

Wiltshire Council

Health Select Committee

2 March 2021

Review of the work of the Health Select Committee 2017-2021

Purpose

1. To highlight key aspects of the work undertaken by the Select Committee during the 2017-21 council and to recommend topics to the Management Committee for possible inclusion in a new overview and scrutiny work programme after the elections in May.

Background

2. An opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny (OS) to look back on its activity during the outgoing council is an important part of its learning and improvement journey. It allows councillors to:
 - a) Review the key pieces of OS work undertaken over the past four years;
 - b) Agree recommendations to OS under the next council in terms of work priorities;
 - c) Agree recommendations to OS under the next council in terms of its approach (identifying strengths to retain and improvements to implement).
3. The legacy process allows members to consider OS's successes and challenges during the past four years, including the key scrutiny reviews. With the benefit of this experience it can then submit suggestions for OS under the 2021-25 council to consider to help maximise the impact of the work it will undertake. In the next council, leading OS members will want to engage with their Executive equivalents, directors and council partners on key areas of work to ensure they are reflected appropriately in the OS work programme.

Key Activities and Achievements

4. The following is a list of some of the Health Select Committee's key past activities and achievements which demonstrates the contribution it has made to decision-making, policy development and good governance of the Council:

Health Select Committee activity – 2017-2021

Please note that the public, formal activity of the Select Committee was suspended between March 2020 and January 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health Select Committee activity 2017-2021			
Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Outcome
Task Groups:			
Children's and Adolescent Mental Health Services (joint with Children's Select Committee)	2018-21	Formed to look at the recommissioning of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and in response to rising demand for mental health services.	Produced two reports recommending that, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mental health of children and young people be considered holistically, including in schools. • Measures be put in place to use prevention to avoid young people reaching crisis point. • A well-promoted screening tool to be made available to those seeking self-referral. • Data reporting for CAHMS be improved. • Greater clarity be provided on the roles, responsibilities and accountability of each agency involved in the delivery of CAMHS.

Health Select Committee activity 2017-2021

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Outcome
Rapid Scrutiny exercises:			
NHS Health Checks	2018-19	Formed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Determine how data could be used to analyse the costs of non-attendance and inform focused promotion of Health Checks. b) Review the provision and “advertising” of Health Checks by GPs / surgeries. c) Analyse comparative outcome for attendees / non-attendees. 	Recommended a number of ways to increase the take-up of NHS Health Checks, particularly amongst “harder to reach” groups.
Maternity Transformation Plan (joint with Bath & North East Somerset Council)	December 2018	Formed to undertake a joint rapid scrutiny of the proposal for public consultation on a transformation of maternity services.	Ensured the public consultation on changes to maternity services would inform residents and enable them to give their views before any changes were made.
Extension of Intermediate Care Bed Service contracts for 2019-2020	November / December 2018	Formed at the request of the Cabinet to review proposals before a decision was made.	Recommended consideration be given to clauses in the contract(s) to mitigate the risk of long-term bed void rates.

Health Select Committee activity 2017-2021			
Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Outcome
			Assured proposals regarding the extension of the Intermediate Care bed service Contracts.
<u>Contracts for Supported Living, Floating Support and Supported Housing</u>	December 2018	Formed at the request of the Cabinet to review the proposed extension of contracts before a decision was made.	Requested that feedback from providers and service users form part of the ongoing contract scrutiny.
Programme Board memberships			
Adult Social Care Transformation Programme Board	2017-2018	The Board was formed to oversee the programme and an OS representative was invited to sit with observer status on the Board.	Provided ongoing non-executive engagement.
Select Committee agenda items			
Customer Engagement with adult care	2017-2018	Set out the council's current contract and funding arrangements with User Led Organisations and Healthwatch Wiltshire.	Assured the arrangements in place to engage with customers on the adult care services they receive.
Places of Safety	2017-2018	Considered risks around capacity for out of hours service and how these would be monitored, plus	Ensured that a workable solution was found by Wiltshire Council and Swindon

Health Select Committee activity 2017-2021

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Outcome
		feedback regarding the impact of the temporary closure on the populations of Swindon and Wiltshire.	Clinical Commissioning Group regarding the Place of Safety and Section 136 assessments for Swindon patients in Wiltshire.
Adult care charging policy	2017-2018		Ensured, by highlighting issues, that more time was allowed for further discussion with the user-led organisations to address these issues.
Ambulance services	2017	Reviewed data regarding the ambulance service's activity and performance in Wiltshire.	Reviewed the challenging response targets in rural areas; how calls are prioritised; the support to the service provided to the service; how demand patterns have changed; and issues facing the recruitment to some rolls such as call-handlers.
Carers support	2017	Considered the draft Carers in Wiltshire Joint Strategy 2017-22 prior to its consideration by Cabinet.	Recommended a baseline figure for measuring schools be included in the strategy.

Health Select Committee activity 2017-2021

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Outcome
Non-Emergency Patient Transport	2017	Received a report providing an update on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract activity and performance • Contract term • Service developments • Patient Feedback • External inspections (CQC) • The way ahead 	Raised a number of issues regarding eligibility criteria.
Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust	2018	Considered performance data regarding acute mental health services for adults in the county.	Identified concerns regarding the temporary closure of places of safety (covered above).
Food Standards	2019	Received a report on the Food Standards Agency (FSA) responsible for protecting public health and consumers.	Supported the approach outlined to address some food standard enforcement concerns raised by the FSA.
Wiltshire Safeguarding Adult Board	2017-20	Received the outcome of safeguarding adults reviews and other work undertaken by the board.	Requested that the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) be promoted to Area Boards to raise awareness of safeguarding referral routes.
Scrutiny of local acute trusts	2017-20		Enhancing working relationships with the NHS

Health Select Committee activity 2017-2021

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Outcome
			trusts that serve Wiltshire and monitored the delivery of their priorities.
COVID-19	2020-21	Received regular updates on the council and CCG's response to the pandemic.	Ensured that issues emerging from communities were addressed and that the vulnerable were supported.
Nursing and residential care procurement	2021	Reviewed the proposed introduction of a dynamic commissioning and procurement platform for nursing and residential beds in Wiltshire, known as the 'Care Home Alliance'.	Ensured sufficient and appropriate provision of nursing and residential beds.
Commissioning Extra Care Housing Services	2021	Considered recommendations for four Extra Care Housing (ECH) sites supported financially by Wiltshire Council: Needham House, Crammer Court, Meadow Court and Bell Orchard.	Ensured that the needs of residents were met and value for money for the council secured.

Ongoing work

5. The following is a list of activities and reviews which the Select Committee considers important to include as ongoing pieces of work in any new overview and scrutiny work programme. Every effort has been made to bring reviews to a conclusion in time for the end of the current Council but clearly some things remain ongoing due to the significance or long-term nature of the topic. The Chairman and Vice-chairman have engaged with the council's Executive and directors, and the BSW CCG, in the development of this list:

Activity	Priority	Brief Explanation	Reason for inclusion
Pre-meeting info briefing: Structure of health and care in Wiltshire	High	A briefing to clarify for all members the structure of current health and care provision across the county.	To ensure the committee understand and can robustly scrutinise health and wellbeing outcomes in Wiltshire.
Pre-meeting info briefing (initially): Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) Integrated Care System	High	<p>NHS England and Improvement has confirmed that BSW organisations had met the criteria to become an Integrated Care System (ICS).</p> <p>An ICS is a way of working across health and care organisations that allows partners to work closer together and take collective responsibility for the health and wellbeing of populations.</p> <p>More info here.</p>	To ensure the committee understand and can robustly scrutinise health and wellbeing outcomes in Wiltshire.
COVID-19 updates	High	To receive updates from the council, CCG and partners on the actions being taken to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.	To ensure ongoing non-executive challenge on the response to, and recovery from, the pandemic.

Activity	Priority	Brief Explanation	Reason for inclusion
Wiltshire Council Business Plan	High – when available	To review the council's next business plan and consider which projects and programmes should be reflected in the committee's work programme.	To ensure that the work of the committee is aligned with the council's corporate priorities.
Mental health – impacts of COVID-19	High	To consider the level of impact and the support services in place to respond.	To ensure that the known and unknown impacts on Wiltshire residents are identified and addressed.
CAHMS (Children's & Adolescent Mental Health Services)	High	In January 2021, Committee recommended that a task group consider the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of children and young people, and the link between acute level CAMHS and provision of mental health services by voluntary, community and private sector.	To ensure that the known and unknown impacts on Wiltshire's young residents are identified and addressed, and that there is good link-up between different levels of mental health provision.
Elective care – impact of COVID-19	High	To consider the length of delays on procedures, the wider impacts of this and recovery plans in place.	To ensure that procedures are prioritised appropriately and that the associated impacts of delays on patients are identified and addressed.
Carer Support	High	To review the impact of COVID-19 on carers, the support in place and how 'hidden' carers can be identified.	

Activity	Priority	Brief Explanation	Reason for inclusion
Support for adults with learning disabilities	High	<p>To review the Wiltshire market for residential and support living to ensure that it best meets the needs of adults with learning disabilities</p> <p>To review the Outreach and Enablement service provided by the council's in-house Learning Disability service.</p>	To ensure that Wiltshire's provision meets clients' needs, particularly in light of the closure of the Furlong Close facility run by Home Farm Trust.
Ambulance service	Medium	To review the performance of the services delivered by South West Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST).	To ensure an effective and responsive ambulance service for the people of Wiltshire.
Tracking inequalities	Medium	To consider health inequalities across different groups (including rough sleepers) and how these are address through support, service accessibility and targeted public health messaging.	To help reduce health inequalities across Wiltshire but identifying the reasons for them and how well measures are targeted to address them.
Over-50s population health	Medium	To consider the BSW Ageing Well programme and the impact of latent demand due to COVID-19 on the older population.	To ensure that the large older population in Wiltshire is supported to be proactive in improving their health and wellbeing.
Oral health and dentistry	Medium	To consider public health measures to promote good oral health; the impact of deprivation and COVID-19 on oral health; the adequacy of the dentistry system in Wiltshire; and how issues with access to	To ensure that Wiltshire residents are supported to have good oral health, and to ensure that the county's

Activity	Priority	Brief Explanation	Reason for inclusion
		dentistry identified nationally are addressed locally.	dentistry provision is fit for purpose and accessible to all.
Safeguarding vulnerable adults	Medium	To review the work of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People's Partnership in relation to adults.	To ensure that vulnerable adults in Wiltshire are protected from harm, including addressing any additional risks presented by COVID-19.
Community health and care outreach	Medium	To review services delivered in the community to support people's health and wellbeing, including Social Prescribing and the council's Local Area Coordinator team.	To ensure that all opportunities are taken to promote and protect good health at a community level in Wiltshire.
Acute Trust plans and performance	Medium	To review the organisational health and performance of local acute health trusts.	To ensure that Wiltshire residents have access to good acute healthcare services.
Nursing and residential care procurement	Medium	To review the development and implementation of the commissioning and procurement platform for nursing and residential beds in Wiltshire, known as the 'Care Home Alliance', agreed by Cabinet in January 2021.	To ensure the new system of procuring nursing and residential beds is delivering the outcomes expected at launch.
Winter preparedness	Medium	To assure plans for service provision during Winter 2021.	To maximise Wiltshire's resilience to seasonal health issues such as respiratory illnesses and fractures.

Activity	Priority	Brief Explanation	Reason for inclusion
Adult Social Care transformation	Lower	To receive an update on Phase 2 of the programme, which focused primarily on developing services for individuals with a Learning Disability and Mental Health disorders who require care and support under the Care Act 2014.	To ensure the transformation objectives continue to be delivered.
Health emergency preparedness	When appropriate, taking into account the current pandemic situation	To consider lessons learned from COVID-19 and the response plans in place for future health emergencies.	To ensure Wiltshire residents can be rapidly protected, supported and enabled in the event of any future health emergency.
GP and health staff recruitment and retention	Lower	To review workforce issues across the health and care sector in Wiltshire.	To ensure the healthcare sector in Wiltshire has the work force needed to meet residents' needs.
Personal health budgets	Lower	To review take-up and outcomes from their introduction.	To ensure the benefits of the scheme are realised by Wiltshire residents.

6. In considering which areas to recommend for future work, the Committee is asked to be mindful that the Management Committee will need to leave space and capacity for those leading the function after the election to develop their own work programme based of issues resulting from public views expressed during the election period and following early engagement with any new Executive.

Next Steps

7. The Management Committee meets on 9 March 2021 and will receive the reports from the three select committees. It will also consider a similar report based on its activities primarily in the corporate arena. The members of the Management Committee will give their views on what should be included in a final legacy report which will be written by Scrutiny officers in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Following the elections this will then be made available to the new Management Committee, appointed by Council.

Recommendations

8. To agree which topics to recommend to the Management Committee as requiring further work in the new Council, including reasons.
9. To note the next steps.

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