



Committee and Date

Council
28 February 2019
10.30am

Annual Report 2018 Health And Social Care Scrutiny Committee

1.0 Summary

1.1 The annual statement of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee provides a brief review of the committee's work during the previous year, as well as an overview of its work for the year ahead.

2.0 Communities Overview Committee

2.1 During 2018, the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee has looked at topics from across its remit. The following have been the main areas of focus:

- **Midwife-led units**

Across several meetings, the committee looked at the proposals for reconfiguring midwife-led units. The committee questioned the need for structured periods of closure and whether the consultant-led service could cope with the influx of additional births. Members heard from the service that the midwife-led units supported few births, and unstructured closures were an unacceptable risk to expectant mothers.

- **Community pharmacy**

Members considered a consultation on local need for pharmaceutical services. Over two meetings, the committee raised concerns around accessibility in rural locations, and variability of electronic prescription services. It noted that limited access to pharmacy services could undermine the ambition of care closer to home.

- **Improved Better Care Fund**

The committee scrutinised projects undertaken as part of the Improved Better Care Fund. Members felt that the fund had generated innovative and cost effective schemes that could support people to live independently for longer, but raised concerns that the time-limited nature of funding could jeopardise successful ways of working. Officers assured members that new ways of working that proved effective would be built into future budgets.

- **Delayed transfers of care**

The committee twice received assurance that the Shropshire Council had been effective in reducing delays in transferring people from hospital care,

with the local authority's performance in the top quartile nationally. Members suggested that the council could work more closely with housing associations to prepare for a tenant's discharge.

- **Mental Health Needs Assessment**

Members received the findings of the Mental Health Needs Assessment and discussed how these could be progressed in the design and commissioning of services.

- **Phlebotomy services**

Members raised concern at the closure of phlebotomy services in Shrewsbury town centre. The committee heard that alternative premises for the service, provided by the council, proved to be unsuitable. It received reassurance that the service continued to seek an alternative town centre site.

- **Winter pressures**

The committee received a presentation on planning for winter pressures. It sought reassurance that any impact of overnight closures of emergency services in Telford would be factored into plans. It also scrutinised how longer-term work around transfers of care and community-based services could reduce the demand on hospital-based services.

- **111 service commissioning**

Telford and Wrekin CCG explained to the group the changes in commissioning arrangements for 111 services, moving from a Shropshire-based service to a nationally standardised service, commissioned locally. Members raised concerns about how service quality was monitored, and requested that future performance analysis be presented to the committee.

3.0 2018-2019 planned work

3.1

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
None
Human Rights Act Appraisal
The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998
Environmental Appraisal

There are no environmental issues relating to this report.

Risk Management Appraisal

There are no risks associated with this report.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

Consultation is a component of scrutiny work to collect information to support the development of conclusions and recommendations.

Cabinet Members

Cllr Lee Chapman, Adult Services, Health, Social Housing

Local Member/s

All

Appendices

None