

COMMUNITY HOUSING AND HEALTH (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

26 JUNE 2019

PRESENT:

Councillors Gwilt (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), Evans (Vice-Chair), Gwilt (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), Ball, Binney, Birch, Cox, Humphreys, Parton-Hughes, Silvester-Hall and Eagland.

(In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No.17 Councillors Eadie, Pullen and A Yeates attended the meeting).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Leytham (Chairman), Baker and Wilcox

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Ball declared a non disclosable pecuniary interest as he is a member of Fusion and pays a fee to hire a room at the premises as referred to in the Jigsaw Review report. He left the room during the item's consideration.

Councillor Evans declared a personal interest in any reference to CASES as she is a Trustee.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting as circulated were signed as a correct record.

4 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for Overview & Scrutiny Committees as circulated were noted by the Committee.

5 WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was considered. It was reported that the Rough Sleeping policy would be part of the Housing Strategy and as this would be going to Cabinet in January 2020, there may be a need to reschedule the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to ensure it had O&S consideration first.

It was agreed to add Community Lottery to the work programme to appear at Committee at the September meeting.

RESOLVED: That the work programme be noted and updated as agreed.

6 STANDING ITEMS

The Committee received the digest from the Healthy Staffordshire select Committee from their meeting on the 10th June 2019. The Committee had nothing to add however noted that Councillor Eagland was also the Staffordshire County Councillor representative and would be happy to report any views back to SCC if required.

RESOLVED: That the information received be noted.

7 ENGAGEMENT PLANS FOR GEORGE BRYAN CENTRE

The Committee were introduced to Sally Young, Executive Director of Corporate Services, Governance and Communications for the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups, Lisa Agell, Head of South Mental Health Services for Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Clare Neill Associate Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships for Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

The Committee received a presentation on the situation at the George Bryan Centre following the fire in February 2019 which destroyed the west wing of the centre which was a 20 bedded mixed sex 24 hour in-patient ward for acute mental illness. Noted that all patients were evacuated successfully and taken to St Georges Hospital in Stafford. It was also reported that the east wing of the centre which was unaffected by the fire, became isolated and taking on safety and patient impact into consideration, the board made the decision to close the wing to new admissions and discharge patients and provide care and support in their own homes. It was reported that the remaining east wing would remain closed pending an engagement exercise about the future service provision of mental health in all South Staffordshire. It was noted that this engagement would then inform the wider exercise being carried out by the Together We're Better consultation.

Members were concerned that the engagement exercise into the future mental health service provision was financially focused and a way to avoid rebuilding the facility. It was confirmed that this was not the case and no plans had been formulated at this time. It was reported that evidence would be gathered during the engagement process and decisions based on that. It was agreed that the NHS Foundation Trust would return back to the District Council's O&S Committee to discuss the consultation results and proposals as well as attend the County Council's Health Select Committee.

There was further concern that there was no planned end date to the engagement exercise and that this could lead to the temporary measures in place becoming the normal by default. It was reported that the plans were to allow further events to be added to ensure all views from the public were received and no one feeling disenfranchised.

Members were pleased to hear that all staff had been redeployed.

The Committee felt that a facility was still required in the area as the distance to St George's Hospital or other centres was too great and risked further distress to already vulnerable patients and their family/carers.

The representatives were thanked for their attendance.

RESOLVED: That the information received be noted and further updates be received when available.

8 JIGSAW FUNDING AGREEMENT

The Committee received the report on the results of the review of the Jigsaw centre and whether to enter into a new funding agreement. It was reported that the centre had been managed by Fusion Credit Union since January 2014 and that they had informed the council that they no longer required funding.

It was then reported that the signposting and support requirement given at the centre had reduced overtime as the ability for residents and visitors to gather this information by

alternative means had increased. It was noted that Fusion had agreed to continue to provide this service if needed.

It was also reported that Fusion had agreed to continue to provide a community space at the centre ensuring a continuation of the facility as it currently operates.

The Committee was pleased at the extensive consultation carried out and supported the proposals

RESOLVED: (1) That Cabinet be recommended to approved that the Council does not seek to enter into another funding agreement; and

(2) That the commitment by Fusion Credit Union to maintain a signposting service and continue to make the room at Dimbles Lane available for hire be acknowledged.

9 UPDATE ON THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY DELIVERY PLAN 2018-2020

The Committee received a report updating them on the progress during the first year of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWS). It was reported that the HWS was far reaching and covered all aspects of the Council.

Members asked what support was given to carers especially young carers. It was reported that there was no direct support as this was provided by the County Council, but did help by providing rest bite through activities.

When asked, it was confirmed that mental first aid was provided to coaches and volunteers through the 'Get Into It' project'.

The joint campaign with Birmingham University on Health Eating Ratings was discussed and it was noted that the Council Officer who was the main link had now left the authority so was investigating whether the venture was still viable.

It was asked if GP's were engaging with the Council and it was reported that it was difficult but walls were beginning to be broken down.

It was asked if anything was being done to tackle or raise awareness of child bullying and it was reported that there wasn't anything direct however Officers did work with schools and do refer issues if identified through safeguarding measures.

It was then asked how this work of the Council was communicated to the public and it was reported that the Physical Activity Strategy was available to view and there was a high level of engagement with schools and sports clubs. It was also reported that Freedom Leisure had employed a Community Engagement Officer to further this and they had access to a full marketing department. It was noted that the Council had a very active social media presence that also helped.

The Committee was pleased with the progress made and wished to congratulate Officers and Partners for their hard work.

RESOLVED: That the report and progress made on the HWS be noted.

10 DELIVERY OF DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS (DFGS)

The Committee received a report updating them on the delivery of Disabled Grants Facilities (DFGs) along with performance and expenditure in 2018-2019.

It was reported that it had been the first year in contract with Millbrook Healthcare who was procured by Staffordshire County Council to provide DFGs on the Council's behalf along with other Districts and Boroughs in the county as part of the supporting Independent living in Staffordshire Partnership.

It was agreed that performance of the contract had not been as high as hoped but Officers were keeping an eye and had issued Millbrook with an improvement notice. It was noted that not all the issues were of Millbrook's causing but had still had a negative impact. The Cabinet Member did report that he felt a corner had been turned and improvements made and that he would be meeting with Millbrook to discuss the situation further.

The Committee expressed the importance of DFGs and the advantages of enabling people to remain in their own homes but speed in dealing with claims was vital to allow this to happen.

Members were concerned that having to monitor the performance and support Millbrook was having an impact on Officer resources.

It was asked why there was a high number of cases closed due to lack of contact and whether it was highlighting any safeguarding issues. It was reported that it could be for a number of reasons but the Council has asked Millbrook to investigate further.

It was asked that the Cabinet Member express disappointment to the County Council regarding the situation and their actions.

It was agreed for the Committee to receive quarterly briefing papers updating them on performance for DFGs with a full progress report in 6 months.

RESOLVED: (1) That the delivery of DFGs in 2018-2019 and the challenges that Millbrook have encountered during the first year of the contract and the measures they are taking to improve performance be noted; and

(2) That the high demand for the service and the volume of cases in the pipeline be noted.

(The Meeting closed at 7.21 pm)

CHAIRMAN