

Quarterly 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 since July 2021.
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	<p>Members of the Council are reminded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 Programme.• any Member can be asked by the Committee to contribute information and evidence and to participate in specific scrutiny reviews. <p>The Committee has 8 elected Members.</p>
2.	Background
2.1	<p>Scrutiny Work Programme</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
2.2	<p>Meeting 08 September 2021 Stroke Services - Consultation</p> <p>We had a presentation and report outlining proposed changes to Stroke Services in the North of the County. The presentation made it clear that the impact on services in Somerset would be limited to less than one person per</p>

week. The changes proposed would centralise Stroke Services into a centre of excellence in Southmead Hospital and would ensure that those who needed immediate care would have access to the best possible support. The changes would have minimal impact on the Stroke Service being offered at Musgrove Park Hospital. The impact would be to remove one or two patients a week from Weston General Hospital to Southmead.

Adult Social Care - Performance Report

We had a report that set out the challenges the pandemic has placed on Adult Social Care over the past year. The pandemic has reminded all of the importance of collaboration, communities, and of the care, support and protection of those who need some help the most. It has served to demonstrate why adult social care work is both vital and valuable.

Despite all these challenges Somerset the report did make it clear that against the background of all these challenges Somerset has been nominated for three Achievement Awards for:

Best Workforce Transformation' for its redeployment work during the pandemic,

- 'Community Heroes' for the work of Community Council for Somerset's Village and Community Agents, and
- 'Delivering Better Outcomes' for Somerset's Micro-providers, independent care providers who have proved a lifeline for the county's more isolated and rural populations throughout the pandemic.

Supporting Unpaid Carers in Somerset

We had a report and presentation on unpaid carers in Somerset. There are 58,000 people who have identified themselves as carers, there are many more who are not known to the Council. Somerset County Council commissions a broad range of support services for carers. These services are currently commissioned by Adults & Health and Children and Young People and delivered by several different providers.

Following our Workshop in December 2019 the Carers Transformation Programme was launched. The progress of this was stalled by the pandemic but has now led to programme that aims to:

- Continue to improve internal practice and processes consistently provide good outcomes for carers as well as the cared for,
- Review Carers Voice Somerset to ensure that it is effective in carer engagement,
- Seek continuous improvement through the contract with Community Council for Somerset who deliver the adult carers service,
- Develop working agreements between adults and young carers services to ensure that young adult carers through transition get the support that they need,
- Develop new ways to support carers to ensure that services are flexible and gives the carer choice and control and
- Deliver wider promotion of carers support services so that carers know where to go for support when they need it.

2.3	<p>Workshop 6th October Neighbourhood and Communities</p> <p>We had an interesting and well attended workshop looking at the scope and proposals for Local Community Networks under the Unitary design. We heard about the current position, some of the proposed changes and some uplifting Good News stories demonstrating the fantastic work being carried out in the communities.</p> <p>We were able to look at the current models and contribute some local knowledge to help shape these moving forward to make sure they are fit for purpose now and in the future when Somerset has a Unitary role and perhaps some different boundaries for local representatives. This collaboration at this early stage will ensure all the integrated cooperation is not lost during any major changes to Community areas and their local representatives.</p>
2.4	<p>Meeting 3rd November Integrated Quality, Safety and Performance report</p> <p>We had the regular Performance and Quality report from the CCG and had asked that this time there should be a focus on primary Care and Ambulance response times. We took the opportunity to scrutinise this report and made some robust comments on the need to drive up this performance.</p> <p>SSAB (Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board)</p> <p>We had the Annual report on Safeguarding Adults. This comprehensive report is one that we have a statutory duty to discuss and support.</p> <p>Adult Social Care Reform and Assurance</p> <p>We had a presentation on the Adult Social Care Reforms and the direction of travel these are likely to take. The full details are not yet known but it was a good opportunity to understand some of the implications and possible impact these reforms will have.</p>
2.5	<p>Consultations:</p> <p>We have during the period shared and commented on a number of papers that were circulated to the Committee as we have not been able to meet as frequently as usual. These have covered: -</p> <p>Weston Hospital Annual report for Hospital and Ambulance Trusts Stroke Services</p>
3	<p>Meetings Overview for 2021-22</p> <p>We have considered a number of reports on a range of topics and these have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit for My Future • Access to Dental services • Waiting lists post Covid 19 • Changes to Stroke Services • Improvements to Out of Hours Service • Care Homes and Nursing Home Support Service (LARCH/CCG) • Regular clinical quality review reports from Somerset Clinical

	<p>Commission Group (CCG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia Report • 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	<p>Suggestions for the Future</p> <p>We look forward to an interesting and informative year ahead.</p> <p>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.</p>
3.	<p>Consultations Undertaken</p> <p>The Committee invites all County councillors to attend and contribute to its meetings.</p>
4.	<p>Implications</p> <p>The Committee considers carefully and often asks for further information about the implications as outlined in the reports considered at its meetings.</p> <p>For further details of the reports considered by the Committee, please contact the author of this report.</p>
5.	<p>Background Papers</p> <p>Further information about the Committee including dates of meetings and agendas and reports from previous meetings, are available via the Council's website:</p> <p>www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers</p> <p>Note: For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author.</p>