer

Liz Murphy – Independent Chair of Safeguarding Board

43/18 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor R. Martin, Councillor S. Ditta, Councillor M. Follows, and Councillor W. Rasab.

44/18 Substitutions

Councillor O. Butler substituted on behalf of Councillor M. Follows.

45/18 Declarations of Interest

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

46/18 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be considered in private session.

47/18 Minutes of previous meeting

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2019 and 27th November 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record.

Resolved

The minutes, as circulated, were agreed as a true and accurate record.

48/18 Walsall Safeguarding Adults Annual Report

The Chair of the Walsall Safeguarding Adults Board introduced the report and noted that it described the period covered by her predecessor. There was a requirement to produce an annual report, which provided an overview of partnership performance in relation to safeguarding adults.

The Committee were advised that the business unit, which supported the Safeguarding Board, had been strengthened to improve capacity. Improvements had been made to the operation of the Board, initiatives that had worked well included:

- Commencement of the IRIS project (training and support in primary care) for domestic abuse,
- The Fire Service had introduced safe and well visits.

The Committee were informed that the Board was progressing 'making safeguarding personal' and ensuring that the training offer for safeguarding adults was developed. Committee Members discussed the need to bring partners together and provide a sustainable training programme as there was a concern that there was a disparity of training across the partnership. The Chair of the Safeguarding Board responded to state that the Board had requested a review of the capacity and offer of training to address this. Consideration was also being given to how take up of training sessions could be encouraged.

A Member asked how the care home market in Walsall could be improved. It was acknowledged that the care market faced a challenging financial context however; Officers had been impressed by the knowledge of providers.

A Member queried why the number of safeguarding enquiries and concerns had increased. The Chair of the Safeguarding Board reassured the Committee that this data was comparable with other Local Authorities, and it was suggested that the introduction of the Care Act may have contributed to this increase.

The Chair of Healthwatch stated that outcomes were not clear within the report. After further discussion, the Committee suggested that a further report, containing a dashboard of performance information, was received to evidence outcomes in the future.

Resolved

- 1. That the Walsall Safeguarding Adults Annual Report be noted,**
- 2. That a dashboard of performance information be considered at a future meeting of the committee.**

49/18 Refresh of 'The Walsall Plan: Our Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2020'

The Director of Public Health stated that the report presented progress against the refresh of the Walsall Plan, which aimed to agree a smaller number of more focused priorities. The Committee were advised that a series of engagement meetings had taken place; the next stage would be for the plan to progress through Cabinet, Council and partner structures.

The Chair of Healthwatch expressed concern that the workshops prior to Christmas did not demonstrate SMART objectives and questioned when specifics would be evidenced. In response, the Director of Public Health reassured the Committee that the priorities would be worked through in a SMART way.

A Member suggested that priorities should focus on areas of the Borough that all residents used such as Walsall Healthcare Trust, or GP surgeries rather than focusing on Walsall Town Centre.

The Committee discussed the opportunities to influence street traders in the town centre and transfer the benefits of this to district centres. It was also noted that the Authority was keen to bring data sets together to work more effectively in problem areas.

A Member expressed concern that the Walsall Plan was not complimentary to the work being conducted by the West Midlands Combined Authority. In consideration of the priority relating to obesity, challenge was provided as to why it did not include children who were malnourished. The Director of Public Health agreed that this was a concern and that some families did not have enough food. The Committee were reassured that if a child was underweight it would be taken as seriously as if they were overweight.

Committee Members agreed that it would be beneficial to understand which programmes had been effective under pupil premium and sports premium in reducing obesity. In addition, Members were keen to understand how programmes operated under pupil and sports premium and were considered against public health objectives. The Director of Public Health stated that a school programmes framework was being developed to encompass this.

Resolved

That a briefing note be provided to describe the effectiveness of those programmes provided through sports premium funding to reduce obesity and to achieve public health objectives.

50/18 The NHS 10 year plan

The Chief Officer explained that the NHS long-term plan was a strategy to ensure that there was a sustainable NHS, fit for the future. The principles were;-

- Making sure everyone has the best start in life
- Delivering world class care for major health systems
- Supporting people to age well.

The Committee were advised that the plan described the implementation of the long-term plan. There were five themes within the plan, which were:

1. Doing things differently
2. Preventing illness and tackling inequality
3. Backing our workforce
4. Making better use of data and digital technology
5. Getting the most out of taxpayers' investment in the NHS

The Chief Officer stated that this supported the proposal for integrated care through the 'Walsall Together' programme. It would mean a significant investment in the NHS in Walsall, including revenue and capital commitments in the future. It was hoped that this would translate into significant improvements and changes in the way care was provided through Walsall Together.

A Member questioned how the investment would triangulate with proposals within the proposed adult social care green paper; The Chief Officer stated that the technical allocations would be announced next year. However it was hoped that there would be a significant financial increase to all CCGs. The Executive Director stated that the Authority was not aware of an anticipated date for the green paper. A Member asked how the STP would fit in with the long-term plan. The Chief Officer stated that a Black Country STP was still required.

The Committee expressed concern at the cost of DNAs (did not attend) appointments at Walsall Healthcare Trust and the resources that this took out of the health system in Walsall. It was agreed that this should be considered at a future meeting.

Resolved that:

- 1. The presentation on the NHS 10 year plan was noted;**
- 2. A report on the Adult Social Care Green paper is to be considered by the Committee in the next municipal year;**
- 3. Once available, a report detailing financial allocations and timescales attached to the NHS 10 year plan, is taken to a future meeting of the Committee;**
- 4. The Committee be provided with a briefing on the cost of 'Did Not Attend' appointments across the health service Walsall.**

51/18 Urgent Care Centres / GP Out of Hours Service

The Chief Officer informed the Committee that Walsall CCG commissioned urgent care services from Primecare this included the Urgent Care Centre in the town centre and at the Manor Hospital. In November 2018, Primecare gave the CCG a four-week notice of termination of these services as a result of financial problems. It was arranged for Mallings Healthcare Trust to provide the GP out of Hours Service, and Walsall Healthcare Trust to provide the Urgent Care Centre services once Primecare's services terminated. These services had continued to be provided with no change in patient experience.

A Member asked if there was a difference in cost between the providers and the Chief Officer stated that the services were provided within the existing financial envelope however, there were some mobilisation costs.

Resolved

That the report on Urgent Care Centres / GP Put of Hours Service be noted.

52/18 Diabetes Care

In response to previous enquires from Elected Members the Chief Officer explained that Walsall Healthcare Trust had made an application to begin the use of Freestyle Libre flash glucose monitoring system and implementation was anticipated by 1st April 2019. The Chief Officer stated that Freestyle Libre flash glucose monitoring system was designed to replace routine blood glucose testing for people aged four or over, with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, who had multiple daily injections of insulin.

The Healthwatch Chair welcomed this and challenged why this had not already been provided. The Chief Officer stated that this technology was one of several options identified by NICE guidance.

Resolved

That the report on Diabetes Care be noted.

53/18 Young Peoples Working Group Initiation Document

The initiation document was considered and agreed by the Committee.

54/8 Areas of focus 2018/19 and Forward Plans

The areas of focus 2018/19 and forward plans were noted.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 26th February 2019.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8.05 p.m.

Signed:

Date: