

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE

1400 hours on 6th October 2020, via Microsoft Teams – Actions

Present:

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

Also Present:

Professor Graeme Betts, Corporate Director – Adult Social Care.

Alex Borg, Director of Mental Health Services, Forward Thinking Birmingham, Birmingham Women’s and Children’s NHS Foundation Trust.

Joanne Carney, Director of Joint Commissioning, Mental Health, Children and Maternity, Birmingham and Solihull CCG.

Anupam Dharma, Consultant Psychiatrist and Medical Director, Forward Thinking Birmingham, Birmingham Women’s and Children’s NHS Foundation Trust.

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

Elaine Kirwan, Deputy Chief Nurse, Mental Health Services, Forward Thinking Birmingham, Birmingham Women’s and Children’s NHS Foundation Trust.

Catherine Parkinson, Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer.

Gail Sadler, Scrutiny Officer.

Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health.

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny 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

None.

4. ACTION NOTES/ISSUES ARISING

The action notes for the meeting held on 1st September 2020 were agreed.

Black Country and West Birmingham CCGs Future Commissioning Intentions

The Chairman informed the committee that a summary of issues raised and points for clarification on the proposal was submitted on 7th September 2020. An informal briefing will be held on 12th November at 2.00pm to inform the committee of the result of the ballot of GPs across West Birmingham and the Black Country on whether to accept the proposal or not.

5. DAY OPPORTUNITIES PROPOSALS CONSULTATION: OUTCOME OF NDTI REPORT INVESTIGATION

Professor Graeme Betts (Corporate Director – Adult Social Care) attended the meeting to outline the findings of an investigation into the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTI) report. He apologised, on behalf of officers in Adult Social Care, for providing inaccurate information to the committee regarding the existence of the NDTI report. He explained that the officers involved had been interviewed and appropriate steps taken regarding their behaviour. Furthermore, he had written to the member of public who had submitted the Freedom of Information (FOI) request to apologise and thank that person for raising the issue.

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

- The officers who reported to the 18th December HOSC meeting were aware of another officer's decision to deny that there was a report but chose not to contradict this.
- Clarity was sought regarding the decision to publish a letter of apology from Professor Graeme Betts to the Chairman and committee members on the public agenda that referred to the NDTI report which had not been published. The Chairman explained that a redacted version of the confidential NDTI report had been circulated to members of the committee in the week prior to the meeting. The item was on the public agenda so an open and transparent discussion could take place.

To facilitate a discussion about the report the committee moved into private session.

RESOLVED:

A letter is written to the Acting City Solicitor and Monitoring Officers highlighting the concerns of the committee that key information had knowingly been withheld from it by officers and seeking assurance that measures had been put in place to prevent this happening again. Further, requesting that a copy of the FOI redacted NDTI investigation report is published in the public domain on the Committee Management Information System as soon as possible.

6. FORWARD THINKING BIRMINGHAM

Joanne Carney (Director of Joint Commissioning Mental Health Children and Maternity, Birmingham and Solihull CCG) presented a short summary of slides which depicted the partnership and collaborative work that had been taking place across Birmingham from the mental health system in response to Covid-19. This was followed by a report from Forward Thinking Birmingham (Elaine Kirwan, Deputy Chief Nurse Mental Health Services; Alex Borg, Director of Mental Health Services and Anupam Dharma, Consultant Psychiatrist and Medical Director) summarising the work that has taken place in response to the challenges that Covid-19 has posed and changes that have been made to ensure the service continued to be delivered throughout the pandemic.

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

- Clarification was sought regarding the pathways of care for people who suffer with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome pre-Covid-19 and those who now have CFS as a result of contracting Covid-19.

RESOLVED:

- Further information regarding the pathways of care for CFS will be provided by FTB.
- If members have any further questions for representatives of FTB they should be sent to the Scrutiny Officers.

7. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

COVID-19 Update

Dr Justin Varney (Director of Public Health) gave an overview of the current position regarding testing, infection rates and further interventions including new testing centres and the drop and collect programme. He also stated that data collected through NHS Test and Trace showed that 85% of people contracting Covid-19 had done so as a result of mixing with other households.

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

- The data is showing a higher rate of testing in the Asian and Afro-Caribbean communities and a lower rate in the white/British community. Also, the largest proportion of positive tests was in the Asian community followed by Black and Afro-Caribbean and the lowest in the white community. Recent data shows a significant increase in the white community testing positive which may reflect the student demographic.
- In terms of the hospital admissions profile, the ethnic community is over-represented in terms of people coming into hospital and people in intensive care. Predominantly, the largest group is the elderly but younger people are also being admitted.

- If a vulnerable person is not able to access a Testing Centre, there are postal kits. Postal kits can be ordered through the website and delivered to the home address.
- The council is taking proactive action to deal with businesses who are not abiding by the rules. There is also a whistleblowing helpline on the city council website where poor practice can be reported anonymously.
- If people are entering a setting where a face mask must be worn, it is important that those settings impose this or refuses entry unless that person has an exemption badge/card. The badge/card can be downloaded for free from the Department of Health website.
- BAME communities may have been disproportionately affected because of occupational exposure. They are more likely to work in a profession where it is more difficult to socially distance e.g. taxi drivers, social care staff. Also, they tend to live in multi-generational households whereas white/British families tend to live in smaller households.
- Statistics on the recovery rate from Covid-19 are not produced.
- In an effort to increase enforcement:-
 - The role of Covid Community Champions has been introduced to engage with people to help them understand the rules around enforcement.
 - Looking to build on good practice used by Sandwell Council i.e. sending a letter to everyone who tests positive to set out what help is available whilst having to self-isolate and emphasising that a breach of the regulation is an offence.
- There is clear evidence in the UK that about a third of people who had Covid-19 in the first wave did not develop antibodies and are unprotected against reinfection.

RESOLVED: -

That a further update report is presented to the next meeting.

8. ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE MONITORING – APRIL-JUNE 2020

Maria Gavin (Assistant Director, Quality and Improvement, Adult Social Care) presented the quarterly update on the performance of adult social care highlighting the 5 key indicators that are reported to HOSC in detail but also including performance monitoring of all key indicators.

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

- There is an intensive action plan to improve 'the number of clients reviewed in the last 12 months' indicator.

- There has been a significant rise in the incidence of domestic abuse during the Covid-19 period. Therefore, there has been a proactive campaign to promote the message that domestic abuse services remain fully operational.
- Information regarding the Shared Lives service has been updated. Furthermore, the move to locality working will improve the links between social workers and shared lives providers.
- Concern was expressed that the data reported for the 2 measures relating to Social Contract for Service Users and Carers was down (red) and this was for the period 2018/19 i.e. pre-Covid. Members were assured that during Covid the department had been proactive in their outreach work to support and engage with service users/carers. The data for these measures is taken from the carers survey which is collated locally and the service user survey which is a national survey. Have recently been informed that there will be no service user survey this year due to Covid.
- Clarity was sought around the timeliness of the report i.e. performance data for the period April – June 2020 and whether future reports could be presented sooner.

RESOLVED: -

- Maria Gavin to provide information regarding the process and timeline for receiving feedback from the carers and service user surveys and how this will be measured this year as the national service user survey has been suspended.
- A cross-party informal meeting is arranged to discuss the current status of performance indicators and reporting timelines.

9. WORK PROGRAMME – SEPTEMBER 2020

- Councillor Debbie Clancy replaces Councillor Peter Fowler as the Conservative representative on the Birmingham/Sandwell JHOSC. The committee had not met so far this municipal year but an informal Chairs meeting had been scheduled to discuss proposed agenda items for a forthcoming meeting.
- The dates for evidence gathering for the Infant Mortality review will now take place at the 8th December 2020 and 26th January 2021 committee meetings.
- The following topic was suggested for inclusion on the work programme:-
 - The disproportionate impact on health of people living in exempt accommodation, houses of multiple occupation (HMOs) and homelessness.

The Chairman was aware that the Coordinating O&S Committee was about to engage in a cross-cutting review on all issues associated with exempt accommodation and these topics may form part of that work.

- A briefing to be arranged to discuss the Adult Social Care Vision and Strategy and how that links with day opportunities.

- The work programme was agreed.

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 meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 1615 hours.