

PEOPLE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2022

Present: Cllrs Gill Taylor (Chairman), Molly Rennie (Vice-Chairman), Robin Cook, Nick Ireland, Jon Orrell, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe and Belinda Ridout

Apologies: Cllr Louie O'Leary

Also present: Cllr Jane Somper

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Vivienne Broadhurst (Executive Director - People Adults), Jonathan Price (Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning), Claire Shiels (Corporate Director - Commissioning, Quality & Partnerships), David Bonner (Service Manager for Business Intelligence and Performance), Marc Eyre (Service Manager for Assurance), Sam Poole (Improvement Lead and Change Manager), David Trotter (Risk and Resilience Officer), Samantha Brand (Service Manager for Housing Advice and Homelessness), Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

24. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Cllr O'Leary.

25. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ireland declared that he was a governor at Dorset HealthCare and his wife worked at Yeovil hospital.

26. Minutes

A member raised a grammatical error under the apologies.

Proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Ridout.

Decision: That the minutes of the meeting on 19 July 2022 be confirmed and signed.

27. Chairman's Updates

The Chairman provided an update on the Dorset Centre of Excellence. The full update is attached to these minutes.

28. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

29. **Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

30. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

31. **Dental Access for Adults and Children in Dorset**

The Chairman introduced the item and welcomed the representatives from NHS England, South-West.

The Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Programme Manager – Dental Services from Direct Commissioning, NHS England, South-West answered questions asked at the previous meeting following technical issues. The responses to the questions raised the following points:

- All qualified dental care professionals have to be registered with the general dental council. They were bound by a code of practice.
- Since July 2022 dental services have been a 100% capacity following the Covid pandemic.
- There is no physical waiting list for dentists in Dorset. There was a need to check dentist's websites to check if they were accepting places.
- Patients do not register with dentists like they would with a GP.
- There was clinical evidence that showed you did not need to have a check-up every 6 months. It was safe to have one every 24 months.
- There would be communications to address misconceptions and anxiety about dental appointments.
- Dentistry is only funded for 50% of the population. If there was 100% funding, then there wouldn't be enough appointments available because of the number of dentists.
- When an upcoming communication plan has been approved, a pack of information will be given to all places where people could ask about teeth, such as pharmacies, GP's, hospitals, and the local authority.
- There were contractual targets for units of dental activity.
- There was a patient charter which showed common myths and what you can expect of dentists.
- NHS England has responsibility for dental commissioning, but this will move to Dorset's Integrated Care Board in March 2023.
- The 111 service has a good dental helpline.
- Mixed contracts and mobile dentists could help vulnerable people and people in deprived areas access dental care.

During the discussion, the following points were raised by members of the committee:

- Communication with the public was key.
- There was a lack of information around dentistry.
- It was likely that there were people using NHS dental services who could afford private dental care.
- Dentistry was an example of a service that has been failing for 20 years.
- Some people were unable to travel to dental practices that they did not normally go to.
- A member was disappointed that there were not more gateways like the Purbeck or Bridport Gateway.
- Dentistry had some similar issues to other services in the NHS.

The committee would be invited to a webinar on dentistry, which would be open for all councillors across the South-West.

32. **Risk Management Update Report**

The Service Manager for Assurance introduced the risk register. Services reflected in the report regularly updated their risks, which could be viewed on a new dashboard with live information.

The committee asked questions and made comments related to:

- Apprenticeships in the care industry
- Short and long-term sickness
- Team building and improving wellbeing through meeting people
- Internal recruitment from within the same department
- How CareDorset would benefit Dorset
- Homelessness and working with neighbouring authorities

Officers responded to the committee's questions and comments. The following comments were made:

- There was a rise in the number of people coming into hospital as well as a rise in covid for staff.
- Working with the Integrated Care System to ensure that people are paid for the job they do, have an opportunity to develop a career, and allowing people to move between the health and care sectors.
- Exit interviews are done to see why people leave the council, but HR have also started interviews to see why people stay.
- The council has a good offer around mental health and wellbeing.
- The transition between Tricuro and CareDorset went very well. There has been additional recruitment. Over a longer term, there could be more services under the CareDorset umbrella.
- CareDorset would be managed in a different way to Tricuro and there would be different conditions.
- The council works with BCP council around homelessness.
- It was a significant challenge to keep young people out of custody.
- Toolkits are being developed around domestic abuse and harm.

The committee would receive written feedback, from the Executive Director of People – Adults, on homelessness and rough sleeping, then have an informal session to discuss the feedback.

Cllr Ireland left the meeting at 12.30pm.

33. Performance Scrutiny

The Service Manager for Business Intelligence and Performance raised several topics which were identified by the committee while reviewing the performance dashboards. The topics were:

- The percentage of children who have a child protection plan.
- The number of active foster carers.
- The percentage of looked after children placed outside the council area.
- The percentage of adults with a learning disability in paid employment.

In response to children being placed out of the council area, the Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships said that a new children's home was being opened and unaccompanied asylum seeker children are more likely to be placed out of county because spaces were not available.

34. Forward Plans

The committee's and Cabinet's forward plans were noted.

35. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 12.55 pm

Chairman

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