

## **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

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

**1400 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, via Microsoft Teams – Actions**

**Present:**

Councillor Rob Pocock (Chair), Debbie Clancy, Diane Donaldson, Peter Fowler, Mohammed Idrees, Ziaul Islam and Paul Tilsley.

**Also Present:**

Dr Manir Aslam, West Birmingham Governing Body GP Lead

Andy Cave, Chief Executive Officer, Healthwatch Birmingham

Pip Mayo, Managing Director – West Birmingham, Black Country and West Birmingham CCGs

Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health.

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services.

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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") 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 Mick Brown

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

The action notes for the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 were agreed.

17<sup>th</sup> March meeting – Outstanding Actions

Permission to consult on the Birmingham Drug and Alcohol Strategy (Triple Zero City Strategy)

It was agreed that the information which had previously been circulated would be discussed at today's meeting.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> June meeting – Outstanding Action

#### COVID-19 Update – West Midlands Care Association

A response to the questions raised was circulated to members on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020.

#### 21<sup>st</sup> July meeting – Outstanding Action

#### COVID-19 Update

- A copy of the 'Test and Trace' PowerPoint slides have been sent to Councillor Debbie Clancy.
- The current information on the location of testing sites was included in the 21<sup>st</sup> July meeting Action Notes.

The Chairman announced that agenda items 5 and 6 would be considered in reverse order.

### **5. BLACK COUNTRY AND WEST BIRMINGHAM CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS FUTURE COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS**

Dr Manir Aslam (West Birmingham Governing Body GP Lead) and Pip Mayo (Managing Director – West Birmingham, Black Country and West Birmingham CCGs) set out the proposals for merging the four CCGs (Dudley, Sandwell and West Birmingham, Walsall and Wolverhampton) across the Black Country and West Birmingham to form a single large CCG; the implications for West Birmingham and set out an approach to commissioning and delivering services to meet the needs of the population of West Birmingham. The committee was invited to provide a response to the proposals by 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

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

- The period of conversation with stakeholders finishes on 7<sup>th</sup> September and the views of stakeholders will be collated and presented to the GP members, who work across the Black Country and West Birmingham, as part of an information pack that they will consider in terms of deciding whether to vote for a merger or not. The decision on whether to proceed with the merger application or not will be based on the outcome of the vote which will take place in early October. All four current CCGs would need to vote in favour for the merger to proceed.
- Assurance was sought over governance arrangements for West Birmingham to avoid any conflicts between the 2 CCGs.
- If the CCGs were to merge 5 place-based teams (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, West Birmingham and Wolverhampton) would be created in order to the connection with communities and local councils. The presenters believed this would be consistent with the approach taken for the rest of Birmingham working in localities for planning health and social care services.
- Will focus on managing the health inequalities in West Birmingham.

- Required by NHS England to reduce an element of management costs by 20% and the merger will provide the best opportunity to do this without impacting on patients and citizens.
- By establishing a West Birmingham place will give a better understanding of what the West Birmingham pound is and how it is spent.

**RESOLVED:**

More information was requested on the following:

- How in practice the 3 tier operational levels will work, in particular, place-based decision making.
- The value of the 'West Birmingham pound' within financial planning arrangements.
- Quantification on the proportion of caseload/patients that fall between Sandwell and UHB.

Scrutiny Officer to prepare a response which summarises the points raised and seeks clarification on unresolved issues and to accept the invitation to continue with discussions.

## **6. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

### **Permission to consult on the Birmingham Drug and Alcohol Strategy (Triple Zero City Strategy) – Outstanding Action**

Dr Justin Varney (Director of Public Health) briefly outlined the content of the presentation on the number of clients in substance misuse treatment per 1,000 adult population geographically across the City.

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

- Clients with no fixed abode are excluded from the calculation but would go into another category that is not represented on the map. If a client resides in hostel accommodation then that address is used which may be one of the reasons why there are slightly increased numbers in some parts of the City. Only a small number of clients fall into the no fixed abode category.
- Since 23<sup>rd</sup> March there have been 1258 new clients in terms of substance misuse support treatment for adults. Of those 753 were opiate users and 505 were alcohol users.
- Data unavailable on why some areas of the City have a higher concentration of clients than others but there is a strong correlation between poverty and deprivation and higher substance misuse.
- In terms of children and young people there is a separate contract with Aquarius. The number of clients is much smaller and, therefore, no geographical information is available.

### **RESOLVED:**

- Dr Varney to provide a written briefing on the impact of Covid-19 on adult substance misuse to be considered at a meeting in the new year.

### **COVID-19 Update**

Dr Justin Varney (Director of Public Health) delivered a presentation which set out the most recent data (29<sup>th</sup> August 2020) around the number of cases, testing, the enactment of section 3 enforcement notices and interventions which were being put in place to increase testing, tracing engagement and risk reduction compliance. He also stated that because of the escalating rates of infection visiting care homes had been halted as of 14<sup>th</sup> August.

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

- The current cases are predominantly in the 20-40 age group and geographically spread across the City. In terms of ethnicity, it is difficult to answer because throughout the outbreak Asian communities have been over-represented in positive cases but it is unknown whether this is due to Asian communities getting tested more than other communities but in the last 3 weeks all ethnic groups have increased.
- People who are symptomatic or have been asked to get a test by the local authority or NHS should get a test. Given the current data it would appear that there are people who have symptoms but haven't come forward for testing.
- Schools have been working with the Public Health team throughout the outbreak to ensure both children and staff are safe. Each school is responsible for providing briefings for parents and sharing detailed information about safety precautions in their school. Evidence suggests that the risk lies with the socialisation that takes place between finishing school and returning home.
- Public Health have been working with West Midlands Travel (WMT) to reinforce the national guidance when travelling on public transport. This includes supporting bus drivers to enforce the message around face covering. We will also liaise with WMT regarding displaying more signage on buses in different languages.
- There are two new testing sites:-
  - South Car Park at the University of Birmingham.
  - Saltley Health and Wellbeing Centre.

There will also be a drive through sites coming live on a rotational basis one of which will be on the St Modwen's site on Bristol Road South. Also looking to set up walk through sites in Handsworth and Sutton Coldfield. The aim is for 10 sites to go live across the City within the next 2 weeks.

## **7. HEALTHWATCH BIRMINGHAM ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20**

Andy Cave (Chief Executive Officer, Healthwatch Birmingham) presented the annual report which covers the period between April 2019 to the end of March 2020. The presentation covered the main achievements and challenges faced during the year. The report also highlighted the three areas of work that have been identified for 2020-21.

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

- Sight loss issues means that signage needs to be as simple and clear as possible. As part of the follow up report on 'What is it like being in a hospital waiting room?' mystery shopping was conducted to make sure the changes had actually happened in hospitals.
- The work undertaken is around engaging people, working with individuals and, therefore, as an organisation it's about maximising the number of staff available within the budget. In order to try and increase capacity within the organisation a strategy is being developed for income generation. The contract value price per head of population is quite low compared to other Healthwatch organisations so working with volunteers and voluntary organisations is essential to enable the utilisation of their volunteers to make frontline connections with communities.
- Prioritisation of work is based on the feedback and experience from individuals who have used health and social care services.
- Translation services are available for telephone contact. Working in communities is undertaken in partnership with specialist organisations who provide translation and support to enable individuals to overcome communication barriers.
- Healthwatch does not receive feedback regarding the result of NHS complaints. The role of Healthwatch is to ensure people understand the pathway they need to take in order to go through the complaints process. Also work closely with Power of Attorney providers to understand how the system is working for individuals; what's issues are being raised through the complaints system and to whom they are providing support.
- Initial conversations with Birmingham and Solihull CCG and the Sustainability Transformation Partnership have been very positive in response to the recommendations Healthwatch provided to the NHS for the long-term plan.

## **8. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2020/21**

It was agreed that meetings would take held on Tuesdays at 1000 hours or, if conducted by Microsoft Teams, at 1400 hrs on the following dates:-

**2020**

6 October

17 November

8 December

**2021**

26 January

16 February

23 March

27 April

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

None.

**10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Professor Graeme Betts, Director of Adult Social Care, in relation to an investigation which had been conducted, in response to a complaint from a resident, over the non-disclosure of a report commissioned by the Council from an organisation called NDTi on the Adult Social Care Day Opportunities/Day Centres Strategy. This committee had been told by senior officers on more than one occasion that the report did not exist when the independent investigation had now established that, in fact, it did. Therefore, the Chairman proposed that Professor Graeme Betts be invited to attend the next meeting to explain how it came to be that this committee was misinformed and what steps have been taken to ensure that this does not happen again.

**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.

**12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would take place on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

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The meeting ended at 1606 hours.