

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 11 April 2018 at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr H Prior-Sankey (Chair), Cllr P Clayton, Cllr M Chilcott (Vice-Chair), Cllr A Govier, Cllr M Keating, Cllr B Revans, Cllr N Taylor , Cllr M Healey and Cllr L Vjeh (substitute)

Other Members present: Cllr G Frascini, Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr J Lock, Cllr T Munt, Cllr T Napper, Cllr L Redman

Apologies for absence: Cllr M Caswell

80 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 2

The Chair took the opportunity to publicly thank the former Vice Chair, Cllr R Williams, for all the work he had carried out in his role on the committee and to welcome Cllr M Chilcott in her new role as Vice Chair for the committee. She also welcomed Cllr M Healey who had just been appointed to the committee.

Cllr Roz Willis, Chair of the Health and Overview Scrutiny Panel at North Somerset Council was also welcomed to the meeting.

Cllr B Revans declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 as his son worked for South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.

81 Minutes from the previous meeting held on 7 March 2018 - Agenda Item 3

The minutes from the meeting held on 7 March 2018 were accepted as accurate and signed as a correct record.

82 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4

There was a set of public questions submitted from Nick Batho, Rachel Mason and Steve Jones, who were unable to attend the meeting, regarding the adult social care performance report, people using social care who receive self-directed support, direct payments, data concerning people with Learning Disabilities, and plans for housing and support for people who have eligible needs.

It was agreed a written response to the questions would be sent to each of them.

83 Community Hospitals Update - Agenda Item 5

The Chair invited Andy Heron from Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Hayley Peters from Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust to introduce the report updating members about the Community Hospitals in Somerset.

Members were reminded of the background to this that a decision was taken in Autumn 2017 to temporarily close the inpatient wards at Chard, Dene Barton, and Shepton Mallet Community Hospitals in order to consolidate beds and staff on to fewer sites to make them sustainable in light of significant staffing problems. The Trust Board considered an update report at its meeting in March 2018 which concluded that the staff position within community hospitals was improving but remained below a level that was not sustainable to deliver inpatient care across 13 wards.

The situation was both regretful and disappointing but the safety of patients had to be ensured. Members were informed that there was regular reviewing of the situation and it was hoped that in a couple of months that there might be the possibility of re-opening one of the wards.

Further discussion about this included:

- The local recruitment problems reflected the national situation but was also compounded by the rurality of the county and the lack of a university.
- Political decisions were also having an effect on recruitment with the removal of nursing bursaries and the pipeline of nursing staff from Europe mirrored the national picture of a drop in 98% since the Brexit vote.
- The Trust had reviewed its recruitment strategy and been involved in more than 20 campaigns to recruit staff, taking part in local and regional nursing careers and recruitment events, appointed a specialist Nurse Recruitment Consultant, introduced 'integration pioneers' – nurses from Musgrove Park Hospital seconded into community hospitals and undertaken overseas recruitment campaigns
- There were good links with Plymouth and Bristol universities and there were benefits from this. There was optimism that there would soon be a University of Somerset that would run a nursing degree locally.
- Concerns were raised about the fragility of the situation and where this fitted with the Somerset Sustainability and Transformation Programme. Work was underway with this and there would be update about this at the June meeting of the committee.
- There were in some cases financial support for nurse students and campaigns were taking place to encourage people to come back into the NHS
- Whether the situation was having an impact on staff retention and staff morale. Members were told that staff had been very flexible and in many cases thrived and it had not resulted in any resignations.
- It was questioned whether more work could be done to upskill care workers.
- It was hoped that money spent on agency staff could be reduced.
- Historically the numbers set for training nurses had been set too low and it took 3 years to train a nurse.
- It was recognised the importance of foreign nurses in Somerset hospitals and that diversity in the county should be celebrate.
- Work rotas are designed to be as flexible as possible to accommodate staffing needs.

- The move was towards getting more people out of hospital when possible into a safer environment.
- NHS organisations liaised frequently with the local media and were given a lot of support from them.
- It was hoped that there could be more collaboration with schools and colleges to try and attract more young people into the NHS.

The Chair thanked officers for the report and attending the meeting.

The Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee agreed that the Chair should write on behalf of the committee to lobby all 5 Somerset MPs regarding the need for bursary assistance for trainee nurses, help to attract more nurses from overseas which had reduced dramatically in the aftermath of Brexit, and for more help to establish a University of Somerset.

84 **South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust update - Agenda Item 6**

The Committee received a report which gave figures on activity from the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWASFT). The Trust covered a huge area from the Isles of Scilly to Tewkesbury including approximately 90,000 residents in Somerset.

Unfortunately there were still many cases where people dialled 999 but didn't actually need the emergency service and many people were able to be treated at home and not need admittance to hospital.

Members were informed there were recruitment issues but that recruitment programmes were in place and that there was a spring review underway with new standards being finalised shortly.

One of the biggest successes was the assistance of community first responders – volunteers who supported their local community by attending emergency calls ahead of an ambulance.

Further discussion about this included:

- Ambulances were expected to reach the most seriously ill patients in an average time of 7 minutes, however SWASFT were not achieving this with a response time of approximately 9.5 minutes currently.
- The ambulance service worked closely with the fire and police services.
- It was felt that the public needed to be better educated about using the service and that prevention was a key issue.
- The recruitment programme was praised and believed to be having some success
- In many cases patients were taken directly to the place where the clinical expertise was rather than to the nearest hospital.
- The service was working closely with Weston Hospital regarding the current situation where it was closed overnight for emergency care.

- Calls to the service were reviewed and given a risk score and if this was high they would be referred for consideration as a serious case review.
- Currently the service needed to be bolstered and it was necessary to buy in an ambulance and crew
- The recent incident in Salisbury had involved the ambulance service and resulted in vehicles unfortunately being impounded to be decontaminated

The Committee noted the report but asked for a further update a few months after the new standards had been agreed.

85 Somerset CCG Quality Report Q3 - Agenda Item 7

The Chair suggested that this item be brought forward at this point as the officers from Weston had not yet arrived.

Debbie Rigby from Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group presented the Clinical Quality Review Report for quarter 3 covering the period October 2017 to December 2017. Members were also given an update on the latest situation regarding the NHS 111 and Out of Hours (OOH) services and were informed that there was no change since the last update.

There was also information about areas to celebrate regarding hip/knee procedures and reduction in total falls. Challenges include 52 week waits and 2 week cancer waiting lists.

Further points raised included:

- Concern about the ongoing situation of the NHS111 and OOH services and reassurance was sought that there was a fall-back position should there be any further deterioration in the services.
- There were fortnightly reviews of these services and close monitoring.
- The procurement process for new providers for these services would be shared with the committee in due course.
- The number of still births are in line with national figures.
- Further information on the cancer pathway was requested to look at this in more depth.

The Committee noted the report but asked that the next update included more data around Cancer.

86 Healthy Weston Programme - Agenda Item 8

The Committee received a report about the Healthy Weston programme which set out the commissioning intentions for a clear vision and direction of travel for local services in the Weston and Worle locality.

Health Weston is a vision for improving health and care services for people in the Weston-super-Mare area so that services can meet the changing needs of our population in a sustainable way for years to come.

Services include GP practices, community healthcare services, mental health, maternity services, the community and voluntary sector, social care as well as services provided at Weston General Hospital and services provided by each of the main hospitals in the area.

Since the launch of the Commissioning Context in October 2017 there has been a period of public dialogue and co-design including two public meetings in Somerset delivered in partnership with Somerset CCG.

Members were informed that the final options would be put forward for public consultation.

Further discussion on this included:

- Clear messaging to the public about the Healthy Weston programme was vital
- The focus was on what could be done well in a small hospital and three population groups were identified as a priority – vulnerable communities, frail people with complex needs, and children, young people and maternity
- The aim was to implement the change in services by April 2019
- Members were urged to get involved in the public consultation
- GPs were heavily involved and engaged with the process
- Sharing of services and the need to think more creatively about how to deliver services using different types of staff

The Chair thanked the team from Weston for attending the meeting to give their report and presentation.

The Committee noted the report but asked for a further update in due course.

87 **Health and Care Strategy** - Agenda Item 9

The Committee received a report giving an update on the Somerset Health and Care Strategy. Members were informed that development was being jointly led with Somerset County Council and the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and that there would be public engagement on the plans.

The purpose of the Somerset Health and Care Strategy was to improve the health and wellbeing of our local population and address health inequalities and change the way services are commissioned and delivered in order to provide higher quality care and ensure their long term sustainability and affordability. It was also to address the financial challenges facing the health and social care system.

The process for doing this with timescales was shown on page 64 of the report and there would be reporting back to the Cabinet meeting and Somerset CCG. The Council was supporting the engagement and communication plan.

Further discussion included:

- The different forms of public engagement that would be used such as social media, events, meetings and other methods
- Confusion about where this fits with the Sustainability and Transformation Plan
- Members felt there was a lack of information and asked for more information to be brought back at a later meeting.

The Committee noted the report but asked that the next update come to the June meeting with the Somerset Transformation Plan item and that it include an engagement and communications plan.

88 Adult Social Care Performance Report Q4 2018 - Agenda Item 10

Due to the amount of time it had taken to get through the previous items, it was agreed to defer this report until the next meeting.

89 Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee Work Programme - Agenda Item 11

The Committee agreed to update the work programme for the next meeting to move the Adult Social Care Performance Update to the May meeting and to move the Sustainability Transformation Programme to the June meeting along with Health and Care Strategy. It was asked if ADHD could be covered within the Somerset Mental Wellbeing Service update and an update on the Cancer pathway could be covered in the next Somerset CCG Patient Safety and Quality Report in July. The Committee also considered and noted the Council's Forward Plan of proposed key decisions in forthcoming months including Cabinet meetings.

90 Any other urgent items of business - Agenda Item 12

There were no other items of business.

(The meeting ended at 1.50 pm)

CHAIR