

Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 26th November 2020 at. 6.00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Held in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020; and conducted according to the Councils Standing Orders for Remote Meetings and those set out in the Council's Constitution.

Present:

Councillor Hussain (Chair)
Councillor Allen (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Ali
Councillor Coughlan
Councillor Rasab
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Sarohi
Councillor Waters

Portfolio Holders Present

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

Officers

Kerrie Allward	Executive Director, Adult Social Care
Karen Jackson	Director Social Care for Adults
Jennie Pugh	Group Manager, Adult Social Care
Tracy Simcox	Lead Commissioner, Adult Social Care
Suzanne Letts	Lead Accountant, Adult Social Care
Nikki Gough	Democratic Services Officer, Walsall Council

Matthew Dodds	Director of Operations for Community Services, Walsall Healthcare Trust
Aileen Farrer	Healthwatch Walsall representative

Welcome

At this point in the meeting, the Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and explaining the rules of procedure and legal context in which the meeting was being held. He also directed members of the public viewing the meeting to the papers, which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information system (CMIS)

webpage. Members confirmed that they could both see and hear the proceedings.

09 /20 **Apologies**

Apologies for attendance were received on behalf of Councillor S. Ditta.

10/20 **Substitutions**

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

11/20 **Declarations of Interest and party whip**

A declaration of interest was received on behalf of Councillor B. Allen as an employee of Walsall Healthcare Trust.

12/20 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes if the meeting that took place on were discussed.

Resolved (by roll call)

That the minutes of the meeting held on, were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

13/20 **Adult Social Care COVID 19 Action Plan and Combined Winter Plan**

The Head of Service spoke to the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed). The Committee were informed that a single Covid-19 Winter Plan for Adult Social Care and Health had been created.

Those highest risk areas, within the winter plan, were described. As part of Walsall Together, regular meetings of the partnership were held. There was an escalation process to support care homes with additional focused support provided from the 'Quality in Care Team' to care homes.

A Member clarified the number of vacancies within care homes in Walsall, the committee were informed that there was significant capacity within the market however not all care homes were able to meet the requirements to be 'designated settings'.

Officers were asked why care teams were only able to operate at 50% staffing capacity over the Christmas period. Members were reassured that this was a planned position to ensure that capacity met the trend of demand, which was often reduced during the Christmas week. Members were also assured that there were back up arrangements if there were increased pressures to ensure adequate staffing to meet demand.

A winter pressures grant to establish a mechanism to support residents who were discharged from hospital (without family support) was discussed and Members asked for detail of the support that would be provided to volunteers. The Committee were advised that this was in the very early stages of planning and stated that comments would be fed back to those planning the service. A Member noted that consideration should be given to those Walsall residents who had been discharged from New Cross Hospital.

Resolved that

The Adult Social Care COVID 19 Action Plan and Combined Winter Plan be noted.

14/20

Corporate financial performance – Quarter 2 (Period 5 - August 2020) Financial monitoring position for 2020/21

The Lead Accountant introduced the report and highlighted the salient points. This report provided the budget monitoring position for Period 5, 2020/21.

The current net revenue forecast position at Period 5 (August 2020), after the net use of reserves was an under spend of £0.407m. This was made up of Adult Social Care (£0.407m) and Public Health (on budget).

The financial support from national Government for Covid related costs was discussed. Officers stated that assumptions on future costs were continually being updated. The Executive Director stated that the Authority was not assuming or planning for the continuation of Covid related funds. In the future, this would create a pressure, and currently Covid funds were masking additional demand.

Resolved that

The Corporate financial performance – Quarter 2 (Period 5 - August 2020) Financial monitoring position for 2020/21 be noted.

15/20

Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 to 2023/24

The Executive Director spoke to the report and highlighted the salient points contained within (see annexed). Members were made aware that there were significant pressures on the directorate; however, significant efficiencies had been identified without affecting service delivery. This had been achieved through the Walsall Proud Programme and efficiencies in third party spend. People would be supported to be more independent and technology would be used to further support them. Income streams would also be maximised to ensure robust approaches to secure additional income.

The Committee were provided with further detail on the key proposals within the Adult Social Care budget. Members acknowledged that, the announcement in relation to the Better Care Fund, was historically late and this made planning difficult. It was also noted that the proposal '*P10 Charge self funders to arrange care via adult social care*' would now be progressed in the financial year 2022/23.

Following challenge in relation to – '*OP91 Reduction of day care funded by direct payments*' - the Committee were informed that the pandemic had provided opportunities for individuals to explore alternative options to traditional day care centres. In response to concern that, whilst individuals had adapted to alternative options during the pandemic, people may be keen to return to their normal activities. The Committee were provided with reassurance that individual needs and preferences would be assessed through their support plans.

Members also sought clarification on '*OP97 Review of all resources including Goscote and shared lives*'. The Committee were provided with clarification that resources would be reviewed to ensure a focus on re-ablement activity; however, it was acknowledged that more traditional support would be needed by some individuals.

Resolved that (by roll call)

1. The Committee considered the draft revenue budget proposals relating to the remit of the Committee in order to formally report to the Cabinet on the policy proposals.
2. The Committee noted that consultation would be undertaken on all new 2021/22 policy proposals and that feedback would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020.
3. The Committee noted that further savings proposals would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020 in order for a balanced budget to be delivered by February 2021, and that these would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee for consultation.

16/20

Areas of Focus

It was noted that the 'outpatient review' would be added to the work programme. An update on the vaccination programme was provided and it was suggested that this was provided as an update to the Committee.

Resolved

That the areas of focus be noted.

17/20 Forward Plans

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions from Cabinet and the Black Country Executive Joint Committee were considered.

18/20 Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 28th January 2021.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.08 p.m.