

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

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

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**Tuesday 29 March 2022. Council House Extension, Margaret Street**

**Action Notes**

**Present:**

Councillor Mick Brown (Chair)

Councillors: Debbie Clancy, Peter Fowler, Rob Pocock and Paul Tilsley

**Also Present:**

Maria Gavin, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care

Councillor Paulette Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Kalvinder Kohli, Programme Director Prevention and Early Intervention

Suman McCartney, Cabinet Support Officer

Emil Prysak, Commissioning Manager Prevention and Communities

Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health

Benita Wishart, Support and Development Manager, BVSC

Sarah Fradgley, Scrutiny Officer

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**1. NOTICE OF RECORDING**

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](http://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. APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Idrees and Islam submitted apologies.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

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

(See document No.1)

Further to Actions 4.2 February 2022 and 6.2 December 2021, it was noted that information requested on the geographical alignment between Primary Care Networks, clusters of GPs and localities was outstanding. The O&S Group Manager undertook to chase and circulate to Members.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the action notes for the meeting held on 15 February 2022 be agreed.

#### **5. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

(See document No.2)

Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health and Councillor Paulette Hamilton, Cabinet Member, attended the meeting for this item. Dr Varney presented the regular update report on significant pieces of work by the public health division. The Panel was also asked to consider 3 key reports:

- The Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy – Creating a Bolder Healthier City 2022-2030
- Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020-21
- Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review

#### **Covid Update**

- Case rates continued to rise across the City. For the unvaccinated Covid remained a very serious illness.
- The Council continued to support the NHS vaccination programme. Community engagement and awareness raising continued with focus on wards with the lowest vaccine uptake. Currently, between 30 - 180 first doses were dispensed a day in Birmingham.
- The NHS had launched a fourth vaccination dose for the elderly and those in clinically extremely vulnerable groups.
- Testing rates remained at a stable level. However, national guidance was awaited on who would be eligible for free tests when free testing ended on 1 April 2022.
- Members expressed concern at the local rising case rates, the impact of national changes to testing eligibility.
- Responding to concerns about the impact of recent outbreaks in China and Hong Kong, Dr Varney advised that vaccination take-up in China and Hong Kong was poor (below 60% full coverage in the elderly population), compared to Birmingham where over 83% of over 85s were fully vaccinated. However, there was risk of new variants developing when large outbreaks in poorly unvaccinated populations.

- Dr Varney assured the meeting that the council's public health approach and resources had been profiled up to September 2022 so the city could rapidly step up a full response to covid should it be required.

#### The Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy – Creating a Bolder Healthier City 2022-2030

- The Strategy set out the Health and Wellbeing Board's ambitions for the next eight years. The Strategy was a live document and would form a framework for the next Cabinet Member to build on.
- A range of consultation methods had been used to extend engagement with citizens and partner organisations to inform the strategy.
- Reflecting on the Health Impact Assessment comment that the Strategy aims were unachievable, and its criticism of the use of jargon in the document, it was explained that the ambitions reflected the wide-ranging feedback during the consultation. Delivery frameworks sat below the overarching strategy. In addition, the language in the document had been amended to produce an accessible document.

#### Public Consultations

- The Cabinet Member asked the Committee to support and promote the Joint *Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy* consultation (launched 28th March 2022, closing 26th April 2022), and the *Creating a Healthier Food City Strategy* consultation (to be launched 11th April 2022, closing 19th August 2022).
- Public health had focused on strengthening community organisations in contact with communities they struggled to engage with and overcome public mistrust. The success in rebalancing relationships with faith leaders during the Covid pandemic was noted and Dr Varney undertook to provide the Committee with the recently published Faith Setting Toolkits.
- Suggestions from Members to expand engagement were welcomed and the Public Health Team was keen to restart ward forum presentations.
- Public health was working in partnership with NHS and the Police to identify engagement gaps and work smarter and collaboratively in this field.

#### Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review

- The Cabinet Member spoke of the ground-breaking work of the review, highlighting the 39 solution-focused recommendations developed with citizens and academics.
- The Committee was urged to keep challenging the Executive on the implementation of the recommendations and use the document to hold public health and the wider health system to account.

#### Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Noting this was her last meeting, the Cabinet Member thanked the Committee for its support and challenge during her term of office. She further thanked Dr Varney for the achievements of the service.

Committee Members also recorded their gratitude to the Cabinet Member and Director of Public Health for the political and professional leadership through the Covid pandemic, and the Chair thanked them both for their valuable contributions to health scrutiny.

**RESOLVED:**

- Progress with the Covid response be noted;
- The Creating a Healthier Food City Strategy and Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy consultations be noted;
- The recommendations of the Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review be noted, and further consideration be given to how the committee holds the Executive and wider health services to account on implementation;
- The Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy – Creating a Bolder Healthier City 2022-2030 be noted;
- The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2020/21 be received and noted; and
- Dr Varney be requested to forward copies of the Public Health Faith Setting Toolkits to the Committee.

**6. NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK SCHEMES**

Kalvinder Kohli (Programme Director Prevention and Early Intervention), Emil Prysak, (Commissioning Manager Prevention and Communities), and Benita Wishart, (Support and Development Manager, BVSC) attended for this item and responded to question from Committee members. The main points of the discussion included:

- The Birmingham Neighbourhood Network Scheme (NNS) sought to build resilient and connected communities through the development of prevention-focused public services. The Birmingham NNS was a shortlisted finalist for a 2022 LGC Award.
- Ten NNS operated on a constituency basis managed by BCC and other third sector organisations. Each had a steering group comprising of community social workers, other professionals, and active citizens to identify and develop community assets, activities, and support for citizens based on the needs, interests, and aspirations of citizens.
- The '10 building blocks of the NNS model' were outlined. These included mapping community assets, partnering with local social workers, arranging networking events, providing capacity building training for assets, and managing a grant fund to offer grants and micro grants.
- The NNS funding history was explained, and it was noted that NNS would receive £3.57m per annum between 2022 – 2027. NNS had to date commissioned 460 grants worth £2.8m.

- BVSC was commissioned to provide a coordination role across the 10 NNS to share information, learning and to identify common patterns or trends which require a coordinated response.
- It was noted that the NNS infrastructure had enabled the mobilization of the local response to the Covid pandemic within 48 hours. NNS continued to fund community assets to support citizens during lockdown, with grants totalling £1.7m awarded between 2020-2021.
- NNS current focus was over 50s. However, NNS were to expand to younger adults 18-49 with learning disabilities, autism, mental health, physical disabilities and sensory impairment or loss. Future plans also included developing a Citywide NNS connected communities project to support communities thinly spread across the city, Digital NSS to facilitate online assets and Compassionate Communities programme.
- The meeting heard several cases studies of activities to illustrate their positive impact, ranging from tackling isolation, building self-confidence, improving physical health and wellbeing, addressing unemployment and financial advice, and developing digital skills.
- Positive feedback received from social workers highlighted that partnership with NNS Teams enhanced delivery of their role. Feedback from assets noted that they found the application process straightforward and NNS staff supportive.
- A copy of the NNS video presentation that could not be played due to technical issues would be circulated to committee members.

**RESOLVED:**

- That the information presented on the Birmingham Neighbourhood Network Scheme be noted; and
- The Overview and Scrutiny Manager forward a copy of the NNS video presentation to Committee members.
- That a briefing note on the Community Network Support Officers (CNSO) service and what it does is supplied to Members.

## **7. Q4 ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Maria Gavin (Assistant Director, Adult Social Care) attended for this item to report on the red rated performance indicators; the 5 performance indicators chosen by this committee for more in-depth examination and the complete set of Adult Social Care performance indicators.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

## **8. WORK PROGRAMME**

Members suggested the following potential agenda items for an informal meeting on 19 April 2022:

- Update on the University Hospital Birmingham capital investment programme.
- Examining whether constitutional changes relating to scrutiny, including the early day questions facility at city council meetings, were working, with the view to referring the issue to Co-ordinating O&S Committee.

Members also discussed work programme priorities for the next Municipal Year and referred to the list of items on the work programme report. It was noted that the new committee would have the opportunity to set its priorities.

Ockendon report into Maternity Services at Telford and Shrewsbury

Weight Management

Access to Primary Care

Day care opportunities

Feedback from care homes

Health inequalities in Birmingham

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

None.

#### **10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

#### **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.

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The meeting ended at 1213 hours.