

SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Thursday 12th September 2019 at 6 p.m.

Conference Room 2, Council House, Walsall

Committee Members Present

Councillor K. Hussain (Chair)
Councillor G. Ali
Coughlan G. Clarke
Councillor D. Coughlan
Councillor S. Ditta
Councillor S. Johal
Councillor S. Neville
Councillor I. Robertson
Councillor H. Sarohi
Councillor V. Waters

Portfolio Holders Present

Councillor M. Longhi – Health and Wellbeing
Councillor R. Martin – Adult Social Care

Others Present

John Taylor – Chair of Healthwatch Walsall

Dudley Walsall Mental Health Trust

Mark Axcell – Chief Executive
Dr V. Kennedy – Clinical Director

Walsall CCG

Marcus Law – Head of Mental Health and Learning
Disabilities Commissioning
Paul Tulley – Director of Commissioning
Sarah Shingler – Chief Nursing Officer

Walsall Council

Carl Griffiths – Head of Community Care
Suzanne Letts – Finance Officer
Nikki Gough – Democratic Services Officer

08/19 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor B. Allen, and Councillor W. Rasab.

09/19 Substitutions

Councillor S. Johal substituted on behalf of Councillor B. Allen for the duration of the meeting.

10/19 Declarations of Interest

There were not declarations of interest or party whip.

11/19 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be considered in private session.

12/19 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2019 were considered.

Resolved

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

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

13/19 Spotlight on Adult Mental Health

The Chief Executive provided introductions to staff in attendance at the meeting and spoke to the presentation (annexed). The Committee were advised of the challenges faced in Walsall including;

- Higher than average unemployment levels,
- High levels of multiple deprivation,
- Lower than average life expectancy,
- High prevalence of substance misuse,
- Higher rates of prevalence for various mental health disorders compared to the national average.

The national agenda and the national strategy for mental health service delivery was described. This would be delivered through the mental health five-year forward view and the NHS long-term plan. The development of a much-needed perinatal mental health service, which had been in operation for around 18 months, was described. The Committee were advised that there were opportunities to integrate care.

Members were advised that the specialist adult autism spectrum disorder service provided by DWMHT was now providing support to Walsall CCG. In addition, Walsall had a dynamic risk register, which captured those adults with ASD at risk to avoid hospital placement. Members were assured that strong partnership working existed between adult social care and health.

The suicide prevention strategy in Walsall was described, and successes such as suicide prevention strategies on Junction 10 were highlighted. Background information on the Trust was provided along with the services provided for Walsall including the planned merger with the Black Country Partnership Trust. A Member sought assurance that the merger was supported by Clinicians. The Chief Executive stated that Clinicians had previously voiced concerns around the proposed merger however; they now supported the process and were assured of the advantages.

A Member questioned if users has easy and equal access to mental health services, with concern expressed that males were not accessing these services. Early intervention was also raised as a necessary service. The Trust were asked if GP's were being fully trained on mental health to support in the early stages of illness and stressed that it was crucial that they were aware of mental health first aid. The Chief Executive stated that the reluctance by men to access services was recognised and targeted promotional work was underway.

The Chair of Healthwatch Walsall questioned the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trusts involvement in Walsall Together and stated that they should be an integral element of the partnership. Challenge was also provided in relation to the training provided to GPs on suicide prevention. Officers stated that the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust was committed to the Walsall Together programme. There were discussions taking place on how this might work going forward. The CCG stated that GP Leads were engaging with work on suicide prevention, and mental health training.

A discussion on the investment in mental health services in Walsall was held and the CCG Officer explained that a high proportion of spend was out of area, the Trust were working to reduce this. The Committee were assured that there was local investment in mental health services.

A Member questioned the increasing number of CAMHs referrals and questioned information provided at a recent member training session, which suggested that there was no service provision for under 11's. Officers present stressed that they did not recognise this gap in service and the Chief Executive stated that he would circulate this information, by email, to the Committee.

Concern was expressed by Members that the current method of booking onto therapies was inadequate and patients may not be motivated to seek out therapy. Waiting lists and early intervention methods were considered and suggested that more needs to be done to prevent individuals escalating to crisis level.

The 'crisis café' was described to Members as a place, which provided information and advice on mental health. It was hoped that this would divert people away from the accident and emergency department, providing the opportunity to implement a different style of intervention, with open access to crisis workers during evenings and weekends. The Chair of Healthwatch suggested that mental health services were difficult to navigate and that people needed support to access help.

Resolved that

- 1. That the presentation be noted**
- 2. The Mental Health Working Group focus on early intervention.**

14/19 Consultation on Dental out of Hours Services for the West Midlands consultation

The NHS England representative spoke to the report (annexed) on the consultation on dental out of hours services for the West Midlands. 'Out of hours' services were defined as urgent or emergency dental care from a dentist when their dental practice is closed. The Committee were advised that the numbers of people using these services were very small – in Walsall this was around 6 people a week. Members were assured that NHS England were still open to feedback. The current contracts were due to expire and this exercise provided the opportunity to re-procure the services and a patient and public engagement exercise had been undertaken.

The current provision in Walsall was currently available at weekends only; the proposed service would provide appointments to Walsall residents during the week and at weekends. The Committee were advised that consultation responses from Walsall residents were limited, it was suggested that this was reflective of the numbers using the service. A Member raised concern that she had not seen publicity advertising the consultation, and the Chair of Healthwatch Walsall suggested that Facebook was the most effective method of communicating these issues.

The Chair invited feedback on the consultation from the Committee. A Member stated that the reason that many people many need to use the 'out of hours' service was because they do not regularly visit a dentist for routine check-ups. The NHS England representative stated that a focus of the new service was to ensure that people were able to access regular dental care; this would mean that some practices were commissioned to take on patients with more complex needs and provide early intervention. A Member suggested that practices needed to be sympathetic to these patients. Discussion was also held around the cost of routine dental care and that this may be a factor for some people.

Resolved

That the consultation on the dental out of hours services for the West Midlands was noted.

15/19 Corporate Financial Performance – Pre-audit Outturn position for 2018/19

The corporate financial performance – pre-audit outturn position for 2018/19 was presented and Members were informed that the outturn position of a £0.260m overspend was made up of £0256m Adult Social Care and £0.004m Public Health.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

16/19 Areas of Focus 2019/20

The Committee considered the areas of focus for the 2019/20 year. It was agreed that an item on delayed hospital discharge would be considered at a future meeting.

Resolved

That the areas of focus be agreed subject to the addition of ‘delayed hospital discharge’.

17/19 Forward Plans

Resolved

That the forward plans be noted.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was the 24th October 2019.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at. 8.15 pm.

Signed:

Date: