

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEETING

**Tuesday 20 September 2022. Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Council House,
Victoria Square**

Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Mick Brown (Chair)

Councillors: Kath Hartley, Gareth Moore, Rob Pocock, Julian Pritchard and Paul Tilsley.

Also Present:

Professor Graeme Betts, Director – Adult Social Care.

Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager.

Councillor Mariam Khan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care.

Mary Orhewere, Assistant Director, Public Health.

Monika Rozanski, Service Lead (Inequalities), Public Health.

Gail Sadler, Scrutiny Officer.

Rokneddin Shariat, Policy and Governance Manager, Finance and Governance.

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site (www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw) and that members of the press/public could record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Councillor Rob Pocock is elected to substitute for the Chair if absent.

3. APOLOGIES

Councillor Jane Jones.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gareth Moore declared that he is a Trustee of Birmingham LGBT which provides sexual health services.

5. ACTION NOTES/MATTERS ARISING

Outstanding Action from 21 December meeting

- Maps to show the alignment between PCNs, clusters of GPs and localities were circulated on 23rd August

Members wished to put on record their thanks for receipt of the information.

Actions from 19 July informal meeting

Q4 Adult Social Care Performance Monitoring Report

- Andrew Marsh agreed to try to obtain the information for a suggested new indicator which measures the length of time from when someone is discharged to assess from hospital and the wait before a care package is in place and would let Scrutiny Officer(s) know how this was being progressed. Members were told that Scrutiny Officer(s) had followed up the request, but no information had been received so far.

Members raised serious concerns regarding the timeliness for receipt of information that had been requested 2 months previously. They stated that hospital discharges are a major issue affecting the health and social care system and, it is of paramount importance, that the data is needed to highlight where the blockages are e.g., tenants of the City Council waiting for adaptations or a care package to be put in place.

Members were told at an informal briefing with Jonathan Brotherton (Deputy Chief Executive/Chief Operating Officer, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust) that at any one time 160 beds in the Trust were inappropriately occupied i.e., bed blockers.

- Maria Gavin to confirm when a detailed report containing constituency level data could be presented to the committee on an annual basis. Scrutiny Officer(s) had followed up the request, but no information had been received so far.
- Merryn Tate, Head of Safeguarding, will attend the 18th October HOSC to respond to concerns that Members raised at the 19th July HOSC regarding lack of detailed information included in the Adult Social Care Performance Monitoring report.

RESOLVED:

- Scrutiny Officer(s) were asked to contact Andrew Marsh and Maria Gavin to find out when the outstanding information will be available and what barriers have prevented the information being produced in a timelier manner.

- Jonathan Brotherton to provide the following data: The number of people (in the Trust) that are inappropriately waiting in hospital to be discharged and the reason why?

That the action notes for the meeting held on 29 March 2022 be agreed and the action notes for the informal meeting held on 19th July 2022 are noted.

Healthwatch Birmingham Annual Report 2021-22

Andy Cave (CEO, Healthwatch Birmingham) had provided all the reports requested which had been circulated to Members on 16th August 2022.

Work Programme – July 2022

As requested, a copy of the 'Living life to the full with dementia' scrutiny report was circulated to Members on 19th July 2022.

6. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

This agenda item was switched with the Tackling Period Poverty and Raising Awareness Tracking Report item in order that all relevant officers could be present.

Councillor Mariam Khan (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care), Professor Graeme Betts (Director – Adult Social Care) and Mary Orhewere (Assistant Director, Public Health) attended for this item. The Cabinet Member set out her priorities for the coming municipal year which included:

- Tackling health inequalities.
- Post pandemic situation i.e., Covid recovery and planning for winter pressures.
- Cost of living crisis and the impact on citizens, social care workforce, public services, and care market providers.
- Maternal health.
- Mental health.

Councillor Khan also referred to the rising demand on health and social care providers with high levels of vacancies, exhausted staff, long waiting lists for treatment and a situation likely to deteriorate further during the winter.

In addition, Councillor Khan also reported on the Government's plan for Adult Social Care reforms and the Fair Cost of Care.

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

- To understand the issues around delayed discharges and ambulances queuing at acute hospitals, the Cabinet Member had met with representatives from the West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust to discuss some of the issues they are facing. WMAS had reported that the new Integrated Care System (ICS) Leadership Team had been very supportive, and the matter is a key priority for the ICS.

- The number of people inappropriately occupying hospital beds is due to range of factors including issues within the hospital itself i.e., being discharged with transport, medication etc. and, in some cases, mental health issues. In terms of care packages, this is generally not an issue in Birmingham. Since the introduction of the Early Intervention Community Team have reduced acute bed days by 120,000 and avoided 20,000+ unnecessary admissions. Both Birmingham and Solihull LAs have taken a report to the Integrated Care Board outlining what will be needed to cope with the winter pressures.
- Regarding the Food Strategy and cost of living, there are barriers to people choosing to eat healthily. For working people, it can be around the time it takes to prepare food. It may also be that some people find it cheaper to eat ready meals rather than home cooked food. Conversations are taking place in the Creating a Healthy Food City Forum looking at affordability of fresh food including working with supermarkets etc.
- Working with the voluntary sector there is an opportunity for the City Council to tackle food poverty and nutrition to raise awareness and, if possible, provide equipment e.g., slow cooker to the most vulnerable and support families in food poverty.
- The rising cost of fuel and the impact on care homes. Conversations are taking place with officers in Adult Social Care to ensure all care providers, whether Council or commissioned providers, are being supported. Existing relationships with care providers will provide an early warning if they are getting into difficulty. The directorate is also working to mitigate the impact of rising fuel costs, but it is a challenging situation.
- Expecting a roll out across the UK of 80,000 more Monkeypox vaccines this month but now, following research in North America, a smaller dose of vaccine is required to be administered. Therefore, the doses will go further and there is confidence that we have enough supply as needed.
- BCC will be hosting a stand at the Birmingham Pride event which will have information and support available regarding Monkeypox.
- Rather than focussing campaign work around the Covid vaccination programme, there is a wider health literacy element. Have commissioned organisations to go into communities and work on health vaccination literacy beyond just Covid. The Covid vaccination take up was not as high as we would have liked and there is continuing work to address that. A national toolkit has been developed to see how we can understand and explore what more can be done, building on lessons from Covid, and working with the NHS to encourage people to take up vaccines.
- All local authorities must submit a cost of care report to the DHSC by 14th October. BCC has been working closely with care provider to determine a 'fair cost of care'. Birmingham has been allocated £3.78m in 2022/23 to support the move towards this reform and expect further funding in 2023/24 and 2024/25. Currently working on an estimate of the actual cost being

£72m. This year the money is to fund the work needed to be developed to establish the cost of care. The Fair cost of care is only one element of an overall package of reforms. There is a concern that there is going to be a significant gap between what the government offers to deliver the reforms and the total cost of them. Currently this is an indicative exercise of the fair cost for care, but it is not a statutory duty to implement the fair cost of care.

- Reference was made to the 2 care provider groups that have been set up to engage with provider representatives, share findings and gain input into the cost of care report.
- Since the work around the recruitment and retention of social workers and staff, there have already been positive outcomes. Over 200 individuals had applied for jobs in Adult Social Care. 100 progressed to the next step of recruitment and over 55 staff have been employed and a further 18 undergoing necessary checks.
- There will be a parliamentary event co-hosted between MPs for Birmingham and Lewisham on 20th October to highlight the BLACHIR (Birmingham and Lewisham African Caribbean Health Inequalities) report and its recommendations.

RESOLVED:

Professor Graeme Betts to provide a copy of the 'Winter Pressures' report that was presented to the ICB.

7. TACKLING PERIOD POVERTY AND RAISING PERIOD AWARENESS TRACKING REPORT

Monika Rozanski (Service Lead – Inequalities, Public Health) was in attendance and Rokneddin Shariat (Policy and Governance Manager, Finance and Governance) joined online for this item to outline progress against the three outstanding inquiry recommendations.

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

- Concern was raised about girls being absent from school during their periods as an issue that needs to be explored further. Furthermore, it was questioned why this issue had not been considered in the initial inquiry.
- There is ongoing work with Education and Public Health to develop a toolkit for school staff to use to hold conversations about menstrual health and to raise awareness in the classroom for both male and female students.
- Public Health had spoken to the Forum of Headteachers and had been told access to period products was not an issue in schools across Birmingham. The issue was absenteeism. An event was held with young women at George Dixon Academy to discuss how to access products and school attendance.
- Regarding 'alleviating period poverty' as a condition of contract, it needs to be relevant to the contract but also within the capability of the contractor to

deliver. If there is a specific contract where this is relevant, then it will be included. Contract Managers and Commissioners can ask specific questions as part of the social value and weight those.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed with the following Cabinet Member Assessments:-

R03 – Cabinet Member Assessment 2 (Achieved Late).

R04 – Cabinet Member Assessment 2 (Achieved Late).

R05 – Cabinet Member Assessment 2 (Achieved Late).

Report and recommendations signed off as completed.

- A meeting is set up between Councillor Brown and the Chair of the Education and Children's Social Care OSC, Councillor Kerry Jenkins, to discuss a joint piece of work to ensure that the tool kit that the public health team is developing is rolled out across schools, including non-local authority schools and faith schools, and that female and male staff in schools are provided with the information and resources.
- Monika Rozanski to provide a breakdown of male and female staff who attended the event at George Dixon Academy.

8. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH INQUIRY – TERMS OF REFERENCE

The committee received a verbal update from the Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager who informed them that this item will be deferred until the 18 October meeting as, during the period of national mourning, the meeting of the Task and Finish Group was cancelled.

9. WORK PROGRAMME – SEPTEMBER 2022

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be noted.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 18 October 2022 at 10.00am.

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

None.

12. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

13. 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 1222 hours.