
Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committee - Adults and Health

Lead Member: Councillor Gill Slocombe - Chair of the Committee

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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 August 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.

3.0 Workshop 7 September 2022

We discussed the Somerset Dementia strategy and had an interactive demonstration of some of the challenges faced by those with dementia and other age-related challenges.

3.1 Meeting 12 October 2022

2022/23 Budget Monitoring Report - Month 5

The Director of Adult Social Care gave a high-level presentation demonstrating the makeup 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.

Hyper Acute Stroke Care

We had a report from the Programme Director of Fit for My Future and the Programme Manager for Stroke, Neurorehab and Community Hospitals. This report provided an update on the development of Hospital based Hyper-Acute Stroke Services and the options being proposed for a public consultation on the way forward.

Somerset Supplemental Treatment and Recovery Grant – Substance abuse

We scrutinised progress on achieving the pre-requisites against national deadlines of the national grant award and provided input into the draft Somerset Substance Misuse Strategy Priorities.

Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report

We agreed that the partnership working was very good and were pleased to see number of referrals were going down but were keen to make sure that this was not due to under reporting but because of the work done over the years to address concerns early on to prevent cases needing to be reviewed. It was confirmed this was the case.

3.2 Workshop 2 November 2022

We scrutinised the strategy of the Integrated Care System.

3.3 Meeting 7 December 2022

2022/23 Budget Monitoring Report - Month 6

We had before us 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.

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.

3.4 Meeting 26 January 2023

Draft Integrated Care Service Draft Strategy

We 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

We 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.

Suicide Prevention Strategy

We 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 offer to assist volunteers to gain confidence in talking about this delicate matter.

3.5 Meeting 8 March 2023

Southwest Ambulance Service Response times

We had a comprehensive report from South Western Ambulance Service. The Committee challenged the Service on response times, public confidence and recruitment. The Committee asked for this to be reviewed again in six months if there has not been significant improvement.

Somerset Hyperacute Stroke Services

We discussed the comprehensive document covering the full scope of the public consultation on Stroke Services in Somerset. The consultation started on 27 January 2023. The vision behind the consultation is to ensure: "Stroke patients in Somerset will receive timely acute interventions and receive access to world-class services, regardless of where they live. We agreed to encourage participation in the consultation.

Supporting Carers in Somerset - Update

We had a presentation covering the activities undertaken since the Workshop in September 2021 which focussed on the support given to Carers in Somerset and to seek suggestions for wider support and improvements.

3.6 Meeting 31 May 2023

Stroke Consultation

This was an impassioned debate over the recommendations that had been out for public consultation and had generated some considerable public concern. As no decisions had yet been made as the consultation had only just ended it was agreed that this would be on the agenda again prior to any final decisions being made.

Workforce Planning

We had a report and presentation covering Workforce Planning. With over 1.65m jobs, the adult social care workforce is larger than the NHS, construction, transport, or food and drink service industries, with the number of jobs forecast to grow by almost one-third by 2035. The Committee had a update on the successes of the 'Proud to Care' initiative and future plans.

Adults and Health Services Transformation

We agreed to support the recommendations going before the Executive: - The aims and objectives of the next phase of the Transformation Programme for Adults Services. To engage Newton Europe as strategic change partner. To work alongside the service to deliver these transformational objectives by implementing the opportunities identified in the diagnostic and support the delivery of identified reductions and to fund the costs of the transformation programme of £3.5m each year for the next two years initially from Earmarked Reserves and review the position later in the financial year once the 2022/23 statement of accounts from the predecessor councils has been complete.

Annual Report from the Director of Public Health

We had a highly engaging presentation using a Cricket theme to set out the impact of cardiovascular disease and its prevention.

4. Consultations Undertaken

The Committee invites all County councillors to attend and contribute to its meetings.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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