

Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 8th April 2021 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 Ali
Councillor G. Clarke
Councillor Coughlan
Councillor S. Ditta
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 Social Care for Adults
Matthew Dodd	Acting Director of Integration for Walsall Together
Alison Stone	Joint Clinical Lead for Specialist Rehabilitation
David Brown	The Senior Commissioning Manager (Public Health) NHS England
Nikki Gough	Democratic Services Officer, Walsall Council
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.

31/20

Apologies

There were no apologies received for the duration of the meeting.

32/20

Substitutions

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

33/20

Declarations of Interest and party whip

There were no declarations of interest.

34/20

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting that took place on 28th January 2021 were discussed.

Resolved (by roll call)

That the minutes of the meeting held 28th January 2021, were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

35/20

Walsall Together Update

The Acting Director (of Integration for Walsall Together) presented the report (annexed) and highlighted the salient points. The report provided an update on the development of Walsall Together and an overview of the work undertaken since the previous report was received in January 2020. Key priorities for the partnership over the next financial year were also included.

Members were advised that the recent focus, of Walsall Together, had been the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This had highlighted the benefits of integrated working and the Partnership was now refocusing on the reset of services. The impact of interventions were described and the impact of focusing on population need. The wider determinants of health and wellbeing were fed in through the work of 'Resilient Communities' and this built on the value added by the volunteer response to the pandemic. The workforce and development stream was described to explain the ideals of Walsall Together. A significant amount

of work had taken place, through the partnership, to ensure that the vaccination programme was a success. The future focus for the partnership would be on preventing individuals from needing health and social care.

A Member expressed disappointment that the 'Walsall Together' branding was not used in Walsall vaccination centres. It was acknowledged that NHS branding had been used, however, this was being reviewed.

It was suggested that there should be a housing representative sitting on the Walsall Together Board, due to the impact that housing had on individual's health and wellbeing. The Executive Director (Adult Social Care) explained that Walsall Housing Group and Public Health were involved with the Walsall Together Partnership and although there was further work to do, housing was on the agenda. In response a Member stated that the condition of housing in Walsall needed improving.

The importance of patients attending the right place for care was stressed. The Acting Director stated that there was a focus on removing duplication to avoid this and an opportunity to get care navigation right to ensure people were able to access the correct part of the healthcare system.

A Member queried if individuals were accessing mental health services before they reached crisis point. The Committee were informed that the IAPT mental health service signposted individuals to access the correct service. A discussion ensued on the vaccination of individuals who were not able to leave their home. Members were assured that individuals were able to access the support they needed.

Resolved

That the Walsall Together Update was noted.

36/20

Community Stroke Rehabilitation Service Update

The Acting Director presented the report (annexed) and highlighted the salient points. The Committee were informed that the report provided an update on the development of community stroke rehabilitation services in Walsall since the last report to the Committee in January 2020.

The background to the stroke reconfiguration at Walsall Healthcare Trust was described, and that the proposals saw the acute and hyper-acute patients being treated at Royal Wolverhampton Hospital from April 2018 with rehabilitation services provided from Walsall Healthcare Trust. The pandemic had accelerated the service transfer to Holly Bank House in April 2020. It was stressed that quality of service was always at the

forefront of service change and partnership support had assisted the relocation to be a success. The Committee were assured that the workforce had been enhanced to support the service change.

Performance information was described which demonstrated that patient outcomes had improved as a result of the service reconfiguration.

In the future a Member asked for the patient experience to be included in reports to provide a holistic view of the service. The Healthwatch representative suggested that the patient experience of individuals at Holly bank House had been put forward as a future work programme item within the patient engagement programme of Healthwatch.

Resolved

That the Community Stroke Rehabilitation Service update was noted.

37/20

Diabetic Eye Screening Procurement – Birmingham, Solihull and Black Country

The Senior Commissioning Manager (Public Health) presented the report and highlighted the salient points. Members were informed that the current contract was being re-procured and this meant that the service model may change to tackle the backlogs created as a result of the pandemic. It was noted that the current procurement exercise was paused, pending the patient engagement exercise. Members were assured that the input of diabetes UK in relation to the service had been sought. The Healthwatch representative stated that Healthwatch had been commissioned to provide service user engagement, through Walsall Together, and as part of this a diabetes service user group had been established. It was suggested that this group could be involved in future patient engagement exercises.

Resolved that:

- 1. That the Diabetic Eye Screening Procurement was noted**
- 2. The Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested to be involved in future patient engagement exercises.**

38/20

Forward Plans

The Forward plans were considered.

Resolved

That the Forward plans were noted.

39/20

Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting would be agreed at annual Council.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.30 p.m.