

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 6th June 2018 at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr C Aparicio Paul (Vice Chair in the Chair), Cllr P Clayton, Cllr A Govier, Cllr B Revans, Cllr M Healey, and Cllr G Verdon.

Other Members present: Cllr T Munt, Cllr D Hall, Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr G Frachini, Cllr C Lawrence, Cllr H Davies, and Cllr M Chilcott.

Apologies for absence: Cllr M Caswell, Cllr H Prior-Sankey, and Cllr A Bown

98 **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 2

None declared

99 **Minutes from the previous meeting held on Wednesday 9th May** - Agenda Item 3

Cllr J Lock expressed a wish to see a written response to her question relating to page 6 at the last meeting. It was agreed by the committee that the audio recording of the meeting would be kept until the minutes are agreed and signed.

100 **Public Question Time** - Agenda Item 4

There were no public questions.

101 **Maternity Services at BANES and Wiltshire** - Agenda Item 5

The Chair invited Lucy Baker – Acting Director of Acute Commissioning, Wiltshire CCG, Programme Director for Maternity, BSW STP to talk the committee through her presentation. The committee were updated on the nationally lead improvement work e.g. Better Births and the Local Transformation Plan and RUH Maternity Services Redesign.

Further discussion about this included:

- NHS suffering from a huge financial shortfall and shortage of midwives. Changes were not about cost, investments have been made into the project and allocation of resource will be looked at.
- The issues that were most common included age in pregnancy and weight in pregnancy, the desire is that as many women as possible have a 'normal straight forward pregnancy and birth' and fewer C Sections as this would lower cost.
- Understanding the need for care of the more complex cases but concerned about staffing and matching up community service and hospital midwifery.
- Members were told staff work differently to give different types of care, staffing roles were the next key focus looking at roles that are needed in the future and retaining staff.

- Encouraging more home births. Unfortunately booking appointments where discussing birth plan were quite limited. Education was the key to making home births more appealing.
- Mental health challenges for women in this area - currently a mental health service was not being commissioned. The most severe mental health was being examined further but it would be beneficial to look at the mild to moderate section too. A national bid had been put in for this – there was also need to look into fathers mental health too.
- Staffing in smaller units and getting the right skills for midwives.
- Midwives were moved around to ensure that they are constantly being trained up to the highest level.

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

The Committee noted:

The key objectives of the LMS Maternity Transformation Programme, which are:

- **Improved outcomes and experience across STP.**
- **Continued delivery of a safe and consistent service.**
- **Parity of access.**
- **Value for money.**
- **Improve maternal health and support transition to parenting.**

The Committee agreed to analyse the results of the consultation due to take place, at their September 2018 meeting.

102 **Somerset Mental Wellbeing Service** - Agenda Item 6

The Committee received a report which provided an overview of the Somerset Mental Wellbeing Service, which is a new service commissioned by Somerset County Council (SCC) and delivered by Compass Disability Services, in conjunction with Mind Taunton and West Somerset, South Somerset Mind and Chard WATCH CIC. The service was formally launched in January 2018 and is part of a wider redesign of adult mental health social care services.

Members were informed this was a new contract and there are many changes in mental health services. This supported people to achieve their own outcomes and they had received positive feedback so far.

Further discussion about this included:

- Concern about suicide among young men at an all-time high. Some young men will not engage in the service. The service is working with Mind, Compass and Watch to give people the highest level of service. Work was being done to reach out to people who were not actively seeking help.
- Meetings will be held in 'Safe Places' where the client feels comfortable and safe.

- Cost savings of the service were unknown at the moment. This was about better outcomes for the individual.
- This was a brand new service and not outsourced and costs should be saved as the service would be engaging people earlier in the process therefore saving money in the long run.
- It would be an enhancement to the service.
- Raising awareness of the service through a vibrant launch and the service was engaging with organisations within the community.
- It was a positive start and with 1 in 4 people affected by a mental health related illness at some point in their lives this work was vital.
- Helping the homeless community - the service is open to all but it was harder to engage with homeless people but the help was available if they wish to take it up.

The Chair concluded that this was a new service with numbers exceeding expectations and support was important as well as encouragement to drive this positive service forward.

The Committee noted the report.

103 **Sheltered Housing in Somerset** - Agenda Item 7

The committee received a report providing a detailed overview of the current status of sheltered housing and the projected future model of sheltered housing in Somerset.

Members were informed:

- The total funding is £7 million.
- The review is on how much the service is spending and how the service is being provided.
- There are no proposals to stop sheltered housing as it stands and there are a number of infrastructures that will not change.
- This was helping communities to help themselves.

Further discussion about this included:

- This was a positive news story but the report read a bit negatively.
- Updated stats were asked for to be sent around the committee.
- Reservations with the housing association and concern about how much money was going to be spent on this
- It will be clearer in a few weeks before the key decision takes place.
- Reassurance that this would not lead to more people needing residential care
- This would be enhanced residential care, the aim is to support everyone in the community, an equity of service.
- An update on this could be made at the end of the year giving more information and clearer figures.

The Committee recommended that on 25th June 2018 the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health approve the following:

1. **The decision to discontinue the contribution of funding to the Housing Providers from 15th October 2018 that currently supports those Sheltered Housing Tenants with high level needs.**
2. **To agree to the recruitment of additional Community Agents for a pre-agreed period to mitigate as follows;**
 - a) **The transition between the funding stopping in October and the new Community Connect service being commissioned in March.**
 - b) **Where there is a known gap in Community Connect this resource will help provide an enhanced universal offer to all residents in Somerset.**
3. **From March 2019, SCC will reinvest the right amount of money that meets the needs of Somerset residents into developing community infrastructure that can support all adult residents of Somerset. This will include the re-commissioning of Community Agents, Talking Cafes and online tools to support the Community Connect model.**

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

The Committee agreed to update the work programme with the following:

- Maternity Services needs to be added to the September meeting.
- An earlier start for the meeting in July is a possibility
- There will be a Community Safety focused meeting in July.

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

There were no other items of business.

(The meeting ended at 12.10 pm)

CHAIR