

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2018 FROM 7.00 PM TO 8.15 PM

Committee Members Present

Councillors: Ken Miall (Chairman), Laura Blumenthal, John Jarvis, Clive Jones, John Kaiser, Malcolm Richards, Chris Smith, Bill Soane and Alison Swaddle (substituting Parry Batth)

Others Present

Jim Stockley, Healthwatch Wokingham Borough
Nicola Strudley, Healthwatch Wokingham Borough
Mark Ashwell
Richard Dolinski
Madeleine Shopland, Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist
Paul Senior, Interim Director People Services

32. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Batth and Haines.

33. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 November 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

35. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

36. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

37. UPDATE ON GP ALLIANCE

This item was deferred to the Committee meeting on 7 March 2018.

38. POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THE 21ST CENTURY COUNCIL PROJECT ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

Paul Senior, Interim Director of People Services provided an update on the possible impact of the Council's 21st century Council project on health and social care services and the progression of the integration agenda.

During the discussion of this item the following points were made:

- People Services consisted of Children's Social Care and Early Help, Education, Adults Mental Health, Adults Social Care and Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Standards.
- Many councils were undergoing transformation programmes and services had to adapt to changing need. Wokingham's demographic was changing and the local offer needed to adapt accordingly.
- Paul Senior emphasised that a local authority could quickly move from being outstanding to mediocre if it did not change and adapt sufficiently. He went on to

state that there was some examples of highly effective practice at the Council but that there was also scope for improvement.

- A number of factors would have an impact on the service provided. These included more schools becoming academies, the loss of the SEND grant, the loss of the revenue grant and the 21st century council programme. In addition, Green Papers on Social Care and Health were due to be published.
- Key decisions would need to consider the retention of non- statutory services, the future role of the local voluntary, community and faith sector in supporting the Council in discharging both statutory and preventative duties and to also explore the scope for further development of shared services with neighbouring local authority areas.
- Members noted the 21st Century Council Vision and programme benefits.
- Paul Senior took Members through the pathway for care. The Committee was reminded that it was proposed that by 2020 the health and social care systems would be fully integrated.
- Efficiency was important. There should be a 'single front door' with people only having to tell their story once.
- Paul Senior stated that there was further scope for streamlining of processes. For example there were a number of different databases for dealing with information around vulnerable adults.
- It was vital that the Council worked well with its partners such as the Clinical Commissioning Group and the voluntary sector to deliver the best outcomes for its residents.
- In response to a Member question regarding the integration of budgets, Paul Senior commented that where there was 'gold star' performance there was often a joint commissioning framework in place. It was noted that the Council had an enhanced Section 75 agreement in place with the Clinical Commissioning Group. It was emphasised that integration should be value for money.
- Councillor Blumenthal asked how any changes would be communicated to residents. She was informed that once a set of proposals was in place the message would be communicated.
- Councillor Miall asked how it was ensured that people did not fall outside of the system, particularly if they transferred between areas. Paul Senior emphasised that early identification mechanisms and quality of practice was vital. Good handovers and quality of data were key.
- Paul Senior commented that he was not yet able to share the final plan for People's Services. He had asked to appraise the service in order to assess resilience and performance to help inform future developments that would be aligned with the 21st Century Council transformation programme ambitions. He would share the results with the Committee when they became available.

RESOLVED: That Paul Senior be thanked for his presentation and that the update on the possible impact of the 21st Century Council project on health and social care services be noted.

39. HEALTHWATCH UPDATE

The Committee received an update from Healthwatch Wokingham Borough.

During the discussion of this item the following points were made:

- Nicola Strudley presented the summary quarter report.

- Healthwatch Wokingham Borough had refreshed its work plan. Nicola Strudley highlighted key projects. It was noted that Healthwatch would be looking at the impact of system transformation and working with the Clinical Commissioning Group in relation to the implementation of the Accountable Care System. A one year fully funded post which would act as a conduit between the health system and the three Berkshire West Healthwatches had been agreed.
- Healthwatch would be undertaking a comprehensive programme of Enter and Views.
- Members would be sent a copy of the report regarding the visit to Prospect Park.
- Several case studies and the impact that Healthwatch had had in the individual cases were highlighted.
- With regards to a case where a family had experienced difficulties in accessing a powered wheelchair for their child, Councillor Blumenthal asked what the final outcome had been. Nicola Strudley agreed to feed back to the Committee.
- The Committee considered a case study about a carer who had sought advice and support from Healthwatch with regards to caring for her mother who had memory issues and also carers' services. Members were informed that there had been a lack of signposting to information and that Healthwatch had acted as a liaison. Councillor Blumenthal asked whether this was a one off occurrence and was informed that it was not. She went on to ask whether improvement was monitored after feedback was given to providers. Nicola Strudley commented that themes and trends were monitored.
- In response to a Member question Nicola Strudley clarified that Healthwatch Wokingham Borough would always seek feedback from the relevant provider.
- Members were informed of a live consultation on the intention to jointly commission Reading and Wokingham Healthwatches in future.
- It was understood that funding had reduced overall and that there was a need to make efficiencies where possible.
- Members were informed that the current budget for the two Healthwatches equalled £217,000 and that it was proposed that the budget for a combined Healthwatch be reduced to £173,000, a reduction of £44,000. Members questioned what this saving represented.
- A Member questioned whether the two Healthwatches had similar work levels and issues. Nicola Strudley commented that there were some similarities but also some big differences. For example Healthwatch Reading had undertaken a large piece of work regarding tuberculosis which was less of an issue in the Wokingham Borough.
- Members noted that Healthwatch Wokingham ran a phone helpdesk Monday to Friday 9am-5pm whereas Healthwatch Reading offered a phone helpdesk three days a week 10am-1pm.
- Some Members expressed concern that the element of localism would be lost should there be a joint service.
- The Committee queried why it was proposed that Healthwatch Reading and Healthwatch Wokingham be jointly commissioned as opposed to joint commissioning with other local Healthwatches.
- The Chairman proposed that a response to the consultation be submitted by the Committee and that further information on issues raised be sought from officers.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Nicola Strudley and Jim Stockley be thanked for their presentation and that the update from Healthwatch Wokingham Borough be noted;

- 2) a response from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the consultation regarding the joint commissioning of the Reading and Wokingham Healthwatches be produced.

40. HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

The Committee received a report regarding current consultations. Members were informed of consultations about transforming children and young people's mental health provision: a green paper and also introducing opt-out consent for organ and tissue donation in England.

RESOLVED: That the report regarding current health consultations be noted.

41. FORWARD PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the forward programme for the remainder of the municipal year.

It was noted that the update on the GP Alliance would be taken to the Committee's March meeting.

RESOLVED: That the forward programme be noted.