

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 JULY 2017 FROM 7.00 PM TO 8.25 PM

Committee Members Present

Councillors: Ken Miall (Chairman), Parry Bath, Laura Blumenthal, Clive Jones, Malcolm Richards, Chris Smith, Bill Soane and Abdul Loyes (substituting Kate Haines)

Others Present

Jim Stockley, Healthwatch Wokingham Borough
Julian McGhee-Sumner, Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board
Madeleine Shopland, Democratic Services and Electoral Services Specialist
Hugh O'Keeffe, Contract Manager – Dental, NHS England South (South Central)
Peter Absolon, Readibus
Professor Sofia Bowlby, Readibus

11. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Kate Haines and John Jarvis.

12. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 June 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

15. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

16. NHS DENTAL SERVICES - WOKINGHAM BOROUGH

Members were updated on NHS dental services in Wokingham Borough by Hugh O'Keeffe, Contract Manager – Dental, NHS England South (South Central).

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

- NHS England commissioned all primary care services. In the case of dentistry, NHS England commissioned primary, community and secondary care services.
- The commissioning of GP services was carried out by the Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- NHS England was divided into 13 local offices. NHS South Central was further divided into South Central Thames Valley and South Central Bath, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire.
- NHS England Thames Valley expenditure on dentistry was £90m per annum; £63m primary care; £9m Community Dental Services and £18m on hospital based treatment.
- Patient charges also applied. Treatment was banded into three bands. Children were exempt from charges for treatment as were some categories of adult.
- Young children in Wokingham, on average, had amongst the best oral health in Thames Valley with approximately 14% of 5 year olds with decay experience. The

oral health in Wokingham was considerably better than that of the England mean with about 25% of children experiencing decay by the age of 5. Slough had higher levels at 40%.

- Poor oral health in children was linked to deprivation so it was likely that the more deprived wards would on average contain children with the worst oral health.
- People were not registered with dentists in the same way as they were with a GP and could choose to attend any practice. Approximately half the Thames Valley population regularly attended a dentist. If people had an urgent need for dental care and did not have a regular dentist, they could contact NHS 111 who could direct these patients to practices that would see them on the day. There were approximately 40 practices in Thames Valley that would see patients on the day. These tended to be larger practices. Members asked how many of these were in Wokingham Borough. Hugh O’Keeffe agreed to feed back to the Committee.
- Patients could also be signposted to NHS Choices which provided information on the dental services and practices available.
- Access to dental services was discussed in detail. Improving access to NHS dental services had become a national priority after the implementation of the new dental contract in 2006. 2009 – 2012 ‘ringfenced’ monies were identified to improve dental access.
- It was noted that there were 14 NHS dental practices within the Borough with 10 delivering services to all groups of patients and 4 to children only.
- Approximately 45.5% of the Wokingham population had attended an NHS dental practice in the 2 years prior to May 2017, an increase of about 3,500 patients when compared to May 2015. This was slightly lower than the national average; however, it was likely that the use of private dental practices was higher in the Borough.
- Members considered information regarding access to NHS dentistry by ward. The majority of wards had good levels of access. In response to a Member question, Hugh O’Keeffe explained that with regards to ‘rank deprivation’ the lower the score, the greater the level of deprivation. He also clarified that UDA referred to unit of dental activity.
- Challenges for ensuring sufficient access included:
 - NHS resources were constrained;
 - The ‘ringfence’ for dental funding had been removed;
 - Improved primary care access had led to a greater number of referrals;
 - Competition for resources;
 - Across the Thames Valley there were a number of local authorities, including the Council, which planned to substantially increase their populations via housing developments.
- NHS England also commissioned community dental services. Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust provided this service for Berkshire from a number of community based clinics. They also provided General Anaesthetic services at the Royal Berkshire and Wexham Park Hospitals for special care patients and children.
- If patients had more complex clinical needs, they could be referred to hospital for services including Maxillofacial Surgery, orthodontics, restorative work and complex extractions.
- Councillor Soane asked whether data was available for tooth decay levels for children up to the age of 18. Hugh O’Keeffe explained that local authorities ran surveys at different age cohorts: 3, 5 and 12 years old. Councillor Soane asked whether education on the importance of oral health was provided in schools and was informed that other more targeted initiatives were often more effective.

- Councillor Richards asked whether the number of NHS dental practices in an area could be limited and was informed that they could.
- Councillor Jones questioned whether a patient's records moved with them if they changed dental practices and was informed that generally they did not as the records were owned by the dentists.

RESOLVED: That Hugh O'Keeffe be thanked for his presentation and that the update on NHS dental services in Wokingham Borough be noted.

17. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Committee received an update on the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board from Councillor McGhee-Sumner, Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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

- The new Health and Wellbeing Strategy was focused on four key priorities; Enabling and empowering resilient communities, Promoting and supporting good mental health; Reducing health inequalities in our Borough; and Delivering person-centred integrated services.
- Members were informed that the Step Up, Step Down project had started well but had become less successful over time. How this project could be improved would be looked at with the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The Committee requested an update on the outcome of this work at a future meeting.
- In response to a question from Councillor Loyes regarding bed blocking, Councillor McGhee-Sumner emphasised that Wokingham was one of the best in the country for ensuring minimal delays to transfers of care.
- Members were informed that GP clustering was progressing.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board was looking to become more responsive to residents' needs rather than reactive.
- Councillor McGhee-Sumner informed the Committee of the work with Reading and West Berkshire Councils on continuing healthcare.
- Councillor Jones stated that he had been informed that recently there had been an increase in people presenting at A&E with mental health issues. Councillor McGhee-Sumner commented that he would ask the Clinical Commissioning Group to confirm if this was the case.
- Councillor Miall questioned whether care homes had sprinklers installed as standard and was informed that newer care homes did. The Fire and Rescue and Service carried out spot safety checks.
- Members were reminded that Healthwatch could undertake visits to care homes and often reported their findings to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

RESOLVED: That Councillor McGhee-Sumner be thanked for his presentation and that the update on the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board be noted.

18. HEALTHWATCH WOKINGHAM BOROUGH

The Committee discussed the work of Healthwatch Wokingham Borough.

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

- At the last Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting the Committee had received the Healthwatch Wokingham Borough report on Extra Care.

- Jim Stockley indicated that some inaccuracies in the report had been brought to Healthwatch's attention by Readibus. Peter Absolon and Professor Sofia Bowlby from Readibus outlined their concerns.
- Members were informed that changes would be made to the report, which would be agreed with Readibus. The Committee requested that Members be sent the amended report.
- It was noted that Readibus operated a full timetable of buses to Woodley.
- Jim Stockley apologised that on this occasion Readibus had not received a copy of the report prior to its publication. Members were assured that it was usual practice for reports to be sent to all relevant providers for comment prior to publication.
- Healthwatch often dealt with small samples of people.
- Members asked how the error had become known.
- Members were reminded that Healthwatch could undertake visits to care homes and could highlight issues that people raised with them.
- Councillor Miall asked if the Healthwatch phone line operatives were able to refer callers who may have a mental health issue to other organisations such as the Samaritans, and was informed that they could.

RESOVLED: That Jim Stockley be thanked for his presentation and that the update on the work of Healthwatch Wokingham Borough be noted.

19. HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

The Committee noted the current health consultation listed within the report.

The Care Quality Commission was seeking views on the next phase of regulation. Its proposals included to regulate primary medical services and adult social care services and to improve the structure of registration, and clarify its definition of registered providers.

RESOLVED: That the health consultation be noted.

20. FORWARD PROGRAMME 2017-18

The Committee considered the forward programme for the remainder of the 2017-18 municipal year.

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

- The Committee would receive the amended Healthwatch Wokingham Borough report on Extra Care.
- Councillor Smith requested an update on the progress of the merger of Optalis Ltd with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, at a future meeting.
- Members were informed that a site visit to the Fosters Care Home was being arranged.
- Clarification was being sought on the Carr-Hill formula.

RESOVLED: That the forward programme be noted.