

SHOPSHIRE COUNCIL

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2019
10.00 am - 12.28 pm in the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Responsible Officer: Amanda Holyoak
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Present

Councillors Karen Calder (Chair), Madge Shingleton (Vice-Chair), Gerald Dakin, Simon Harris, Tracey Huffer, Simon Jones, Heather Kidd, Paul Milner and Pamela Moseley

36 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Roy Aldcroft.

37 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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.

38 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2018 were confirmed as a correct record.

39 Public Question Time

J Garner had submitted a number of questions in relation to a complaint made against the Council, the process and procedures in place to safeguard vulnerable older people, timescales for assessments and quality assurance. A full copy of the questions and responses made to them are attached to the signed minutes.

Ms Garner was thanked for submitting the questions. The Chair explained that although individual case histories were not considered by Scrutiny Committees, the questions raised a number of issues that the Committee would like to receive assurance on with regard to process and procedures and learning from complaints. It was intended that an agenda item on the Quality Assurance Framework be considered at the Committee's meeting scheduled for 25 March 2019.

Members of the Committee suggested that Ms Garner might participate in the preparation for this item if she was willing to, and felt that anonymised case studies and evidence would help the Committee understand whether the Council was able to learn from mistakes and complaints.

The Director of Adult Services agreed that it was essential to maximise the learning from the situation referred to in Ms Garner's questions, but also cautioned that it was important not to step outside of the Council's complaints procedure. He agreed to seek advice on this outside of the meeting. In the meantime Ms Garner confirmed that she would be happy to meet with him between now and the Committee's next meeting

40 Stop Smoking Services

The Committee had requested a report on smoking cessation services (copy attached to signed minutes) as it wished to explore their effectiveness as it was aware that the rate of smoking in pregnancy in Shropshire and did not compare favourably with other areas of the country and was worse than the England average.

Members were informed that smoking in pregnancy was the largest risk factor for poor birth outcomes, including stillbirth and learning difficulties. If the smoking cessation services stopped, there would be an increased risk of poor birth outcomes with lifelong impacts on health. Members were referred to a presentation given to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee by Mr Adam Gornall, which included a graph showing Shropshire being the fifth worst in the West Midlands with 16% of Women smoking at time of delivery compared to the national average of 12%. Smoking at time of delivery resulted in small babies and small babies were more likely to be born stillborn and having other complications. [The presentation is available to view by using the following link: <https://www.sath.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Maternity-Learning-Presentation-AG.pdf>]

Dr Kevin Lewis, Director of Help2Change, referred to the Rapid Health Impact Assessment attached to the report. Members noted that chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) was the leading cause of hospital admission in Shropshire and this was something that was almost completely preventable if smoking was stopped. Members also noted that the smoking cessation service provided opportunity to make connections in other areas and provide signposting, for example, around obesity and weight management and mental health.

The Committee was very concerned that the reduction in funding from Government and the inequity in the level of Public Health Grant Shropshire received had placed the Council in the position where it was having to consider reducing funding for services aimed at preventing ill health and disability. They asked what alternative ways of delivering income generation had been explored to date, for example, a Community Interest Company, and what more it was thought could be done.

The loss of the smoking cessation service would have a significant adverse impact on population health, with the risk that it could increase the number of people living with disabling illness and adding to health and social care costs, for providing care to people with a disabling illness. It would also increase the risk of harm to babies born to mothers who smoke. The Committee were keen that funding should be sought from other commissioning organisations who are using Public Health services, but to date have not been contributing to the costs.

Members also felt it may be useful to understand the part that Trading Standards played in ensuing that cigarettes were not sold to underage children.

It was **RESOLVED** that a report be made to Cabinet asking it to consider and ensure that all alternative means of delivering smoking cessation services are explored.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, Health and Social Housing, assured members that he had listened to the Committee's discussions and said that every option would be explored carefully by Cabinet.

41 **Future Fit**

The Committee received a copy of the letter send to Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin CCGs from the Chairs of the Joint HOSC with regard to the Future Fit consultation.

The Joint Committee of both CCGs was due to meet on 29 January 2019 to make a decision. The Chair explained that both local authorities had retained the right to make any referral to the Secretary of State and that there had been some differences of opinion between the Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire membership of the Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee.

The Deputy Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways made reference to Future Fit and transport issues and was concerned about funding for passenger transport. The Director of Public Health said he was not aware of any issues but agreed to look into this with the CCG. A Member drew attention to the problems being experienced by volunteer driver schemes.

42 **Work Programme**

The Committee considered proposals for the Work Programme. It was agreed that Quality Assurance Framework be considered at the March meeting. It was noted that Care Closer to Home would also be considered at the March meeting. The Improved Better Care Fund, 111 contract and Ambulance Service were also items identified for inclusion, including its role in maintaining defibrillators. Members also felt it would be useful to understand how regulatory services contributed to the health and well being of Shropshire, eg.in relation to pollution control, licensing and tobacco control.

The Chair reported that the Joint HOSC's work programme included the STP, Primary Care Strategy, Mental Health, and End of Life Strategy.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: