

SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, ADULTS AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday 6 May 2020

9.30 am Virtual Meeting



To: The members of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee

Cllr H Prior-Sankey (Chair), Cllr M Healey (Vice-Chair), Cllr P Clayton, Cllr M Caswell, Cllr A Govier, Cllr B Revans, Cllr A Bown and Cllr G Verdon

All Somerset County Council Members are invited to attend.

Issued By Scott Wooldridge, Strategic Manager - Governance and Democratic Services - 28 April 2020

For further information about the meeting, please contact 07790 577336 or Julia Jones on 01823 357628 democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the printed agenda.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website on www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers

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AGENDA

Item Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee - 9.30 am Wednesday 6 May 2020

**** Public Guidance notes contained in agenda annexe ****

1 **Apologies for Absence**

- to receive Member's apologies.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

Details of all Members' interests in District, Town and Parish Councils is available on the website. The Statutory Register of Member's Interests can be inspected via the Democratic Service team.

3 **Minutes from the previous meeting held on 04 March 2020** (Pages 7 - 10)

The Committee is asked to confirm the minutes are accurate.

4 **Public Question Time**

The Chair will allow members of the public to ask a question or make a statement about any matter on the agenda for this meeting. **These questions may be taken during the meeting, when the relevant agenda item is considered, at the Chair's discretion.**

5 **Virtual Meeting - Guidance** (Pages 11 - 20)

To receive the report.

6 **Covid 19 - Assurance** (Pages 21 - 22)

To receive the report.

7 **Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee Work Programme**

To receive an update from the Governance Manager, Scrutiny and discuss any items for the work programme. To assist the discussion, attached are:

- The Committee's work programme
- The Cabinet's forward plan

8 **Any other urgent items of business**

The Chair may raise any items of urgent business.

Guidance notes for the meeting

1. **Council Public Meetings**

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 have given local authorities new powers to hold public meetings virtually by using video or telephone conferencing technology.

2. **Inspection of Papers**

Any person wishing to inspect minutes, reports, or the background papers for any item on the agenda should contact Democratic Services at democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk or telephone 07790577336/ 07811 313837/ 07790577232

They can also be accessed via the council's website on www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers.

Printed copies will not be available for inspection at the Council's offices and this requirement was removed by the Regulations.

3. **Members' Code of Conduct requirements**

When considering the declaration of interests and their actions as a councillor, Members are reminded of the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct and the underpinning Principles of Public Life: Honesty; Integrity; Selflessness; Objectivity; Accountability; Openness; Leadership. The Code of Conduct can be viewed at: [Code of Conduct](#)

4. **Minutes of the Meeting**

Details of the issues discussed, and recommendations made at the meeting will be set out in the minutes, which the Committee will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting.

5. **Public Question Time**

If you wish to speak, please contact Democratic Services by 5pm 3 clear working days before the meeting. Email democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk or telephone 07790577336/ 07811 313837/ 07790577232.

At the Chair's invitation you may ask questions and/or make statements or comments about any matter on the Committee's agenda – providing you have given the required notice. You may also present a petition on any matter within the Committee's remit. The length of public question time will be no more than 30 minutes in total.

A slot for Public Question Time is set aside near the beginning of the meeting,

after the minutes of the previous meeting have been agreed. However, questions or statements about any matter on the agenda for this meeting may be taken at the time when each matter is considered.

You must direct your questions and comments through the Chair. You may not take a direct part in the debate. The Chair will decide when public participation is to finish.

If there are many people present at the meeting for one particular item, the Chair may adjourn the meeting to allow views to be expressed more freely. If an item on the agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

An issue will not be deferred just because you cannot be present for the meeting. Remember that the amount of time you speak will be restricted, to three minutes only.

In line with the council's procedural rules, if any member of the public interrupts a meeting the Chair will warn them accordingly.

If that person continues to interrupt or disrupt proceedings the Chair can ask the Democratic Services Officer to remove them as a participant from the meeting.

6. **Meeting Etiquette**

- Mute your microphone when you are not talking.
- Switch off video if you are not speaking.
- Only speak when invited to do so by the Chair.
- Speak clearly (if you are not using video then please state your name)
- If you're referring to a specific page, mention the page number.
- Switch off your video and microphone after you have spoken.

7. **Exclusion of Press & Public**

If when considering an item on the agenda, the Committee may consider it appropriate to pass a resolution under Section 100A (4) Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, as defined under the terms of the Act.

If there are members of the public and press listening to the open part of the meeting, then the Democratic Services Officer will, at the appropriate time,

remove the participant from the meeting.

8. **Recording of meetings**

The Council supports the principles of openness and transparency. It allows filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public - providing this is done in a non-disruptive manner. Members of the public may use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings. No filming or recording may take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to the Committee Administrator so that the relevant Chair can inform those present at the start of the meeting.

We would ask that, as far as possible, members of the public aren't filmed unless they are playing an active role such as speaking within a meeting and there may be occasions when speaking members of the public request not to be filmed.

A copy of the Council's Recording of Meetings Protocol is available from the Committee Administrator for the meeting.

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SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, ADULTS AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee held in the Taunton Library Meeting Room, Paul Street, Taunton, TA1 3XZ, on Wednesday 4 March 2020 at 9.30 am

Present: Cllr M Healey (Vice-Chair), Cllr P Clayton, Cllr M Caswell, Cllr A Govier, Cllr B Revans, Cllr A Bown, Cllr G Verdon and Cllr J Lock

Other Members present: Cllr L Redman, Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr G Frascini, Cllr M Chilcott and Cllr C Paul

Apologies for absence: Cllr H Prior-Sankey

250 **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 2

There were no new declarations of interest.

251 **Minutes from the previous meeting held on 29 January 2020** - Agenda Item 3

The minutes were agreed and signed.

252 **Public Question Time** - Agenda Item 4

There were no public questions.

253 **Fit For My Future - Engagement on our vision for community health and care services** - Agenda Item 5

The Committee were invited to participate in developing alternative models for wider community services. The community services are those services for the 580,00 people registered with a GP in Somerset. This review covers a wide range of services and the public engagement was launched on 31 January 2020. This engagement will last until 1 April 2020. The Committee were invited to review and comment on proposals for alternative models of Community Health and Care. There have already been some innovations such as Home First and this model has made a difference to the health and wellbeing outcome for the residence of Somerset. This model needs to be expanded and consistent across the county. As has been reported to this Committee in the past that there are empty beds in some parts of the County. These beds are not always in the right place for demand and clearly having under occupied facilities is not efficient use of resource. The drive is to support people to return to their homes as soon as they can following hospital treatment (if that is the most suitable option). The Committee were given some case studies to bring to life the options

available and some of the possible solutions to the challenges faced by many citizens in Somerset.

The Committee divided into groups with other Councillors and members of the public to discuss options, look at positives and negatives of the new models, discuss the challenges and look at new ways of working. The groups were asked to consider the following questions: -

- What do you think of the new models – the positives and negatives?
- What are the challenges you see, or the things we have missed?
- How would you feel about outpatients appointments delivered by skype to your local GP or community 'hub'? Or your GP having a conversation about you with the specialists at the acute trust to develop your health care plan, meaning you no longer needed to travel to the acute trust to see the consultant?
- How would you feel about rehabilitation in a specially commissioned residential or nursing home, closer to home, than within a current community hospital?

The discussion points were captured by the representatives from the CCG and will be collated alongside all the responses.

The Committee were then given an overview of the criteria for assessing the options and the appraisal process. The agreed criteria are: -

- Quality of Care – impact on patient/service user outcomes
- Quality of Care – impact on patient/service user experience
- Deliverability
- Workforce sustainability
- Affordability and value for money
- Travel times for patients, their carers and visitors including travel sustainability
- Impact on equalities

The Committee discussed these criteria and asked if all aspects of equality were given equal weighting and was assured it was. The Committee heard that so far there had been 439 survey responses completed on-line and attendance at roadshow events had been low but was building. The demographic of respondents was from the older age group, so the CCG had held a number of events in local colleges to try and ensure the responses were representative.

The Somerset Scrutiny for Policies Adults and Health Committee:

- **Considered and commented on the report and supported next steps.**
- **Responded during the workshop to the vision for community health and care services**
- **Agreed to encourage wider participation in the engagement events and the surveys to inform the development of future services.**

254 **Adult Social Care Performance Report** - Agenda Item 6

The Committee discussed a report setting out the current position on Adult Social Care Performance. The report highlighted the following areas:

- **Managing Demand** - focus on managing demand, improving outcomes and investing in strengths-based conversations with those seeking assistance via Somerset Direct has enabled the Adults team to meet the target of 60% resolution at first point of contact. The number of overdue assessments for Locality Teams stood at 63 at the end of January 2020. This represents a reduction of approximately 74% compared to the same point last year. For assessments completed since April 2019 the average time someone waited for an assessment was 18 days – this is measured from the date of the initial contact to the date the assessment was completed. The number of overdue reviews has reduced by approximately 33% and stood at 1,306 at the end of January 2020. The planned trajectory will see all overdue reviews cleared by September 2020 whilst maintaining the quality of the reviews. Over 90% of people with an overdue review have received a review within the last 2 years.
- **Care provider quality** - The quality of local regulated care provision in Somerset has seen steady and continuous improvement over recent years, evidenced by the high proportion of providers judged by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.
- **Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC)/Home First** – the target for Delayed Transfers of Care at a CCG level is that no more than 2.5% of available beds are lost to delays. Current performance (January 2020) is slightly above target at 2.71%.

The Committee heard the performance priorities for the year ahead - Strategic Managers across Adult Social Care have now submitted their core ambitions for the coming year as part of the annual corporate service planning process. The two service plans (one focused on the commissioning function, and the other on frontline operational priorities) outline how the work of the service contributes to the overarching 'Improving Lives' vision. Managers are ensuring the activities within these plans filter down into individual appraisal objectives and team-work plans. The content of the plans will also inform service-level risk registers and performance scorecards.

The Committee discussed the report and asked why some of the measures for Care homes had declined over recent months. It was explained that some of the

measures have changed recently and some measured relied on digital recording of all cases and some are not being recorded in this way. The Committee asked if the performance was broken down into greater detail to cover disability or need. They were informed that this was recorded but the performance focus was on making sure everyone was treated equally and that all needs were measured and scored equally.

The Committee welcomed the information that outstanding reviews were no under control and coming down very quickly. They wanted to know if these included those who were self-funding their care. They heard that everyone is entitled to ask for a review of care need, those who were discharged from hospital would have one but those self-funding would have to request a review if they wanted one.

The Somerset Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee: -

- Commented on the updates in relation to Adult Social Care performance trends captured within the report and welcomed the actions being taken to continue to improve the service.

255 Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee Work Programme -
Agenda Item 7

The Committee considered and noted the Council's Forward Plan of proposed key decisions in forthcoming months including Cabinet meetings up to date. The Committee requested a joint meeting with Scrutiny for Children to discuss the transition of Young People into Adult Services.

256 Any other urgent items of business - Agenda Item 8

There were no other items of business.

(The meeting ended at 11.35 am)

CHAIR

Virtual Committee Meetings procedure and guidance

Author: Julia Jones, Governance Specialist – Democratic Services

Contact Details: jjones@somerset.gov.uk

1. Summary

- 1.1.** This report looks at the procedure and guidance for new virtual committee meetings starting in May and for the foreseeable future. It outlines the new regulations that came into force on 4 April 2020 and the various considerations emerging from these and notes there are likely to be further updates and issues during this transition period.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1.** The committee is asked to consider the information contained in this report.

3. Background

- 3.1.** The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 have given local authorities new powers to hold public meetings virtually by using video or telephone conferencing technology.

Remote attendance is permitted as long as certain conditions are satisfied. These include that the Member is able to hear and be heard by the other Members in attendance. Also, being able to hear and be heard by any members of the public entitled to attend the meeting (in line with the public participation scheme). To ensure reliability an audio conferencing solution is preferred, but video conferencing can be achieved in some circumstances.

The regulations are clear that a meeting is not limited to those present in the same place, but includes electronic, digital or virtual locations (internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers).

A precis of the Regulations is contained in Appendix 1 of this report.

4. Guidance

- 4.1.** This guidance is an immediate response to the above regulations and is based on the information available at the time. Therefore, we will update the guidance, if necessary as we receive further information.

4.2. Accessing meetings

Microsoft Teams is the virtual meetings solution recommended for hosting remote / virtual meetings by Somerset County Council. It has functionality for audio, video, and screen sharing and you do not need to be a member of an organisation (or have a Teams account) to join a Teams meeting.

For external users, they can also use the Teams app, by downloading it to their laptop, smartphone or tablet.

External participants can be sent the meeting request via email and if a participant is included in this way, they can use all the functions of Teams (video / chat) in the meeting. This might be useful for external presenters at Committee meetings, for example NHS / CCG Officers.

Alternatively, someone can be added to a meeting as a voice call. This can be done at the appropriate time in the meeting by the Democratic Services Officer.

There is also provision for a conference call number and ID to be given to external people who are calling in, which is another mechanism for them to join the meeting. Again, this will be coordinated by the Democratic Services Officer as part of the meeting administration.

4.3. Accessing agendas and reports

Democratic Services will continue to publish the agenda and reports for committee meetings ahead of these taking place on the Council's website and will notify councillors by email in line with usual practice.

Because of the Covid19 social distancing requirements, printed copies will no longer be available for inspection at the Council's offices and this requirement was removed by the Regulations.

4.4. Meeting procedures

At the start of the virtual meeting, the Democratic Services Officer will check all required attendees are present (viewing the participant list).

The Democratic Services Officer will also have details of any Members of the public attending and / or press. The public and press will be notified via the meeting information on the website that they will need to contact the Democratic Services Officer to obtain the link or code for the meeting.

The Chair will ask all Members and Officers to **turn off all unnecessary microphones**, unless they are speaking. This prevents background noise, coughing etc which is intrusive and disruptive during the meeting. Members would then need to turn their microphones back on when they wish to speak.

The Chair, who will use video when speaking will ask all participants to **turn off their video cameras**. It cannot be stressed enough how important it is to turn off the video (unless you are the Chair or speaking). This helps with call quality. There is no facility for the Democratic Services Officer to turn off other participants video (like you can with microphones) or even see who has their video turned on, so it is even more important that participants are aware of this.

Some of the virtual meetings will be recorded by the Council in line with the current audio recording protocol. Participants will be asked to only turn on their microphones **when they are invited to speak and keep their video functions turned off**. This is good practice for all meetings, but especially important because the meeting is recorded. The recording is not like a webcast, because what is being recorded can be different to what you see on screen, even as a meeting organiser. So, participants could be being filmed, even if they are not speaking, simply by virtue of having their video switched on. It might be helpful to think in terms of switching the mic on and off at the appropriate times, just like it would be in the committee room.

For members of the Committee who wish to speak in the debate, they should click on the meeting chat facility and simply write their question or state they wish to ask a question so that the Chair and meeting administrator are aware. When the Chair invites someone to speak at the meeting, the speaker should say whom they are for the benefit of everyone listening to the meeting so it is clear who is speaking at any point.

It is important that the chat function is used solely for this purpose or to raise a point of order, otherwise it is very distracting if other questions/conversations are happening within the chat, simultaneous to the meeting.

When referring to reports or making specific comments, Councillors should refer to the report and page number so that all Members of the Committee have a clear understanding of what is being discussed at all times.

4.5. Minutes of the meeting

Following consent from the committee, the Chair will sign the minutes of the meeting as a correct record at the next scheduled virtual meeting of the committee remotely using an electronic signature.

4.6. Public Participation

Participation by members of the public will continue in line with the current public participation scheme.

This can include speaking and / or asking formal questions and / or making representations at various Committee in line with the scheme.

Members of the public can listen to or observe the proceedings of a committee. They are asked to contact the Democratic Services Officer to obtain a conference ID which will allow them to dial into the meeting.

When a member of the public is addressing a meeting, in line with the public participation scheme, they will be invited to speak at the appropriate time by the Chair.

Both they and the Democratic Services Officer will need to ensure their microphone is enabled so the meeting can hear them.

It must be switched off again after they have made their statement or asked their question.

4.7. Voting

Within the Team facility, there is a straight-forward mechanism to deal with voting.

The chat function should be used to ask the Committee to take a vote. When it comes to taking formal votes, the Democratic Services Officer will type in the chat 'All those in favour'. Those in favour of the proposal should type in 'yes' and those against should type 'no'. Members wishing to abstain from voting should type 'abstain' or alternatively no response will represent an abstention.

If a Chair does not wish to use this mechanism, they may choose to ask each Member (of the Committee) to vote in turn. If this is the case, Councillors should express their vote verbally and the Democratic Services Officer will record the outcome of votes and announce these to the meeting.

4.8. Confidential or exempt issues

There are times when part of a council meeting is not open to the public, when confidential, or "exempt" issues – as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – are under consideration. It is important to ensure that there are no members of the public at remote locations able to hear or see the proceedings during such periods of a meeting.

Any Councillor in remote attendance needs to ensure that only they are able to hear the debate or consider any exempt information else they could be in breach of the Council's Code of Conduct.

If there are members of the public and press that attempt to listen to the private / closed session part of the meeting, then the Democratic Services Officer will ask them to leave or if necessary then to virtually remove the participant from the meeting.

4.9. Disturbance from Members of the Public

In line with the council's procedural rules, if any member of the public disrupts a meeting the Chair will ask them to stop and if necessary advise them that they may be asked to leave the virtual meeting.

If that person continues to interrupt or disrupt proceedings the Chair can ask the Democratic Services Officer to remove them as a participant from the meeting.

4.10. Technical issues

In the event that the Chair or Democratic Services Officer identifies a failure of the remote participation facility, the Chair should declare an adjournment while the fault is addressed.

If it is not possible to address the fault or if the meeting becomes inquorate at any point, the meeting can only continue with information items only and decision items will have to be postponed to the next virtual meeting.

5. Implications

5.1. General principles

There are some general principles to guide how remote formal meetings to which the public will have access, will operate. These include:

- People being clear about their respective roles.
- Recognising that meeting remotely requires a different approach to the agenda and to behaviour than a meeting in person;
- The need to think carefully about – and plan for – how everyone involved in the meeting will be able to actively contribute;
- Having a clear focus on the actual outcome of the meeting.

Remote meetings will not be able to run in the same way as meetings are run in person as participants will not be able to pick up on physical and verbal cues from others such as nods or shakes of heads. The focusing of attention on a speaker (or others in the room) all play an important role.

In light of the uncertainty of the Covid19 pandemic and with councils focusing resources on delivering essential services, getting remote meetings "right" will be a challenge. Virtual meetings are new ways of working for councils and it should be recognised that there may be occasions where despite planning things can go wrong.

5.2. Expectations

People's physical presence in the same space has a significant impact on behaviour. Behaviour which might seem normal when everyone is in the council chamber – heckling, applause, the raising of points of order, all part of the cut

and thrust of political debate – are likely to feel alien and possibly slightly absurd when participants are sitting at tables in their homes. It's necessary to emphasise the cognitive dissonance that may result, and the way that we will need to shift our expectations of how "normal" meeting activity will need to change.

- Plan to do less. Committees are likely to transacting less work; agendas and work programmes may need to change at short notice. Planning to do less in committee than would be usual will provide flexibility when things don't go as planned;
- Take more time to prepare. Chairs and committee members will need to put more time into thinking about a meeting's outcomes;
- Take more time in the meeting. There will be a need to pause discussion, remind people of the process and the meeting's outcomes, and work to ensure that everyone is able to contribute.

5.3. Supporting members

The amount of work to effectively Chair these meetings is likely to increase and report authors and presenting officers will need to be mindful of how they can support the Chair and committee in these new arrangements. This includes producing reports timely for publication, providing clear and easy to read information in presentations or slides that are viewable on small screens and being clear what is expected of them at formal meetings.

6. Background papers

- 6.1.** Appendix 1 - A precis of the Regulations for local authorities to hold virtual meetings.

Appendix 1

A Briefing on the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 come into force from 4th April 2020.

The regulations are made by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020(1) and paragraph 36(1)(b) of Schedule 6 to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011(2).

The Regulations apply to local authority meetings (and police and crime panel meetings) that are required to be held, or held, before 7th May 2021.

In the Regulations, "the 1972 Act" means the Local Government Act 1972 and "local authority" includes a County Council (and numerous other bodies).

Frequency of Meetings / Annual Meetings

A local authority is permitted to alter the frequency, move or cancel such meetings, without requirement for further notice. In reality this means a meeting can be cancelled, even if the agenda has been published.

When an appointment would otherwise be made at an annual meeting, such an appointment continues until the next annual meeting of the authority or until such time as that authority may determine.

Remote Attendance in Local Authority Meetings

A meeting is not limited to a meeting of persons all of whom, or any of whom, are present in the same place. The reference to a "place" includes reference to more than one place including electronic, digital or virtual locations (internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers).

A Member 'in remote attendance' can attend the meeting as long as certain conditions are satisfied. These include that the Member is able to hear and be heard by the other Members in attendance. Also, being able to hear and be heard any members of the public entitled to attend the meeting. The regulations would prefer a visual solution, but audio is sufficient.

This also relates to members of the public attending the meeting being heard, but preferably seen.

To be clear, the above caveats (in relation to Members of the authority and the public) includes a person who is attending by remote access.

The Regulations clarify that any reference to being "present" at a meeting includes being present through remote attendance... and a "place" where a meeting is held, or to be held, includes reference to more than one place (including electronic, digital or virtual locations such as internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers).

Standing Orders

The provision in the Regulation overrides provisions in existing standing orders or rules governing the meeting.

However, a local authority may make other standing orders regarding issues such as voting, member and public access to documents; and remote access of public and press to a local authority meeting to enable them to attend or participate. This doesn't appear necessary as current processes allow this and access to meetings and public participation will continue.

Annual Meeting

Paragraphs 1 and 7 of Schedule 12 to the 1972 Act are disapplied which means the removal of the requirement to hold an annual meeting.

Access to Information

The requirement for a paper copy of an agenda to be displayed in the Council's offices has been removed, so publishing on the website only is acceptable.

Access of Public and Press

The Regulations clarify that a meeting being "open to the public" includes access to the meeting through remote means (video conferencing, live webcast, interactive streaming). Where a meeting is accessible to the public through such remote means the meeting is deemed open to the public whether or not members of the public are able to attend the meeting in person.

Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 have also been amended to reflect the new arrangements in terms of access to documents and meetings, but still retains the need for publication of key decisions, general exception, cases of special urgency etc.

The provisions in relation to the inspection and supply / copy of documents have been disapplied, but the Authority would still need to make any background papers available for inspection through other means (for example the website).

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Somerset County Council
Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health
Committee
6th May 2020

Covid 19 - Planning for Adult Social Care

Lead Officer: Mel Lock, Director of Adult Social Care

Author: Mike Hennessey, Interim Operations Director Adults & Health

Contact Details: 01823 357034, mhennessey@somerset.gov.uk

Cabinet Member: David Huxtable, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Division and Local Member: All

1. Summary

- 1.1.** This report highlights some of the key areas of activity that have been undertaken by Somerset County Council Adult Social Care (ASC), with its partners across health, care providers and the voluntary sector; relating to the care of vulnerable adults and their carers during the pandemic.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1.** Members of the committee are invited to review the proposed areas for discussion which this report sets out and comment on the actions taken and proposed.
- 2.2.** During the meeting detail will be added and members will hear of how ASC and our system partners have moved at pace to ensure that carers and older and disabled people can be better supported during these unprecedented times.

3. Background

- 3.1.** There have been a number of changed requirements and "easements" proposed to the way ASC is delivered by Councils across England. These are contained in the main in the 19th March 2020 Hospital Discharge service requirements documents which can be found at appendix 1 and the <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-hospital-discharge-service-requirements> and the Coronavirus Act 2020 a summary of which is at appendix 2. Finally in terms of background papers there is the Covid 19 Adult Social Care Strategy which is summarised in Appendix 3.
- 3.2.** The key areas covered in the presentation will include
- The new operational model for ASC
Discharge from hospital – changes to the joint Hospital Interface Service
 - Integration and locality working
 - Support for commissioned services and providers

- New commissioning arrangements

4. Consultations undertaken

4.1. Not applicable at this stage

5. Implications

5.1. None at this stage

6. Background papers

6.1. Appendix One- Hospital Discharge requirements
Appendix two - Coronavirus Act 2020 – relevant sections
Appendix Three – Covid 19 Strategy for Adult Social Care

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