

## **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

### **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE**

**1000 hours on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Committee Room 6 – Actions**

**Present:**

Councillor Rob Pocock (Chair), Peter Fowler, Mohammed Idrees and Paul Tilsley.

**Also Present:**

Dr Marion Gibbon, Interim Assistant Director, Public Health.

Elizabeth Griffiths, Assistant Director, Public Health.

Rose Kiely, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, Scrutiny Office.

Gail Sadler, Scrutiny Officer.

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#### **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") but due to the circumstances concerning the coronavirus (COVID-19) members of the press and public had not been allowed to attend the meeting.

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

The Chairman stated that this would be last committee meeting, for the time being, which would be convened with Members and officers in attendance and future meetings would likely be held online in digital format.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **3. APOLOGIES**

Councillors Mick Brown, Diane Donaldson, Ziaul Islam and Zaheer Khan.

#### **4. ACTION NOTES/ISSUES ARISING**

The action notes for the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were agreed.

##### 11th February meeting – Outstanding Actions

##### Review of In-House Enablement Service

Tim Normanton to provide diversity data for the In-House Enablement Service Workforce.

## 18<sup>th</sup> February meeting – Outstanding Actions

### Request for Call-In: Adult Social Care – Draft Day Opportunities Strategy

The Chairman referred to a letter sent to Councillor Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, appended to the notes of the meeting which set out the response from the committee to the Request for Call-In relating to the Adult Social Care Draft Day Opportunities Strategy. Councillor Fowler requested that the Chairman read out the 8 main areas of concern that were set out in the letter for members of the public who may be watching the meeting via the live streaming and this was done.

Councillor Fowler also sought clarification as to why the one member of the public who was allowed to speak was only allowed to do so before the meeting formally commenced.

In terms of attendance and contributions from the public, the Chairman stated that he had taken advice and the view was that a Request for Call-In meeting is for Members only i.e. the Members who have requested the call-in; the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and supporting officers; and Members of the committee. Therefore, the Chairman took the decision that the contribution of a member of the public could take place before the meeting commenced.

The Chairman also stated that a key function of scrutiny was to voice the concerns and views of service users and citizens in the city. As such, discussions had taken place around how the committee could link with citizens panels representing carers and ASC service users e.g. People for Public Services Group and Scrutiny Officers had been asked to prepare a note on how the committee may undertake this in future.

Page 13 –It was agreed by the Cabinet Member that she would present the consultation responses that had been omitted from the information pack to the subsequent meeting of Cabinet which is being held today. That has not happened. The Cabinet are considering options on how to respond to concerns that were raised about the absence of that documentation and the implications this may have for the status of the previous Cabinet decision of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020

### Sexual Health: Testing and Treatment Service in Birmingham – Umbrella

Natalie Slayman-Broom to provide further information on the clinical trials that Umbrella are involved with.

### Adult Social Care Performance Monitoring – Month 8

Maria Gavin to provide clarification on the number of beds inappropriately occupied across the whole of the estate i.e. each hospital. Councillor Tilsley said he had received this information from Councillor Hamilton, but it appeared that other members of the committee had not. Therefore, a further request for the additional information would be made.

## **5. PERMISSION TO CONSULT ON THE BIRMINGHAM DRUG AND ALCOHOL STRATEGY (TRIPLE ZERO CITY STRATEGY)**

Dr Marion Gibbon (Interim Assistant Director, Public Health) outlined the three key outcomes which are underpinned by a number of objectives to monitor progress against the long term goals of the strategy. Those key outcomes are: -

- Zero deaths due to drugs or alcohol addiction.
- Zero overdoses due to drug or alcohol addiction.
- Zero people living with addition to drugs or alcohol not receiving support to manage and overcome their addiction.

The action plan to deliver the strategy will focus on delivering six themed workstreams: -

- Prevention.
- Early Intervention.
- Treatment, Support and Recovery.
- Children and Young People.
- Additional Challenges.
- Data and Evidence.

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

- Planned a 12-week consultation period but facing challenges in how this is undertaken given the current situation with the coronavirus.
- It was acknowledged that the consultation would be difficult given the virus but there was still potential with the use of social media, websites, email etc.
- Concern was raised about the number of organised crime groups who are involved in the drugs trade in the West Midlands and drugs prevalence leading to more deaths of younger people.
- Need to learn from experience and take initiatives from other countries that have taken a more relaxed approach by decriminalising the use and possession of drugs e.g. Portugal.
- The number of people who are in treatment is decreasing which is positive but there issues around how long people have to wait for treatment.
- To act on how to tackle this requires a systemic approach involving all partners in order to inform the debate and fulfil the aspirations of the strategy.
- City-wide geographical data on 'hotspots' would be useful to Councillors in order to help them to get people engaged within their community.

### **RESOLVED:**

The committee welcomed the initiative and supported the engagement and would want a report back on the outcome and actions following the 12-week consultation period. The committee would also like to see included in the final report examples of experiences from other countries e.g. Portugal, the Netherlands.

Dr Marion Gibbon to ask the Public Health Evidence Team if geographical data on substance misuse on a ward-by-ward basis city-wide can be provided.

## **6. SCOPING OF THE INFANT MORTALITY REVIEW**

Dr Marion Gibbon (Interim Assistant Director, Public Health) presented a detailed paper which included data highlighting the prevalence of high infant mortality in Birmingham. The purpose of the paper was to inform the committee and to assist in scoping a review of infant mortality in particular focussing on pre-conception particularly amongst seldom heard communities within the city.

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

- In section 3.1 the report should be amended to read "In the period 2014-16 it rose to 7.9 per 1,000 and the period 2016-18 it decreased to 7.4 per 1,000."
- The issue of first and second cousin marriages was a problem in the Jewish community and amongst other communities, and, maybe, there is something that can be learnt from guidance that was given to young people who were thinking of getting married.
- Working very closely with Community Trusts, hospitals and one of the universities in Birmingham to ensure the work is undertaken in a systematic and thorough manner.
- Issue around the Clean Air Zone and the extent to which air pollution emissions may impact on infant mortality will be taken on board.
- A suggested area of work to be included in the review is raising awareness about consanguinity across relevant communities in Birmingham and how this can be undertaken in a sensitive manner.
- 5.1 of the covering report sets out a suggested outline of topics to be covered in the terms of reference for the scrutiny review. The Office for National Statistics death classification should also be included.

### **RESOLVED:**

Dr Marion Gibbon to provide geographical data on infant mortality city-wide, and if possible also mapped against air pollution emissions.

The draft Terms of Reference for the review will be presented to the committee at the next meeting.

## **7. WORK PROGRAMME – MARCH 2020**

The work programme was noted.

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

None.

**9. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Elizabeth Griffiths (Assistant Director, Public Health) gave a verbal update on the coronavirus (COVID-19) and how the Birmingham Director of Public Health, Dr Justin Varney, has asked citizens to respond given the new government guidance released the previous day and the current situation in the city.

**10. 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.

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The meeting ended at 1121 hours.