

Health Select Committee

MINUTES OF THE HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2021 AT ONLINE MEETING.

Present:

Cllr Chuck Berry (Chairman), Cllr Gordon King (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Christine Crisp, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Cllr Graham Wright, Diane Gooch, Denmark and Cllr Phil Alford

Also Present:

Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Cllr Laura Mayes, Irene Kohler, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Alan Hill, Cllr Jacqui Lay and Cllr Jo Trigg

1 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Terence Herbert, Cllr Hawker, Cllr Groom, Cllr Philips, Tracey Cox and Deborah Noakes from the CCG.

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Resolved:

To approve and sign the minutes of the public meetings held on 3 March and 16 June 2020.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest from members of the Committee.

4 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman explained items 7 and 8 were updates on the COVID-19 pandemic from Wiltshire Council and the CCG respectively. It was proposed to take these items as one, given that members' questions were likely to cross over. To allow colleagues from the CCG to attend for this item, it was suggested to take these items after the current item 10.

5 **Public Participation**

No public statements or questions have been received for this meeting.

6 **Overview and Scrutiny during COVID-19**

The Chairman explained the Council had been operating streamlined Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements and the approach Overview and Scrutiny would take during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were no questions from the Committee.

Resolved:

To note the explanation from the Chairman.

7 **Final Report of the CAHMS Task Group - Part B**

Cllr Gordon King presented the second report from the Task Group to the Committee. The Committee was considering the report on behalf of the task group's joint parent committee, Children's Select Committee. During [Children's Select](#) consideration of the task group's [first report](#), the committee asked the task group to consider how the voluntary and community sector help to provide preventative services to children and young people in Wiltshire. This addition was added to the task group's terms of reference for its second report.

Cllr King explained the evidence considered by the Task Group in relation to: Thrive Hubs, Access Coordinators, Self-referrals, NHS Benchmarking, access rates and governance arrangements. Conclusions reached by the Task Group were detailed in the report. Six recommendations were outlined in the report and Cllr King highlighted recommendation two in relation to better management of the self-referral process.

Cllr Berry expressed his support for the report and invited questions from the Committee.

It was questioned whether the data remained relevant during COVID-19, in response to which it was acknowledged the report was written pre-covid, and that work may be commissioned in future to assess the impact of COVID-19 on CAMHS.

Cllr Alford explained the Task Group had felt strongly that a better online tool was needed for online self-referral. It was also noted the referral data was inconsistent, therefore it had been difficult to compare data from different parts of the organisation and the Task Group felt this should be harmonised. Cllr Alford also highlighted there was currently no record of re-referrals into the system, this would be important to demonstrate whether the service was not meeting the needs of those referred. Both new data sets were felt to be beneficial to improving CAMHS scrutiny.

Cllr Hubbard, as Chairman of Children's Select, expressed a disappointment the report did not have a discussion on the significant voluntary offer in Wiltshire to support mental health services. It was noted there were also sometimes inappropriate referrals to the voluntary sector. For the avoidance of doubt, Cllr Hubbard declared he chaired a charity that commissioned mental health

services in Wiltshire, although this charity had not been involved in giving evidence in the report.

The Chairman noted the points on the voluntary sector and acknowledged these stakeholders could be more involved, should the work of the task group be recommenced.

Other points raised by committee included that private individuals or companies might also be supporting on mental health issues which perhaps should have been raised with CAMHS. The Thrive Hub was noted as an area of focus. Interest was also expressed in understanding the process where young people move into adult mental health services. Questions were raised on to the equalisation of Thrive Hub provision. Cllr Cape explained that a local Health and Care Record in Wiltshire would make sharing information between partners as appropriate would be easier.

In response to comments, Cllr King, on behalf of the Task Group, gave reassurances that commissioners were already aware of changes needed to produce more meaningful data on referrals. Cllr Alford explained that the Task Group had to focus its area on CAHMS to ensure focussed and timely recommendations, which would be lacking if the Task Group had a wide remit, however it was noted, future work could be undertake to investigate the other important issues raised by the Committee in the discussion.

Resolved:

To endorse the report of the Task Group and refer it to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills and the Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG for response.

To request that Health Select Committee under the 2021-25 council considers reconvening the Task Group to consider the impact of COVID-19 on CAMHS, and the link between CAMHS and private and voluntary and community sector provision.

8 **Executive Response to the Final Report of the CAHMS Task Group - Part B**

The Cabinet Member expressed support for the Task Group's recommendation and the request for a continuation of the Task Group's work. It was explained the Executive would act on the Task Group's recommendations, and highlighted that some recommendations were already underway, however had been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Cabinet Member was able to update that fortnightly meetings were being held with Oxford Health and all secondary schools now had access to a Thrive worker.

Resolved:

To note the response from the Cabinet Member and target dates.

9 **Government Health Infrastructure Plan**

The Committee received a briefing on the Government's Health Infrastructure Plan (HIP) from Simon Cook, Programme Director. HIP2 was a long-term, strategic investment in the future of the NHS to ensure healthcare staff had the facilities to deliver cutting-edge care and meet the changing needs and rising demand the NHS will face in the 2020s and beyond.

Key outcomes of HIP2 included building new hospitals and harnessing digital technology. £450m was potentially to be made available for RUH Bath under HIP2, provided three stages of business case were approved. Currently a Strategic Outline Case was being compiled for submission in December 2021. It was highlighted the project was not based on renewing existing infrastructure, but about preparing for the future, including better outcomes and experiences for patients, preventative care and full integration across primary, social care and public health. Mr Cook explained an Engagement Plan was also being developed and the Committee was considered an important stakeholder in the plans.

In response to questions it was confirmed the RUH were considering future trends after covid and it was seeking to be ambitious about the use of technology and use of the RUH estate. Artificial Intelligence was an opportunity that the RUH was investigating.

Resolved:

To note the briefing provided and request the presentation be circulated to members.

10 **COVID-19 Update**

Emme Legg (Director for Access and Reablement) updated that demand on the service has increased during COVID-19 and adult MASH demand had remained as in previous periods. Virtual methods were being used to deliver services where possible, however a community presence remained for those that are most vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic. The officer advised the severity of COVID-19 outbreaks in care homes had been minimal compared to the first lockdown due to sound protective measures in place.

Currently a significant pressure was the need for short term care following discharge from hospital and the service was working with care homes to provide additional capacity. In response to questions, it was explained the Care Home Advisory Group was established in around April-May 2020.

Clare Edgar (Director for Mental Health and Learning Difficulties) provided an update on the council's Wellbeing Hub to support those that were clinically extremely vulnerable or shielding. 28,000 residents had been supported by the

Hub since it was established last year, by phone, email or in person. During the currently lockdown, 150 people currently required support from the wellbeing hub.

The Chairman invited comments and questions which included that LINK drivers should be prioritised for vaccinations to allow them to help others to travel for vaccinations. In response to questions, it was noted the Wellbeing Hub referred those it supported to organisations that could support their mental health and isolation. Wiltshire CIL had been working with Wiltshire Council to understand the needs of young people and those with disabilities. Kate Blackburn updated on communication via radio and print for those vulnerable residents that could not access support online.

Edward Rendell from Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG provided an update on health care provision during the COVID-19 pandemic. A significant challenge was to continue to provide acute and urgency care, and this was continuously monitored. For primary care, a full telephone triage service was in place to allow surgeries to be open for business. For Adult Community Services, the CCG was working to prioritising care at home as much as possible. Mental Health Services were also under demand during COVID-19. In terms of the vaccination programme, full coverage for vaccinations was now established to vaccinate the four priority groups. Larger vaccination sites local to Wiltshire were due to come online within a couple of weeks. The officer concluded by drawing awareness to an Integrated Care consultation that was currently open.

Gill May updated that 40,000 vaccines had already been delivered to priority groups. It was explained the CCG was currently working on plans for deployment of the vaccine to the homeless and traveller communities. In response to questions, it was confirmed the CCG would work with Public Health to provide more information to councillors about vaccination plans across the county.

Resolved:

To note the update provided from the council and CCG.

11 **CCG updates**

An update was provided under the previous item.

12 **Forward Work Programme**

The Chairman advised the Forward Work Programme would be considered further at the next meeting.

Resolved:

To note the Forward Work Plan.

13 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

14 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was to be 2 March 2021.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.45 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Libby Johnstone of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718214, e-mail henry.powell@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115