

## **Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Thursday 21 April 2022 at. 6.00 p.m.**

**Walsall Town Hall, Walsall Council.**

### **Committee Members Present**

Councillor Hussain (Chair)  
Councillor Murphy  
Councillor Robertson  
Councillor Sears  
Councillor Waters

### **Portfolio Holders Present**

Councillor K. Pedley      Adult Social Care  
Councillor S. Craddock      Health and Wellbeing

### **Officers**

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| K. Allward                    | Executive Director Social Care for Adults   |
| D. Hamilton                   | Interim Director Adult Social Care  |
| Jeanette Knapper              | Group Manager – Adult Social Care   |
| Marsha Foster                 | Acting Chief Executive Black Country<br>Healthcare Trust                                      |
| Deborah Cooper                | Divisional Director – mental health and<br>older peoples' services                            |
| Dr Usman Khalid –<br>N. Gough | Clinical Director, Older Peoples' services<br>Democratic Services Officer, Walsall<br>Council |

82/21

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Ditta, Councillor Gandham and Councillor Johal.

83/21

### **Substitutions**

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

84/21

### **Declarations of Interest and party whip**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

85/21

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting that took place on 3 March 2022 were discussed.

### **Resolved**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

86/21

## **Bloxwich Hospital Redevelopment**

The Acting Chief Executive spoke to the presentation and highlighted the salient points (annexed). The presentation updated the Committee on previous proposals presented to Members, which detailed the redevelopment of Bloxwich Hospital (Older Peoples psychiatric services) which had been planned for a number of years.

The reasons for the redevelopment were due to the current buildings physical limitations, and inpatient facilities were not fit for purpose, which meant it was difficult to meet clinical standards, and the maintenance of the building was costly. This proposal was supported by partners and the CQC regulator. The capital outlay was described, which had been accessed through national funding specifically for eliminating dormitory wards in this type of facility.

The Divisional Director described the benefits of the new building, including a purpose built building for patients with functional illnesses and individuals with a diagnosis of cognitive illness and dementia. The scheme would take 18 months with a planned end date of December 2023 - January 2024. All patients would remain in Bloxwich Hospital receiving a service until the new build was functional.

A Member suggested that any facilities from the old building should be sent to needy causes in other parts of the world. It was questioned what the building would be used for. The Acting Chief Executive stated that the Trust were keen to work with local partners to ensure the building benefited the local community. The Clinical Director stated that it was unlikely that this building would be used for clinical services as it was not suitable.

A Member questioned if assurance could be provided that there would be enough capacity to meet demand. The Divisional Director stated that this had been carefully considered and additional beds had been planned in addition to predicted requirements. Community resource was described and there was confidence that the provision would meet community demand. The Clinical Director informed the Committee that there would be increased flexibility in the way that beds could be used compared to current provision.

A Member questioned the timetable, and if this was likely to be met. The Acting Chief Executive stated that work was currently on track and the challenge faced by the trust related to inflationary pressures.

The Trust were asked for detail on parking on the proposed site, the Divisional Director stated that additional capacity had been included and there was confidence that it was adequate. Further to this a Member asked if electric car charging would be included in the new build, the Trust representatives confirmed that this was the case.

In response to Member questions, the Trust confirmed that the use of assistive technology would be used.

### **Resolved**

That the presentation be noted.

87/21

### **Re-shaping of Service Offer across Goscote All Age Hub**

The Director presented the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed). The report updated the Committee in relation to the meaningful day opportunities agenda. Consultation for meaningful day opportunities went live in October 2021, and sought the views of external and internal stakeholders.

The Group Manager stated that Goscote was a traditional day care service, and it was redesigned as an all age hub. This model fitted in with the transformation agenda, and had achieved efficiency savings for the Council whilst not reducing services provided to vulnerable residents. Over time more opportunities had developed from the site, an example of this was the Goscote allotments. It was noted that traditional day services were good for some people but not everyone however the realignment of services allowed greater flexibility. Day care was offered for 15 individuals a day at Goscote, with people having a greater choice of services and further detail was provided on support provided to individuals.

It was stressed that staff did not wish to revert back to a traditional model of working, and worked closely with children's services to plan for the future.

The Director stated that the way the service had responded to Covid had been exceptional and led to changes in the way the service worked. She put her thanks on record to staff for their excellent work during this period.

A Member questioned if local schools were involved with the service. The Group Manager stated that Head teacher forums had been engaged, this included feeder schools, and opportunities had been provided for young people to attend Goscote to gain independent living skills. Careers Officers were based at Goscote and there were several examples of stories of difference.

A Member stated that it was important that the needs of this group of residents were listened to, and asked for assurance that those that needed the day centre were able to access it. Officers confirmed that this had been retained for individuals with complex needs, although individuals were encouraged to move on from this provision.

The financial benefits to individuals and to the Local Authority were described.

**Resolved**

**That the re-shaping of service offer across Goscote all age hub report be noted.**

88/21

**Areas of Focus**

Members reviewed the areas of focus proposed for the committee.

**Resolved**

**The areas of focus was agreed.**

89/21

**Date of the next meeting:** to be confirmed at annual council.

**Termination of Meeting**

The meeting terminated at 7.10 p.m.

Chair: .....

Date:.....