

County Council

– 19 February 2020

Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee

Chair: Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey

Division and Local Member: All

Lead Officer: Jamie Jackson – Governance Manager - Scrutiny

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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 to provide each other meeting of the Council with a summary progress report and outcomes of scrutiny. This report covers the meeting 29 January only.
- 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 8 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 **29 January 2020**

MTFP (Medium Term Financial Planning)

We had a presentation on the proposed budgets for the next three years. We

discussed the background and the implications for these proposals. We welcomed the fact that the budget did not include any further cuts (apart from those previously announced) and we agreed that we would raise the need for the costs of the Agenda For Change should be funded by Central Government and not be sliced from local budgets.

Family Safeguarding

We had a report on an innovative model run in Herefordshire which improves multi-agency working to address 'Hidden Harm'. The model focusses on more specialist support at an earlier stage. If successful, this model will result in a reduction in Child Protection Plans as earlier intervention will allow more children to stay with their birth families and have the support, they need at the lowest level necessary.

Somerset Health Protection Assurance Report

We discussed the Annual Report. This gave us an overview of the work undertaken to prevent or reduce harm caused by communicable diseases and minimise the health impact from the environmental hazards such as chemicals and radiation. The strategic plan for 2019 set out the priorities in the following areas: -communicable diseases, environmental hazards, infection prevention and control, resilience and screening and immunisations. We had progress updates on all these areas and agreed the priorities for each of these for 2020.

Fit for my Future update

We had an update on the engagement and consultation undertaken by the GGC to assist in the future configuration of acute mental health inpatient beds for adults of working age in Somerset. We made comments on the progress and agreed the next steps.

We also had a similar report on the proposed engagement and consultation for community health and care services. We discussed and commented on the proposals.

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.