

Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee

Chair: Cllr Rosemary Woods

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 November 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 07 December 2022

2022/23 Budget Monitoring Report - Month 6 -

The Committee had before them the Budget Monitoring Report -Month 6. This covers the spend up to the end of September 2022. This was the first Adult Services budget monitoring report submitted to the Committee. It was proposed in future these would be brought reports bi-monthly to the committee to discuss and make recommendations.

The Adult Services information in the report was taken from the Executive Committee month 6 budget monitoring report submitted on the 16th of November 2022.

After taking into account all service expenditure and contingencies the projected outturn position is £405.5m against a net budget of £383.3m. This gives an £21.2m adverse variance which represents a variance of 5.5%. Overall, there has been a favourable movement of £0.8m since the Month 5 position. This continues the down trend from Month 4 which was a forecast overspend of £23.9m for year. The action plan approved by the Executive in Quarter 1 is having a positive impact against a very challenging financial environment.

2.3 Meeting 26 January 2023

Draft Integrated Care Service Draft Strategy

The Committee had a presentation on the draft strategy of the integrated Care Board which needs to be established under the Health and Care Act 2022. The Somerset Integrated Care Strategy will build on the existing work carefully developed under Fit for My Future, to ensure the momentum to further the transformative change needed to tackle challenges such as: reducing disparities in health and social care; improving quality and performance; preventing mental and physical ill health; maximising independence and preventing care needs, by promoting control, choice and flexibility in how people receive care and support. Progress as a Somerset system has been significant under the Fit for my Future direction, and its five strategic themes continue to be used in the engagement with partners about how to prioritise plans.

The five strategic aims are:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of the population,
- Provide the best care and support to children and adults,
- Strengthen care and support in local communities,
- Reduce health inequalities and
- Respond well to complex needs.

Adult Social Care Performance Report

The Committee had a report that provided an update on key developments in relation to demand and performance activity across adult social care, both nationally and locally. It was supported by an accompanying presentation that

detailed some key performance indicators for the service to help inform the Committee's understanding of current activity and offered an opportunity to assess local performance in the context of the ongoing pressures and challenges facing the national health and care system.

Performance highlights were:

- **Calls resolved at first point of contact:** The proportion of calls resolved by Somerset Direct at 'first point of contact' has remained consistently above target despite demand and enquiry levels remaining very high.
- **Continued high levels of overdue assessments and reviews:** The number of overdue assessments and reviews continues to grow, impacted by rising demand, complexity of need and ongoing internal workforce challenges and vacancies.
- **Somerset's performance across ASCOF (Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework) measures:** Each year the Government collects data from Local Authorities and conducts surveys of people and their carers who use our services.
- **ASC Hospital Discharge Pathways:** In November, 92.1% of all people discharged from Somerset Hospitals were able to return home.
- **Learning from ASC Stakeholder Feedback:** Since launch in January 2022, our ASC Feedback Form responses have offered enormously valuable insights into the experience of service users and their carers, our partner colleagues and other key stakeholder - 81.8% rated the service a good or excellent.

Suicide Prevention Strategy

The Committee had a powerful presentation on the partnership work being undertaken in this sensitive area. Somerset has a higher rate of suicide when compared to the national figures. In Somerset it is 15.1 per 100,000 and nationally it is 10.4 per 100,000. They were made aware of the support and training that is available in Somerset and were interested in the 'Orange Button' training being offered to assist volunteers to gain confidence in talking about this delicate matter.

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.