

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2018

**10.00 - 11.00 am in the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire, SY2 6ND**

Responsible Officer: Amanda Holyoak

Email: amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257714

Present

Councillors Karen Calder, Madge Shineton, Roy Aldcroft, Simon Harris, Heather Kidd, Paul Milner and Pamela Moseley

35 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Gerald Dakin and Tracey Huffer. Councillor Roger Evans substituted for Councillor Huffer.

36 Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

37 Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 March 2018

The Committee Officer reported that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2018 would be presented at the next meeting of the Committee.

38 Public Question Time

Mr Bickerton said that he had not yet received a response to questions he had raised at a previous meeting. It was agreed to look into this outside of the meeting.

39 Member Question Time

Councillor Pam Moseley asked a question about advice, information, services and equipment available to people suffering from sight loss and the length of the waiting time to receive the services of a rehabilitation officer.

The Director of Adult Services explained the pathways for referral and that waiting times for priority cases should be 1 week, and non-priority 4 cases weeks. Once priority cases were addressed, cases were dealt with chronologically. Unfortunately, due to sickness in the team, the four week target was not being met and had been as long as 4 – 6 months. The team was now back to full strength and performance would improve.

Councillor Moseley referred to a specific case involving a very long wait and the Director of Adult Services requested the information about this case.

Members asked how the back log would be addressed and about contingency plans for future sickness in the service. The Director explained that reductions in funding meant the service was operating with the minimum level of staff and it was an area in which agency staff were difficult to recruit. In catching up, priority cases would be addressed first.

Members suggested that appointment of non-specialists, eg administrators might help catch up with a backlog but heard that this would not provide a solution which was purely related to the availability of those able to provide a specialist role.

40 Pharmacy Update

Emma Sandbach, Public Health Specialist, reported that the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment had now been published and she outlined some of the findings from the consultation as set out in the report (attached to signed minutes). Responses had drawn attention to access to services and under provision out of hours, particularly in the south of the county.

During discussion, Members raised a number of points and questions

- It was not only out of hours access that was poor, but there were access issues getting to a pharmacy, particularly in the south of the county, where there was just one pharmacy within 200 square miles.
- Dispensing GP practices were only open when the surgery was open and full pharmacy services were not available from them.
- Restricted access to pharmacy services would not contribute to the ambition of care closer to home and reducing demand on GP and hospital services
- How did NHSE raise awareness / communicate with the public about which pharmacies provided locally commissioned services, for example the UTI/Impetigo service.

It was agreed that Councillors Calder, Kidd and Shineton meet the Public Health Specialist outside of the meeting regarding the issues raised and whether or not to recommend the Committee should add pharmacy issues to its work programme. It was suggested that the Vice-Chair of Healthwatch be involved in these discussions.

The Committee thanked the Public Health Specialist for the report.

41 Future Fit Update

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer encouraged members to attend the Future Fit briefing planned for after the Council meeting on the 17 May and also to attend and then feed back on any of the consultation events which would be running across Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin during the consultation period.

He clarified that it was not intended that the Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee would duplicate the work of the consultation but that it would focus on looking at the effectiveness of the consultation to assess if it was delivering what it set out to achieve.

The Joint HOSC would meet and provide its views on the consultation at the mid point and raise any concerns or issues. It would particularly want to know if people who were less likely to participate were being reached.

Members heard that some LJC's were arranging Future Fit agenda items during the consultation period and it was agreed that it would be important to keep abreast of the most up to date list of events (available from (<https://nhsfuturefit.org/get-involved#public-events>)

Members went on to make the following comments and points:

- It would be important that the easy to read version of the consultation documents were accessible
- It was concerning that consultation was taking place when funding was not clear
- It was hard to respond to the consultation if the extent of community and local services was unknown.
- GPs would be key to the future and it was essential they were on board.
- Future Fit had been going on for so long it had lost credibility with the public.

The Chair urged members to attend also raise these issues at any consultation events they attended.

42 Mental Health Needs Assessment

Members felt that they needed sight of the full Mental Health Needs Assessment to inform any discussion and it was agreed to return to this item as soon as possible at a future meeting.

43 Work Programme

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer reported on a recent Scrutiny Planning Session which had involved discussion of the draft Corporate Plan and consideration of key work areas in Strategic Action Plans across the whole Council.

Following the session a Scrutiny Work Programme was being drawn up for each Committee and proposals would be presented at the next meeting. Members suggested for consideration for the Committee's work programme, or for the Joint HOSC:

0 – 25 Mental health

Ambulance performance and waiting times at SATH
Public Health Grant cut

Signed (Chairman)

Date: