

Annual Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee

Chairman: Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey

Division and Local Member: All

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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 is the annual report and also covers in more depth the meetings of 7 March 2018, 11 April 2018 and 9 May 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

Each of our meetings had specific agenda items to consider the work programme and allow members and officers to suggest items we should scrutinise in more depth. We also frequently review how we monitor our suggested outcomes and/or recommended actions so we can understand the impact of our work so we can learn how to better focus our scrutiny work to ensure we have made a difference. Scrutiny Members have endeavoured through the Committee's meetings to make suggestions and express opinions to Directors and Cabinet Members after discussion and debate. We have constructive relationships with our sister Scrutiny Committees in particularly with Children and Families and have held a joint committee meeting with them on 12 January focusing on the emotional health and wellbeing of children and adults. We hope to organise another joint committee in the near future.

2.2 7 March 2018

Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board Draft Strategic Plan 2018-19

The first main item was a report regarding the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan for 2018-19. The report gave information about the overarching priorities which remained of prevention, making safeguarding personal, think family, and board effectiveness. Members were also informed that assurance would be a main focus for the year. We noted the draft plan and agreed to continue to promote adult safeguarding across the County Council and in commissioned services.

Corporate Performance Report Q3 2017-18

The Committee received a report which gave a high-level summary of the Council's performance across the themes shown in Appendix A to the report. There was further information about the areas of concern shown as red segments and one segment with declining performance and the accompanying reasons for this. Members were informed that the aim was to provide more up to date information in future. We noted the report but asked if further details could be given in future reports to show specific areas of concern.

11 April 2018

Community Hospitals Update

The first main item was a report updating members on on the Community Hospitals in Somerset from the Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. The Committee was informed that staffing position within the community hospitals was improving but remained below a level was felt not sustainable to deliver inpatient care safety across the 13 wards. However it was hoped that one ward could re-open in June if staffing levels improved.

We 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.

South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust update

The next item was a report which gave figures on activity from the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust. 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. We noted the report but asked for a further update a few months after the new standards had been agreed.

Healthy Weston Programme

The Committee then 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.

Members were informed that the final options would be put forward for public consultation. We noted the report but asked for a further update in due course.

Somerset CCG Quality Report Q3

The Committee also received a report from Somerset CCG regarding their Quality Report for Q3. Members were given an update on the latest situation regarding the NHS 111 and Out of Hours 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 including 52 week waits and 2 week cancer waiting lists. We noted the report but asked that the next update included more data around Cancer.

Somerset Health And Care Strategy Update

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. We 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.

9 May 2018

Report from the Learning Disabilities Contract Task & Finish Group

The report summarised the findings of the Scrutiny Committee for Policies, Adults and Health Task and Finish Group on their further scrutiny of the delivery of SCC's contract for Learning Disability (LD) services in Somerset. There were a number of recommendations in the report including the need to make every effort to achieve the success of the contract, ensure that all Discovery customer assessments are completed and that they have a person centred care plan. It was also proposed that we should receive a full briefing on the results from the four surveys initiated by Discovery at our September meeting and that there should be a review of all the recommendations at the September meeting and the March 2019 meeting.

Adult Social Care Performance Update

This report was deferred from our last meeting and updated with the latest information to be considered for the May meeting. It provided a further update on Somerset's performance in Adult Social Care in comparison to national and comparator benchmarks, and in relation to the service's strategic priorities set out within the Strategy for Promoting Independence. A revised approach was shown to have improved customer satisfaction, responsiveness, timeliness and budget monitoring.

2.3 Meetings Overview for 2017-18

We have considered a number of reports on a range of topics and these have included:

- The development of the Somerset Sustainability and Transformation Plan
- CQC inspection of Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Somerset wide integrated sexual health service
- Regular clinical quality review reports from Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Reports regarding the performance of Weston Hospital
- Regular updates regarding Adult Social Care Performance

- Somerset Safeguarding Annual Report and strategic plan
- Somerset CCG finance and performance issues
- Maternity and Paediatrics Services update
- Yeovil Health Centre
- Improved access to GP services
- Update on Milverton branch surgery
- Proposal for a joint commissioning function
- Annual Public Health report
- Motorneurone Disease
- NHS 111 and Out of Hours Service Performance
- Community Hospitals
- Reablement and discharge to assess
- Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment
- Council performance reports
- Learning Disability Service Contract
- NHS waiting times for Somerset patients
- Somerset suicide prevention
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Medium Term Financial Plan
- Domestic Homicide Reviews

2.4 Suggestions for the Future

We look forward to an interesting and informative year ahead and already have a number of items scheduled for scrutiny including oral health services, autism services update, health and wellbeing strategy, maternity services, mental wellbeing service update as well as Community Safety themed meeting for July. Many of the reports we have considered have been information reports where our ability to make constructive input or provide feedback has therefore been limited. We have always endeavoured to approach our task as a 'critical friend' by trying to be supportive to officers and encouraging them to highlight areas of concern to us, whilst hopefully providing a suitably robust challenge to question poor performance and seek reassurance that appropriate action is taken to achieve improvement. We feel the Council would benefit from Scrutiny being asked to undertake more pre Cabinet decision work to help the transition from policy development to implementation.

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

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