

Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 6 April 2023 at. 6.00 p.m.

Conference room 2, Walsall Council.

Committee Members Present

Councillor K. Hussain (Chair)
Councillor V. Waters (Vice-Chair)
Councillor K. Sears
Councillor R. Worrall
Councillor R.K. Mehmi
Councillor L. Rattigan
Councillor P. Smith

Portfolio Holder – Adult Social Care

Councillor K. Pedley

Portfolio Holder – Health and Wellbeing

Councillor G. Flint

Officers

Walsall Council

K. Allward	Executive Director for Adult Social Care
V. Tolley	Public Health Development Manager
S. Lloyd	Democratic Services Officer

NHS England (West Midlands)

T. Harvey	Senior Commissioning Manager; Pharmacy, Optometry and Dental
A. Hunt	Consultant in Dental Public Health

Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust

Professor D. Loughton	Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust
N. Hobbs	Chief Operating Officer of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust

63/22 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Martin and Rasab.

64/22 Substitutions

There were no substitutions for this meeting.

65/22 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest or party whip for the duration of the meeting.

66/22 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no agenda items requiring the exclusion of the public.

67/22 Minutes

A copy of the minutes of the meeting held on the 21 February 2023 was submitted to the Committee for consideration. It was noted that the date of the next meeting in the minutes should have read 6 April 2023.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 21 February 2023, a copy previously having been circulated, be amended to correct the date of the next meeting, approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

68/22 Access to GP Services – Update on Telephone Systems

The Chair advised that due to staff sickness at the Black Country Integrated Care Board (ICB) this report had not been received.

Resolved

That the item be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee.

69/22 Dental Services Briefing

The Senior Commissioning Manager of Pharmacy, Optometry and Dental addressed the Committee and advised that as of 1 April the ICB assumed commissioning for dental services, community pharmacies and optometry practices and the team, which was currently based at NHS England, would transfer to the ICB on 1 July.

She took the Committee through some common myths about dental services, highlighting that there was no requirement to be registered at a dental practice since 2006 although many people still believed this to be the case. She also confirmed that access to dental services had yet to return to pre-pandemic levels and they were aware that this presented difficulties for patients.

Following questions from Members of the Committee the Senior Commissioning Manager confirmed there was no mechanism to transfer dental records between practices. She also advised that there was a Local Dental Forum which were consulted on problems of access and affordability and their input was regularly requested. A discussion took place in relation to the provision of dental services in care homes and the support that is provided to care homes in order to promote good oral health.

Resolved

That the Committee note the report and its contents.

70/22 Update on the Walsall Walk-in-Centre and Emergency Department

The Chief Operating Officer of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust presented the Committee with a report detailing the changes that had occurred at the Walsall Walk-in-Centre and Emergency Department since the Committee had visited. He advised that the Emergency Department and the Acute Medical Unit were already occupying the space and at the end of April it was planned that the Paediatric Assessment Centre would also be moved over to ensure that there was an integrated service with triage and initial diagnostic tests. He highlighted the large amount of simulation training in advance of the opening which allowed them to make beneficial amendments even before the facility opened to the public.

The Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust added that staffing levels were higher than a lot of other hospitals and there were currently no agency nursing staff being used. He also noted that Walsall was in the top 10 nationally for ambulance off-load times.

Resolved

That the Committee note the report and its contents.

71/22 Recommendation Tracker

The Democratic Services Officer informed the Committee about the progress on recommendations from previous meetings, noting that there were still a number to be completed.

Resolved

That the Recommendation Tracker be noted.

72/22 Areas of Focus

The Democratic Services Officer informed the Committee of the items remaining on the areas of focus that had not yet been discussed by the Committee.

Resolved

That the Areas of Focus be noted.

73/22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee was to be agreed at Annual Council.

The meeting terminated at 6:50p.m.

Signed:

Date: