

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

Chair: Cllr Rosemary Woods

Division and Local Member: All

Lead Officer: Scott Woodridge – Monitoring Officer

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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 May 2022.
- 1.2** The Committee has 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 Programme.
  - any Member can be asked by the Committee to contribute information and evidence and to participate in specific scrutiny reviews.

The Committee has 13 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 Executive Members after discussion and debate. We have started to develop constructive relationships with our sister Scrutiny Committees, particularly the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee.

## 2.2 Meeting 27 July 2022

### **Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Service**

The Committee received a report and presentation on the recent developments of the Integrated Care System and the establishment of the Integrated Care Board for Somerset, including the ambitious aims and noted the tight timelines.

### **Primary Care Update**

The Committee considered a report on Primary Care Services in Somerset with an individual update on the Victoria Park Medical Centre in Bridgwater. There are 64 practices in Somerset. The Committee discussed negative impact this was having on a very deprived Ward and were made aware of the feelings of the local community in having to seek services in other GP surgeries. This led on to a discussion about the challenge of attracting GP's to work in Somerset while acknowledging that Somerset had a more stable workforce compared to some parts of the Country.

### **Performance Report**

The Committee considered a report that provided an update on key developments in relation to demand and performance activity across adult social care both nationally and locally. The Committee heard that the handing back of contracts was a very complex area and may lead to re-admittance to hospital or care settings.

### **Quality Report**

The Committee had a report on Care Provider Quality. The report outlined the overarching duties and arrangements the Local Authority has to ensure the care provision offered to residents is of the highest quality, to support oversight and scrutiny. The report contained a case study the typified the range of responses used to address a quality issue. The report contained some comparator information in relation to the rest of England and similar large rural Local Authorities.

## 2.3 Meeting 12 October 2022

### **Budget Update**

The Director of Adult Social Care gave a high-level presentation demonstrating the make-up of the Adult Social Care (ASC) budget and how it was allocated between statutory and non-statutory spends, income sources and how the overspend is going to be managed. The Adult Social Care Budget is over half the Council's budget.

The Committee were advised that this means the budget the Council needs for ASC is actually £160m per year. The council also receives one-off funding from the government during the year to cover additional costs i.e. winter surges in demand.

### **Hyper Acute Stroke Care**

The Committee had a report from the Programme Director of Fit for My Future and the Programme Manager for Stroke, Neurorehab and Community Hospitals. The Clinical Services Director for Neurological Services and Consultant Stoke Physician also attended the Committee. Fit for my Future is a strategy for how we

will support the health and wellbeing of the people of Somerset by changing the way we commission and deliver health and care services. The Committee noted the report.

### **Somerset Supplemental Treatment and recovery Grant and Draft Substance Misuse Strategy**

The Committee had a report from a Public Health Consultant. The report aimed to introduce scrutiny members how the relaunched Somerset Drug And Alcohol Partnership is tackling this issue, utilising additional funding awarded to Somerset under the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Grant (SSTRG). A requirement of this grant is to develop a Somerset Substance Misuse Strategy and this paper begins to articulate the approach to be taken locally, in accordance with the national 10 year plan called 'Harm To Hope.' The Committee considered the report and discussed the possibility of having a workshop to address the challenge. Whilst that was welcomed as an option due to the tight timescales for submitting the Strategy to secure the funding it would not be possible for the first iteration. As this was an evolving strategy it was agreed that here could be one in the future. The Committee were keen to discuss this in a greater depth at it was an area where there was an underlying dependency that was not always visible as people continued to function in society.

### **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](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers)

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