

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE

1000 hours on 16th July 2019, Committee Room 3 & 4 – Actions

Present:

Councillor Rob Pocock (Chair)

Councillors: Mick Brown, Diane Donaldson, Peter Fowler, Mohammed Idrees, Zaheer Khan and Paul Tilsley.

Also Present:

Maria Gavin, Assistant Director, Quality and Improvement, Adult Social Care

Elizabeth Griffiths, Interim Assistant Director, Public Health

Rose Kiely, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, Scrutiny Office

Gail Sadler, Scrutiny Officer, Scrutiny Office

Soulla Yiasouma, Joint Head of Youth Services

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING

The Chairman advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (which could be accessed at "www.civico.net/birmingham") and members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. APOLOGIES

Councillor Ziaul Islam.

4. ACTION NOTES/ISSUES ARISING

The action notes of the meeting held on 18th June 2019 were agreed.

The following matters have arisen since the committee last met:

- Enablement Service

A Terms of Reference/Scoping Paper for a review of the service to be undertaken by the committee is to be considered later on the agenda.

- Adult Social Care Draft Day Opportunities Strategy

Maria Gavin (Assistant Director, Quality and Improvement, Adult Social Care) has provided information requested on the direct payments system.

A visit to two Day Centres (Heartlands Resource Centre and Harborne Resource Centre) has been arranged to take place on Tuesday 23rd July. Thereafter, the committee can submit a response to the current consultation on the Day Opportunities Draft Strategy.

- Minor Surgery and Non Obstetric Ultrasound Services (NOUS) Listening Exercise

Information on the number of single-handed practices remaining in the West Birmingham locality has been circulated to the committee.

Councillor Tilsley remarked that the information was extremely useful as it predicts the configuration in 5 years' time of the number of single-handed practices with GPs who are coming towards retirement and the need for a reconfiguration of patients. It gives a clear indication of where there will be gaps.

5. PERIOD POVERTY: EVIDENCE GATHERING

Public Health Birmingham

Evidence was provided by Elizabeth Griffiths (Interim Assistant Director, Public Health).

In discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the following were among the main points raised:

- There is a lack of data and evidence around period poverty which means it's hard to quantify what this looks like in Birmingham so estimates are based on qualitative or descriptive reviews.
- In Birmingham, an estimated figure of 32,000+ women and girls aged between 10-50 years of age may have experienced period poverty at some point in their life, which is a considerable figure for the size of the City.
- There is potential for targeted access to free sanitary wear e.g. in homeless shelters, drug and alcohol services, job centres etc.
- It was suggested that GP surgeries may be ideal distribution centres for free sanitary products.
- Diverse communities with different faiths and cultures may find it difficult to talk about the menstrual cycle and, therefore, the extent and nature of the issue in Birmingham may be invisible. Concern was raised that, so far, there is no in-depth research into specific communities where this issue may arise.
- Education and awareness - destigmatizing the issue of menstruation. How is this being addressed in schools?

RESOLVED:

- Contact the Education Department to provide evidence on how educational programmes in schools teach children about the menstrual cycle.

Youth Services

Evidence was provided by Soulla Yiasouma (Joint Head of Youth Services).

In discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the following were among the main points raised:

- There are 15 Youth Centres throughout Birmingham frequented by, predominantly, 11-19 year olds of which 40% are females/young girls.
- Most, if not all, of the Youth Centres are located in deprived areas and, therefore, are within reach of people who may have an issue with period poverty.
- Free sanitary products have always been available in Youth Centres but, until recently, a young woman/girl would have to ask a female member of staff for a sanitary item.
- A pilot project has been set up to provide free sanitary products more discreetly in boxes in the ladies toilet for all women using the Centre.
- Unsure how sustainable the project is as currently paying for sanitary products but contacting organisations to try and obtain free donations.
- Have discussions in Girls Groups which have tended to concentrate on relationships, sexual health etc. but, going forward, will look at including period poverty.

RESOLVED:

- The committee would like to receive an update on the outcome of the pilot project and feasibility of its continuation should it prove successful.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE

Girlguiding Birmingham

Councillor Pocock thanked Girlguiding Birmingham for their submission to the inquiry. In particular, he highlighted the following extract from their submission:-

In addition to this (submission), Girlguiding groups across the city have taken a pledge to end the stigma around periods – "I pledge to tackle period stigma by talking openly about periods, so that no one feels embarrassed talking about them." We invite the Committee to take this pledge alongside us to be advocates for young women in the city.

The Committee was concerned to note that the pledge raises a wider issue that needs to be addressed, which is on 'period awareness'. Girls faced not just the problem of period poverty, but the general problem of discussing periods openly,

especially within certain cultures. Consideration on ways of widening 'period awareness' within a super-diverse city should be included within the Report

RESOLVED:

- The Committee unanimously agreed to adopt the pledge.

Change, Live, Grow (Substance Misuse Service)

Councillor Pocock presented the submission which set out what the service was currently supporting women/girls in need by providing by free sanitary products in their Team's across the city.

6. ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE MONITORING SCORECARD – END OF YEAR 18/19

Maria Gavin (Assistant Director, Quality and Improvement, Adult Social Care) introduced in-depth data on 5 performance indicators chosen by the committee which had an emphasis on work being undertaken to improve performance and was the focus of the presentation. Also included was a summary of all reported adult social care performance indicators and the detail behind those in case there were any particular queries on those.

In discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the following were among the main points raised:

- The ongoing use of social media, and the media in general, should be used to promote and raise awareness of the Shared Lives project.
- Using overtime to reduce the waiting time for a long term client to be reviewed/reassessed is not sustainable and was a short term initiative to improve performance at the end of the year.
- Work has been undertaken to see if our own in-house staff in Day Services, who work closely with service users and carers, might also be reviewers. There is no statutory requirement for a social worker to carry out a review. Looking to maximise opportunities for carrying out reviews.
- Concern was raised about the historic data that was being presented to the committee.
- Permission has been received to recruit a lead person to support improvements in getting service users aged 18-64 with learning disabilities in employment. Also, work is progressing to support the transition into sustainable employment for vulnerable adults.
- Everybody with an eligible adult social care need can have a direct payment. A direct payment may be used in different ways to meet someone's eligible care needs as long as it is not illegal.
- A direct payment is offered as a choice for those clients presenting with an eligible care need. Some communities may not be aware of the service that is available and perhaps this could be further promoted through Neighbourhood Networks.

- The performance targets for this year are now available. Performance targets are set against the benchmark for the next quartile. Therefore, always trying to move up a quartile in terms of performance.
- The target of 140 for Shared Lives is an end point target rather than a staged target.

RESOLVED:

- The committee noted with concern the lateness of reported data.
- Maria Gavin to:-
 - Liaise with Scrutiny Officers to provide a performance data reporting schedule which can be circulated to members.
 - Provide a copy of the performance targets for the current year including current quartile and target end of year quartile as a positioning statement at the start of the year.
 - Provide information as to whether the Shared Lives 140 figure would fall within the top quartile.
 - Provide information on queries regarding:
 - **Why (PI16) The number of children under 5 attending the Wellbeing Service and (PI24) The percentage of adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment is off target and direction of travel continues to deteriorate?**
 - Identify an officer who could provide Councillor Fowler with training on performance data.
- An update on how the Neighbourhood Networks is working to be scheduled on the work programme for later in the year.

7. REVIEW OF IN-HOUSE ENABLEMENT SERVICE

Councillor Pocock recapped that in February 2019 HOSC called-in the Cabinet report on proposals for the development of the Enablement Service. Cabinet accepted the recommendations of the call-in report and replaced the original proposal with a new proposal which was agreed by Cabinet on 22nd May 2019. Included in the new Cabinet report was a recommendation that “a review of enablement provision in BCC should be commissioned, led by Overview and Scrutiny and/or an independent party”.

A proposed terms of reference/scoping paper for the review was presented to the committee for consideration.

RESOLVED:

The committee agreed the proposed terms of reference for the review.

8. WORK PROGRAMME – JULY 2019

The work programme was noted.

9. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

None.

10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Councillor Pocock brought to the attention of the committee the outcome of the consultation which had taken place on the Sandwell and West Birmingham Commissioning Boundary. Following a ballot of the Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG GP members, the decision was to retain the current Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG boundary integrated into a single commissioning structure for the Black Country and West Birmingham STP.

Councillor Pocock suggested that the committee may wish to write to NHS England to reaffirm its previous decision that CCG and local authority boundaries should be aligned. Furthermore, this would be in line with the government's view that local authority boundaries being a model for place based integrated care systems.

RESOLVED:

The committee agreed that the Chairman should write a letter NHS England.

11. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

RESOLVED:-

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 1139 hours.