

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE (HASC) OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday 19th December 2023. Committee Rooms 3&4,

Council House, Victoria Square

Minutes.

Present

Councillors Mick Brown (Chair), Kath Scott, Gareth Moore, Julian Pritchard, Kath Hartley, Amar Khan and Paul Tilsley.

Also Present:

Maria B Gavin, Assistant Director, Adult and Social Care Directorate.

Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager.

Adewale Fashade, Interim Scrutiny Officer.

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the council's Public-I microsite and that Members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

None

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kath Scott declared an interest as member of the governing body of NHS women and children's trust.

4. MINUTES – 21ST NOVEMBER 2023.

The minutes of the last Health & Adult Social Care (HASC) Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting were approved by members to be accurate record of the meeting.

5. COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON AGENDA

The committee noted that the Commissioner has agreed for the reports to be published without comments.

6. HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER.

The Interim Scrutiny Officer updated members on actions from the HASC Action Tracker from the last meeting. The only action outstanding was the November Budget savings

The committee was informed that Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Care Board (B/Sol ICB) will attend the January meeting to set out its emergency measures as well as engagement plans for Warren Farm Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC). After listening to HASC Committee members' views from the last HASC meeting, B/Sol ICB was reviewing its engagement plans on Warren Farm UTC and would update HASC members. Members have also been invited to visit Warren Farm UTC to check and give views on suitability.

RESOLVED

That:

- That the Committee noted updates on actions from the previous Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.
- The Scrutiny officers to liaise with ICB with a view to agreeing a date for a visit to UTC Warren Farm in January 2024.

7. ADULT AND SOCIAL CARE CQC PILOT INSPECTION UPDATE.

Maria Gavin, Assistant Director (AD), Adult and Social Care (ASC) was in attendance and presented the report on the outcome and feedback on the CQC pilot inspection carried out on BCC Adult & Social Care between June and August 2023. Key points highlighted from the report/presentation were:

- The CQC pilot inspection took place between June and August and assessed performance under the key themes of the Care Act.
- The outcome of the pilot assessment was rated as 'Good',. The combined rating of 'Good' gives encouragement that the ASC service was on the right track in terms of improvement and changes. It is expected that a fuller CQC assessment would be carried out in the near future.
- In terms of strengths identified, these included strong leadership, robust management, and oversight across all areas of ASC; passion among officers, elected members and partners in achieving outcomes for citizens, and commitment to learning and research on how the service was best meeting people's needs.
- Areas of improvement identified included first line of information and support which can be difficult for service users and carers; Birmingham's super-diversity and high levels of inequity, recognising that the service was working positively in addressing these, and gaps in providing culturally appropriate bed-based respite care.

- In terms of next steps, the service would reflect and apply lessons learnt in ongoing improvement plans and share learning across the West Midlands region, local authorities and other partners.

The following were the main points made in response to Members' questions:

- In response to concerns on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (DoLs), the new national Liberty protection safeguarding requirement was introduced on the back of a court ruling on Cheshire West. The ADAS tool is used by the ASC to triage those waiting for DoLs assessment and to keep a watching brief on those at low risk. Most local authorities maintain a waiting list. Government consulted last summer on the Liberty Safeguard review, but there is currently a delay in completing the review.
- On the issue of safeguarding, this was due to delays being experienced mainly due to high demand in services. The triage function determines the urgency of need and safeguarding was included in this.
- In terms of the indicating scoring/rating scheme, CQC would be rolling out a new national scheme for all care providers. Areas of improvement identified were due to waiting lists and increasing demand on services, as well as recruiting and retaining qualified workers, despite a recruitment programme rolled out during the summer. Recruitment and retention were ongoing and through the Social Work Academy, the council was recruiting and training social workers.
- The focus on maintaining current rating of 'Good' in the context of budget savings would be a challenge. However, the ASC service have experience and knowledge to ensure standards are maintained.
- In reference to Transition to Adulthood, improvement work was ongoing to improve the pathways and address issues, for example in area of mental health services to young people. The current improvement plan in place involves all the key statutory partners working together to improve service delivery. If committee members require more information on this, the officers delivering the improvement programme would be able to update committee on their work.
- In terms of scrutiny's role holding ASC accountable, there was no specific mention of this. Feedback provided was more of a general, high-level overview on leadership commitment across the board (officers and members) in supporting people of Birmingham in achieving service outcomes.
- In relation to provision of culturally appropriate bed-based respite care, the improvement programme picked this up and were working with independent providers to expand offer of respite care.
- On the need for Shared-lives carers and placements, nationally this scheme delivers good quality care and there was a need to explore more opportunities

to provide more Share lives services. ASC would like to see double the current amount of Share lives carers/placements.

RESOLVED:

- That the Committee noted the contents of CQC Pilot inspection report and the positive outcome for Adult and Social Care in Birmingham.

8. ADULT AND SOCIAL CARE Q2 PERFORMANCE REPORT.

The report was presented by the Assistant Director Adult and Social Care (ASC). She provided an overview of key messages from the report:

- The report contained quarterly performance scorecards up to the end of September 2023.
- Significant progress made on the proportion of clients reviewed, reassessed, and assessed in the last 12 months (up to September 2023)
- Review target was a rolling 12 months which make for slightly lower aggregate target score.
- BCC reviewed more people than any other local authority in the West Midlands percentage-wise. Focus for many councils was more on assessment through the 'front door' rather than reviews. There is ongoing work to balance demand.
- Percentage of concluded safeguarding enquiries was above target this quarter.
- Discharging patient rate was 98% which was exceptional.
- Direct payment was viewed as important indicator of promoting choice and control for citizens. The level of performance have been maintained despite turnover.

The following main points were made in response to Members' questions:

- In response to availability of admission figures, BCC Adult Social Care does not have the figures on this. This was more likely to be available from the NHS/ICS. It was agreed that Members may want to note this point in work programme discussion next year.
- In terms of client recording system, it was pointed out that this was not dependent on Oracle. This sits on the Eclipse Performance Reporting system. On these measures, there were no significant changes due to lengthy process of recording and closing data from service agreements. Focus kept on reviews and balancing assessments.
- On direct payments, BCC was in the top quartile of Direct Payments (DP) nationally. 40% uptake over 4 years, and in the last 18 months, 38%, still one of the highest percentage rate nationally. Direct payments would usually be offered as first option for service users and carers. To aim for higher percentage rate would require more resources, however focus was not to drop

below the present percentage rate. It was noted that DP is more popular among younger adults, and 50% of uptake has been from ethnic minorities. However, there is also a good number of older adults taking up the DP option.

RESOLVED

- That the contents of the Q2 Adult and Social Care Performance report were noted by the Committee.

9. HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (2023/24).

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager provided an update on the current 2023/24 work programme for the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Key updates and proposals were:

- The Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its December meeting agreed that all Overview and Scrutiny Committees were to review current work programmes, and prioritise on issues relating to the Council's current improvement and recovery priorities, and the recent Governance Review carried out on the Council.
- Statutory Health Scrutiny regulations are due to be updated by the end of January 2024. Therefore, the proposal was for the committee's February meeting to be an informal one to review the HASC Work Programme. This would enable full discussion and explore priority issues for relevant scrutiny, while the formal HASC January meeting will go ahead as normal.
- Items for agenda at the January meeting are Birmingham Adults Safeguarding Board (BASB) Annual Report; Birmingham & Lewisham African Caribbean Health Inequalities Report (BLACHIR) update;) Warren Farm Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) update and the Children and Young People Mental Health Inquiry to consider and endorse recommendations report.
- The Committee agreed a briefing note would be requested on the Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia service.
- HASC members have been invited by ICB to visit Warren Farm UTC. Dates to be agreed with ICB.

The following points were made in response to members questions.

- In reference to a proposed visit to University Hospital Birmingham (UHB), this would be considered as part of the discussion on the Work Programme in February. In the meantime, officers can contact UHB colleagues to negotiate possible date(s) for a visit to the hospital.
- Consideration for ASC performance in the context of budget savings and priorities as part of the Work Programme discussion, as well as ensuring prioritisation of NHS/ICB related issues that still require scrutiny and oversight.

- In response to having a February meeting on the Work Programme and for this to be separate from the formal committee meeting, as well as the January meeting looking at the Children and Young People Mental Health Inquiry recommendation, the Overview and Scrutiny Manager mentioned that the challenge for all Overview and Scrutiny committees, including the HASC, was maintaining the balance of considering budget scrutiny through the Task & Finish Groups, managing existing work programme, and managing the change process as a result of the Governance review. Having some space for informal review will provide capacity for other related work to be looked at within the current structure.
- In terms of the Children and Young People (CYP) mental health inquiry it was agreed that young people who had been involved in the Inquiry would be invited to the January meeting. Following the appointment of Cllr. Rob Pocock as Acting Health & Social Care Cabinet member, there is now a vacancy on each of the JHOSCs' (B/Sol & Birmingham Sandwell). The agenda for the January meeting will include appointments to these roles. Members who are interested were asked to contact the Chair or Scrutiny Officers.

RESOLVED:

The Committee:

- Noted the information set out in Appendix 1.
- Identified, subject to further input from the Chair, the issues that the Committee would consider at the agreed informal work programme review in February 2024, the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny in the context of the recent Governance Review.
- Noted that the January 23rd HASC meeting was to go ahead as normal with agenda items as mentioned on the work programme for that month/meeting.

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

None.

11. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS.

None.

12. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

RESOLVED: -

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

The meeting ended at 11.25 hours.