

## **Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee**

Chairman: Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey

Division and Local Member: All

Lead Officer: Julian Gale – Strategic Manager – Governance and Risk

Author: Jamie Jackson – Governance Manager - Scrutiny

Contact Details: 01823 359040 [jajackson@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:jajackson@somerset.gov.uk)

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1** The Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee is required by the Constitution to make an annual report to the Council each year and also to provide each other meeting of the Council with a summary progress report and outcomes of scrutiny. This report covers the meetings of 6 December 2017 and 24 January 2018.
- 1.2** The Committee agreed their work programme would comprise of items considered directly at meetings plus other items considered or 'commissioned', using flexible arrangements outside of the formal committee structure.
- 1.3** Members of the Council are reminded that:
  - all Members have been invited to attend meetings of the three Scrutiny Committees and to contribute freely on any agenda item;
  - any Member could propose a topic for inclusion on the Scrutiny Work Programmes;
  - any Member can be asked by the Committee to contribute information and evidence and to participate in specific scrutiny reviews.
- 1.4** The Committee has 9 elected Members.

### **2. Background**

#### **2.1 Scrutiny Work Programme**

At each meeting, the Committee considers and updates its work programme, having regard to the Cabinet's forward plan of proposed key decisions. Members appreciate the attendance of representatives and stakeholders from partner agencies.

#### **2.2 6 December 2017**

##### NHS 111 and GP Out of Hours Update

The first main item was a report updating members about the NHS 111 and GP Out of Hours services summarised the ongoing challenges with the services both provided by Vocare. Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Acting Director for Quality and Safety Deborah Rigby assured the meeting that provider was continuing to be held to account and were monitoring the situation closely. The CCG recognised there had been some progress from Vocare in implementing improvements but there remained significant concern about the quality of the

service. We noted the report and presentation and it was agreed that an update on the situation would be brought to the committee again soon.

#### NHS waiting times for Somerset patients

The next item was Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group's performance against key constitutional standards to the period ending September 2017 with the main focus on waiting times for patients. We were informed that Somerset CCG was not currently meeting a number of the key constitutional access standards including Referral to Treatment 18 week waiting times, A&E 4 hour to admission or discharge, diagnostic 6 week waiting times, 62 day wait to first definitive treatment following urgent GP referral. Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust had updated its RTT Remedial Action Plan and Somerset CCG is meeting the Trust on a monthly basis to review progress. We noted the report and asked for an update when there was further information to report.

#### Somerset Suicide Prevention Scrutiny report

We then considered a report and presentation about the Somerset Suicide Prevention Strategy. The Council through its health and wellbeing duties was responsible for ensuring that appropriate and sufficient local arrangements were in place to prevent suicide. The Suicide Prevention Strategy had been in place for ten years and had two objectives: To reduce the suicide rate in general population and to provide better support for those bereaved by suicide. There are six priority areas included in the action plan which is overseen by the Suicide Prevention Advisory Group. Some of the priority actions over the next 12 months were to refresh the Somerset Suicide Prevention Strategy, focus on self-harm reduction starting with young people, develop multi-agency response pathways and build suicide-safer schools and colleges. The Committee noted the report and it was noted that there would be an update to this reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board in about 6 months.

#### Adult Social Care Performance Report

We also received a report providing an update on Somerset's performance in Adult Social Care in comparison to national and comparator benchmarks. The report focused on the measures included in the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) and Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC). Further work was ongoing to improve Somerset's performance on DToC. In August 36.3% of delays were attributable to Adult Social Care. We noted the report.

#### Council Performance Report - End of September (Q2) 2017/18

We were provided with a report which gave an overview of the Council's performance across the organisation. It was noted that segment P1 on helping vulnerable and elderly people had moved from a red to amber status due to improvements. Processes and improved use of data to support performance improvement were now being used consistently across all teams. Management actions were in place for all performance targets and were being monitored closely. The implementation of the new management structure would help improve and strengthen the approach further. The Committee noted the report.

#### Terms of Reference for the Learning Disability Services Task and Finish Group

The Vice Chair explained the terms of reference for the Task and Finish group (T&F) covering composition, purpose and scope. The intention was to hear the voice of the customer and staff as well as to listen to Discovery's explanations and communications with staff and users. We agreed the Terms of Reference and

noted that they would receive the group's report at the committee meeting scheduled for 7 March. It was agreed that the Discovery Contract Performance Update report would also be by the Task and Finish Group to analyse in further detail.

## **24 January 2018**

### Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19

The first main item was a report updating members on the Medium Term Financial Plan, the 2018/19 Capital Investment Programme, and an overview on the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. The total budget for Adults' services was £137m with proposed related savings of £3.4m to be made across a number of activities. Director of Adult Social Care Stephen Chandler explained the main way in which savings would be achieved was by continuing with the demand management approach adopted in the service model utilised in West Somerset over the past year and rolling this out across the county. The Public Health budget was £1.070m and the savings proposal for this was to reduce it by £107,000 through small reductions to a number of project budgets. Members asked for further detail on proposed savings for both adult social care and public health budgets and it was agreed this would be made available. We noted the report.

### Somerset CCG Patient Safety and Quality Report

We then received a report updating members about the improvement work of the CCG to maintain and improve the quality and safety of health services in Somerset. Key points highlighted in the report included that Taunton & Somerset NHS Trust ranked as amongst the best nationally on several measures of the patient experience and Somerset Doctors Urgent Care (SUDC) service continued to be an issue of concern with no improvement in response times for initial triage and GP Out of Hours (OOH) care and treatment. The Out of Hours problems had been an issue for some time and was having knock on effects on other services but there were plans in place to bring about improvements. It was agreed that the Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Improvement plan covering children's issues should be reported to a future Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee meeting. We noted the report and asked for an update when there was further information to report.

### Domestic Homicides Reviews

There was an update on Domestic Homicide Reviews - these considered the circumstances in which a death had occurred when it has been the result of harm perpetrated by an intimate partner/person or member of the same household. The Safer Somerset Partnership had overall oversight and responsibility for the reviews with the process of facilitating multi-agency participation being managed by Somerset County Council. Since 2011 a total of 10 reviews had been undertaken in Somerset. Lessons learned from Somerset DHRs included to have better communication and information sharing between agencies. We noted the system in place to carry out and implement recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews.

## **3. Consultations Undertaken**

The Committee invites all County councillors to attend and contribute to its meetings.

## **4. Implications**

The Committee considers carefully and often asks for further information about the implications as outlined in the reports considered at its meetings.

For further details of the reports considered by the Committee, please contact the author of this report.

## **5. Background Papers**

Further information about the Committee including dates of meetings and agendas and reports from previous meetings, are available via the Council's website:

[www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers)

**Note:** For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author.