

PEOPLE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023

Present: Cllrs Gill Taylor (Chairman), Piers Brown, Nick Ireland, Paul Kimber, Louie O'Leary, Jon Orrell and Belinda Ridout

Apologies: Cllrs Molly Rennie, Robin Cook and Bill Pipe

Also present: Cllr Byron Quayle

Also present remotely: Cllr Cherry Brooks and Cllr Jane Somper

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

Andrew Billany (Corporate Director for Housing), Vivienne Broadhurst (Executive Director - People Adults), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Paul Dempsey (Corporate Director - Care & Protection), Sara Bonfanti (Head of Communications & Engagement), Tony Bygrave (Senior Assurance Officer - Complaints), Andy Frost (Service Manager for Community Safety), Ian Grant (Programme Coordinator), Elizabeth Saunders (Interim Corporate Director of Commissioning), Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Elaine Hurl (Head of Children, Young People, LD & Autism, and Mental Health)

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

Julia Ingram (Corporate Director for Adult Social Care Operations), Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children) and Julie Jones (Programme Manager, Stroke, Neurorehabilitation & Community Hospitals), Wendy Longley (Consultant Nurse, Stroke Unit, Dorset County Hospital), and Andrew Miller (Divisional Director of Operations for Urgent Care, Dorset County Hospital)

34. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Molly Rennie, Bill Pipe, and Robin Cook.

In the absence of the Vice-Chairman it was proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Kimber that Cllr Ireland be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

35. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ireland declared that he was a governor of Dorset HealthCare and that his wife worked for Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, however she would not be affected by the reconfiguration of hyper acute stroke care.

36. **Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Ridout.

Decision

That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2023 be confirmed and signed.

37. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

38. **Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

39. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

40. **Committee's Work Programme and Executive Forward Plans**

The Chairman outlined the committee's work programme for the remainder of the council term. Items included scrutiny of the council's budget and medium-term financial plan, and scrutiny of the SEND Delivery Strategy. There was also a planned informal meeting of sufficiency within the adult social care workforce.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health, and Housing informed members that there would be an all-member webinar on Care Dorset.

41. **Update on Somerset Hyper Acute Stroke Care**

Members received an update on hyper acute stroke care in Somerset, following a public consultation. The Programme Manager for Stroke, Neurohab, and Community Hospitals and the Head of Communications and Engagement, NHS Somerset, outlined the outcomes of the public consultation and the key themes that emerged from it; these were travel times for staff and patients, and options for recruitment. Financial considerations and the final decision of the reconfiguration of stroke services would be made by the NHS Somerset Board in January. The process to select the options in the consultation was highlighted.

Members asked questions and considered the following points:

- There was an existing stroke unit at Dorset County Hospital and a hyperacute unit was planned for quarter 1 of 2024/25.

- There were some arrangements in place for transport, travelling and access to the hyper acute stroke unit in option A. It would be useful to link with the transport team at Dorset Council.
- There was a need to consider how to attract therapists to work in the area.
- Apprenticeships were being used to fill posts, but it took time to train apprentices.
- A specialist grade doctor had recently been recruited.

The Committee was content with the work completed and thought the consultation was robust.

Members requested a written update following a decision being made by Somerset ICB.

42. **Young People's Mental Health Services - Your Mind, Your Say**

The Head of Children, Young People, Learning Disabilities & Autism, and Mental Health introduced the item and gave some background information to children's mental health services in Dorset.

The Manager of Healthwatch Dorset explained a report that the organisation had produced on young people's views of mental health services. The report highlighted that young people wanted better continuity of care, follow-up support after treatment, and activities during face-to-face therapy. There were some voluntary sector organisations that have helped young people with mental health services.

The Head of Children, Young People, Learning Disabilities & Autism, and Mental Health gave a detailed presentation to the committee, which is attached to these minutes. The presentation covered the following areas: the services that would be part of the transformation; partner organisations and the project governance structure; the assumptions and boundaries used for the project; the funding available for young people's mental health; the project non-negotiables; and how services could work together following transformation.

Members asked questions and considered the following points:

- The metrics for children's mental health were concerning so it was good to see the transformation plans.
- An all-age neuro diversity review would help address some of the challenges.
- There needed to be investment across the system for the project to work effectively.
- There were people who did not want to access or engage with services.
- It was important that children's mental health services were based in places where children were, such as schools, localities, and family hubs.
- There was a tight timescale to keep the pace on the project.
- March 2024 was the deadline for the business case, but it was realistic that the deadline would not be met on time.

Members suggested that, due to the timescale of the project, the committee should receive a further report on the project following the Dorset Council elections in May 2024.

43. Corporate Complaints Team Annual Report 2022-23

The Senior Assurance Officer Complaints introduced the report and outlined the role of the complaints team. The key areas of the annual report were highlighted, which included that: the number of complaints has risen; timescales for responding to complaints have improved but need to be improved further; there was a low number of complaints that reached the Ombudsman, investigated, and upheld; and there was an open culture of learning and transparency for complaints.

In response to questions from members, the Senior Assurance Officer Complaints advised that he was confident changes made from lessons learned were sticking, and that there was a 166% increase in complaints since the council was formed.

The Committee noted the report.

44. Prevent and Channel

The Service Manager for Community Safety introduced the report and explained the statutory duties of local authorities in relation to Prevent and Channel. The Programme Coordinator outlined parts of the report, including how recommendations to the Home Office to a national review could affect Local Authorities; updated guidance on Prevent and Channel; compliance and exceeding compliance of statutory duties; and how the Channel panel has developed in their role of supporting people at risk of radicalisation.

A member stated that the low number of referrals demonstrates how safe Dorset is.

In response to questions from members, the officers confirmed that the three recommendations from the Home Office would be implemented, and they would aim to complete that within the next 2 months.

The Committee noted the report.

45. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.52 am

Chairman

.....