

Health Select Committee

MINUTES OF THE HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2023 AT KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Dr Monica Devendran, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Johnny Kidney (Chairman), Cllr Gordon King (Vice-Chairman), Irene Kohler, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Mike Sankey and Cllr David Vigar

Also Present:

Cllr Jane Davies

45 **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

46 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2023 were presented for consideration, and it was,

Resolved:

To approve and sign the minutes as a true and correct record.

47 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

48 **Chairman's Announcements**

Through the Chair it was announced that the Committee was holding an inquiry session on 19 July 2023 for committee members to explore the factors contributing to the current demands on urgent care services in Wiltshire. The Chairman encouraged all Members to attend.

Members had also been sent a report from the Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership since the last meeting.

49 **Public Participation**

There were no statements or questions submitted.

50 **Community Health Services**

Fiona Slevin-Brown, Director of Place for the Integrated Care Board, was in attendance to provide an update on the integrated Community Based Care programme.

Details were provided on publication of the integrated care strategy setting out key priorities for the integrated care system. This included an increase in focus on prevention and early intervention, with community based services. The integrated community based care programme had been established to secure specific health community services from 2025. The priority was to ensure continuity of services for the next financial year, to ensure partners and communities could be involved for the new contracts.

The Committee sought examples of types of community-based care where contracts were expiring and covered with the new programme, such as community hospitals, physios and other health and care. There was discussion of national issues relating to the non-consolidated pay award for NHS staff, which did not cover those in care services employed by non-NHS organisations.

Detail was sought on what would be different as a result of a greater focus on community-based services. It was stated there would be a focus on expected outcomes, looking at issues like improving access or ranges of services. It was also stated there was no assumptions being made about providers, market engagement was taking place to any interested providers of community services, including the voluntary sector, with an opportunity to have a more flexible model.

At the conclusion of discussion, it was,

Resolved:

To note the content of the paper and to schedule an update to follow progress on the integrated community-based care programme.

51 **Carers Strategy**

A presentation was received from Melanie Nicolau, Head of Adults Commissioning, regarding the draft All Age Carers Strategy and delivery plan, as set out in Agenda Supplement 1, supported by Elizabeth Saunders, Interim Director, Commissioning. It was stated that the service had worked with carers to improve the offer for the Wiltshire area.

During the presentation details were provided of the intention to establish online resources for people to access support and resources, conduct assessments, and assist people in navigating through various levels and agencies, such as through family hubs. Potential metrics to measure success of the strategy was discussed, along with priority outcomes established through engagement with carers.

The Committee then discussed the strategy and update. The difficulty in commissioning and providing support for small villages and rural areas with limited transport links was raised. It was stated that providing online materials would assist as part of the model, that commissioned services would be retendered to look at new ways of delivering, with a model to make use of community facilities to improve access for all users.

The importance of outreach to local groups in the service area was highlighted, along with hard copy resources, factsheets and other resources, and asking for development of clear plans on how to establish effective collaborations. There was discussion of the priorities identified and areas of concern, such as people waiting for assessment, the diversity of carers' needs in relation to time, resource or finances.

Details were sought on whether there would be commissioning for one supplier or many, with the different levels of support and requirements noted. It was stated the strategy would assist in understanding what was needed to deliver on the outcomes, certain priorities might be grouped, and then the council would look toward various partners and providers on how to deliver on those.

At the conclusion of discussion, it was then,

Resolved:

- 1) To note the progress that has been made to develop the Carers' Strategy.**
- 2) To request a briefing on the service specification before tender.**
- 3) To receive an update in 2024 to understand the impact of the strategy.**
- 4) To encourage engagement of Carer's Champions with Area Boards**

52 Better Care Fund Plan

A presentation was received from Helen Mullinger, Commissioning Manager, as set out in the agenda, in relation to use of the Better Care Fund. This was a pooled fund of the NHS and the local authority which supports delivery of integration of health and social care, with a focus on person-centred care and sustainability. A narrative and financial plan for 2023-25 had been submitted to central government on use of the fund.

It was stated a major aim of the fund was to enable people to remain safe and well at home for as long as possible, providing them the right care in the right place. There was nearly £70m in funding across 66 schemes and contracts. Conditions around joint plans, working with the Integrated Care Board and more were requirements of the fund.

Details were provided on the governance structure, examples of programmes supported through the fund, use of voluntary sector for additional support, cooperation with public health through joint strategic needs assessments. Themes focused upon included schemes relating to hospital discharge, demand

capacity, support for mental health and more as set out in the presentation, along with monitoring effectiveness.

The Committee discussed the presentation, raising issues such as the impact on voluntary services, tracking of those discharged beyond 90 days to measure long term issues, and asking for details of the Better Care Plan. It was explained this was shortly to be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board, and could be circulated to the Committee.

There were further questions relating to the metrics, including on transfers from hospital, how some schemes were longstanding and in effect part of service budgets, and that further information would be provided as part of inquiry on patient flow and demands on urgent care services.

At the conclusion of discussion, it was,

Resolved:

- 1) **To note the progress that has been made in bringing the plan together.**
- 2) **To receive a copy of the plan.**
- 3) **To receive an update in 2024 on the progress being made in delivering the plan.**

53 **Forward Work Programme**

The Forward Work Plan was received. Subject to noting there would be discussion of the budget in January 2024, and the additional updates as resolved relating to the Carers Strategy and Better Care Fund Plan, it was,

Resolved:

To note the Forward Work Plan.

54 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

55 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 5 September 2023.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.00 pm)

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