

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 provide full Council with a summary progress report and outcomes of scrutiny. This report covers meetings in September and October 2020.

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

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 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, particularly the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee.

2.2 09 September 2020

- **Fit For My Future -Update on Mental Health in-patient beds for People of working age**

We were updated on the current position of this engagement as it had been paused in March due to the pandemic. The public consultation resulted in 538 surveys had been returned, 732 people attended the 63 events organised to promote and discuss the consultation, and 3,538 people were reached through a Facebook Live event. The next steps will be as follows: -

- Consideration given to the feedback from the consultation and the impact this has on the proposal taken to the public during the consultation
- Considering the findings of a travel sub-group to explore and identifying option to mitigate the travel issues raised through the consultation
- Collecting feedback from scrutiny committees and the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Bringing a Decision-Making Business Case (DMBC) to the CCG Governing Body on 24th September.

We raised a number of questions and challenges and all of these were addressed or incorporated as part of the consultation. We recognised that consultation had been difficult in the midst of the pandemic and welcomed the decision being made soon so as to share that and bring about some certainty and a better safer arrangement.

- **Integrated Quality, Safety and Performance**

We had a report covering the May to June period comparing it to the same period last year. We heard the overall waiting list has been reduced but they are still too long. A recovery plan is still in development. Progress has been made by using independent providers such as The Nuffield in relation to cancer treatments. The increase use of digital solutions was having a positive impact.

- **Adult Social Care Performance Update**

We had a report setting out the impact of Covid 19 on performance in Adult Social Care. Key achievements were noted as: -

- Managing Demand – There has been a significant spike in the

number of people presenting (50% increase) to Somerset Direct, and the target for resolution of 60% has been met.

- Overdue Assessments and Reviews – The number of overdue assessments has been creeping back up due to workforce demands during Covid, but the number of overdue reviews has significantly decreased from last year.
- Permanent Placements in Nursing and Residential Homes – These numbers were very positive, with only three young adults (18-64) permanently placed in four months, while the over-65 placements are being made at a rate of 416 per 100,000 population, compared to 435 per 100,000 last year.
- Complaints – The average was 13 per month during the last year, but since March there has been a significant reduction.
- Practice Quality – Since the launch of the online auditing tool, 593 audits have been completed, with the results being analysed and fed back to teams to help improve performance.

We discussed the report, challenged some aspects of the service that had been reported to Councillors and acknowledged some of the local exemplary service being reported from all around the County.

- **Learning Disability Transformation / Discovery**

We had a report covering all learning disability activity not just that being delivered by Discovery. We heard about the support in place to support providers during the Covid 19 pandemic. We sought reassurance that the Council were not supporting staff who had been placed on Furlough and were assured there was no 'double payment'.

2.3

We challenged some of the detailed information and it was acknowledged that the figures were not the most up to date. We also asked about staffing levels. We were offered a separate briefing for all Council Members that would share the most up to date information. This briefing took place on Friday 2nd October.

07 October 2019

We held a joint Workshop with Scrutiny Policies for Children as well as Adults and Health. The purpose of this workshop is to understand and explore transitions focussing on aspirations and outcomes for young people aged 14 plus into Adult-life. We had three workshops covering the following areas: -

Employment-

Creating a clearer understanding of what the evidence is that supports young people into employment. There should be clear, evidence-based employment pathways with opportunities for volunteering, supported internships,

traineeships and apprenticeships and good careers advice and guidance to help young people with their decision-making.

Independent Living –

A focus on housing options and provide young people and their families the tools and resources they need to fully understand what is available. Young people are encouraged to think about who they would like to live with and where.

Community Inclusion –

Supporting young people to have opportunities to spend time with their peers outside of school and college. They are supported to develop and maintain friendships and relationships. They can access their community and feel safe and confident.

The workshops provided very useful and constructive feedback. This will be used to improve the experience and support for young people as they transition into adult life.

12 November

At this meeting we will be discussing the following areas: -

- Mental Health Transformation Update & Covid Update
- Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board Plan
- Out of Hours report –Devon Doctors
- Scrutiny Review

Meetings Overview for 2020-21

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

- Fit for My Future
- Deprivation of Liberty -revised guidance
- Care Homes and Nursing Home Support Service (LARCH/CCG)
- Regular clinical quality review reports from Somerset Clinical Commission Group (CCG)
- Dementia Report
- Reports regarding the performance and transformation at Weston Hospital
- Regular updates regarding Adult Social Care Performance
- Somerset Safeguarding Annual Report and strategic plan
- Somerset CCG finance and performance issues
- Community Hospitals
- Council performance reports
- Learning Disability Service Contract
- NHS waiting times for Somerset patients
- Somerset suicide prevention
- Mental health and wellbeing

- Medium Term Financial Plan

2.4 Suggestions for the Future

We look forward to an interesting and informative year ahead

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.