

SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, ADULTS AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee held in the Luttrell Room - County Hall, Taunton, on Wednesday 24 January 2018 at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr H Prior-Sankey (Chair), Cllr R Williams (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Chilcott, Cllr M Caswell, Cllr P Burridge-Clayton, Cllr B Revans, Cllr L Redman (substitute)

Other Members: Cllr N Taylor, C Aparicio Paul, Cllr G Frascini, Cllr D Hall, Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr C Lawrence, Cllr A Wedderkopp, Cllr S Coles, Cllr J Lock, Cllr A Groskop.

Apologies for absence: Cllr A Govier

65 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 2

None declared.

66 Minutes from the previous meeting held on 6 December 2017 - Agenda Item 3

The minutes of the meeting were accepted as accurate and were signed by the Chair.

67 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4

There was one request to ask a question from Alan Debenham who asked why further savings of £3.4m were required in Adult Social Care services when extra money had previously been received from Government and would be received from county tax.

The Director of Finance, Legal, and Governance Kevin Nacey responded by explaining that the Council had lost £10m in government grants and there had been an underfunding of social care for many years. Some of the existing and future delivery of savings previously agreed were no longer considered deliverable, however service demand still needed to be met. He agreed to also write a response to Mr Debenham.

68 Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19- Agenda Item 5

The Committee received 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. There was general MTFP information which would be presented to all scrutiny committees and Cabinet but in addition sections 6 and 7 focused on issues related to Adult and Health budgets.

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 approach to promote independence and use more community resources had reduced costs in West Somerset and was predicted to do so in other areas in the county. This had also resulted in delivering better outcomes for people and was more tailored to their needs.

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.

Further discussion on this included:

- Members asked for further detail on proposed savings for both adult social care and public health budgets.
- Packages of care would be reviewed and levels would be reduced if different support was available.
- There would be different conversations with new customers requiring adult social care support around how much support was needed.
- There was confidence in the methodology used based on the practical experience in West Somerset.
- Members were offered the chance to meet locality staff to discuss work in adult social care further.
- There had been some positive savings made over lots of different levels of work undertaken in West Somerset.
- Conversations were ongoing around further prevention work and it was hoped that better use of technology would come into effect in the future to realise further savings.
- One of the main focuses was on getting people out of hospital and back into their homes where they wanted to be.
- There was need to ensure joined up thinking across all services in the council to achieve desired outcomes.

The Chair thanked officers for the report but hoped that more detail on the savings would be forthcoming. The report was noted.

69 **Somerset CCG Patient Safety and Quality Report** - Agenda Item 6

The Chair invited the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Acting Deputy Director Karen Taylor to introduce the report updating members about the improvement work of the CCG to maintain and improve the quality and safety of health services in Somerset. She assured members that the report was still a work in progress to provide a clearer and easier summary to digest.

Key areas highlighted in the report included:

- Taunton & Somerset NHS Trust ranked as amongst the best nationally on several measures of the patient experience.
- 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.
- Somerset Partnership NHSFT had taken decisive action to ensure safe staffing in its community hospitals over winter.

- YDH reported increasing pressure with their junior doctor workforce and staff turnover rate.
- Performance information for the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust and Weston Area Health NHS Trust.
- Urgent Care provided by South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation.
- Results of the Emergency Department Patient Survey.

Further discussion on this included:

- Working towards a single dashboard of metrics relating to system, performance and quality would be helpful to the committee.
- Experience that when organisations were well-led other aspects would follow.
- Concern regarding dementia figures and the impact that environment had on dementia patients.
- Praise for cancer care locally and the need to not only focus on where things have gone wrong but also where they have gone right.
- GP service hours – there were enhanced opening hours in Somerset often where GPs had gathered together to work in groups.
- The CCG were visiting Out of Hour centres to monitor the situation
- 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
- Further safeguarding training was being arranged to get a lot more staff up to date

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.

The Chair thanked Karen for presenting the report and the Committee noted this and asked for an update when there was further information to report.

70 **Domestic Homicides Reviews** - Agenda Item 7

The Chair allowed Eileen Tipper to ask a question about whether the analysis which took place as part of a Domestic Homicide Reviews included looking at whether there had been an impact due to a reduction in services.

Public Health Specialist for Community Safety Lucy Macready explained that the purpose of the reviews were to learn lessons and identify good practice which can be applied to reduce and prevent domestic abuse and homicide. Identifying what had been missed and whether certain services should have been involved at an earlier stage also formed part of the review.

She then introduced the report about Domestic Homicide Reviews and explained 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.

Further points raised included:

- An explanation of the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) process
- Examples of some of the DHR which had taken place
- The involvement of family, friends and colleagues in DHRs
- Lessons learned from Somerset DHRs such as better communication and information sharing between agencies
- How effective actions were following a DHR – this was difficult to evaluate but all agencies reflected on previous year and what they might have done differently
- Detailing analytics were increasingly being used to help with preventing incidents
- Early intervention work with would be perpetrators were underway in some venues
- Lessons learned were also reported to practitioners through training

The Chair thanked Lucy for the report and the work undertaken by the Partnership in this area.

The Committee then noted the system in place to carry out and implement recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews.

71 **Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee Work Programme- Agenda Item 8**

The Committee agreed to update the work programme for the next meeting. It was agreed to add an update on Dementia Services and an item on the state of the County's teeth to the programme.

72 **Any other urgent items of business - Agenda Item 9**

There were no other items of business.

(The meeting ended at 12.50 pm)

CHAIR