

Annual Report 2019-20

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1.0 Summary

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

2.0 Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 2.1 During 2019 and 2020, the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee has looked at topics from across its remit. The following have been the main areas of focus:

- **Care closer to home**

Members scrutinised plans for a community model of care, including plans for its implementation. In particular committee sought assurance that community models of care were appropriate for a rural setting, and any plans were created in co-ordination with health partners in Powys. It also wished to ensure that rapid-response teams were available at all hours and not just service core hours.

- **Adult Social Care Quality Assurance Framework**

The committee wished to understand how Adult Social Care used a range of opportunities to continually review its service delivery, its standard of training and support for practitioners, communication within the whole system and learning from users of the service. Members asked officers to ensure that signposting to services for carers was clearer, and that information for patients and carers was clearer – in particular those waiting for long periods for an home visit.

- **West Midlands Ambulance Service**

The service provided details on the Trust, the key messages from its operating plan and details of activity, demand and performance. Members sought reasons for delays in ambulances responding to emergencies, and asked about the installation of defibrillators in community settings. The committee also greater integration of records between GP surgeries and hospitals.

- **The Contribution of Regulatory Services to Health and Wellbeing**

The committee considered the contribution of regulatory services to public health and wellbeing, in particular its contribution to the council's public health outcomes. Members were keen understand the council's role in services that could indirectly affect health, such as affordable warmth in homes and air quality in built up areas

- **Review of 111 services**

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 on a regular basis to the committee. They also sought assurance that cross-border arrangements were working well, particularly in light of differing funding arrangements in England and Wales.

- **Whitehall Medical Practice**

The committee scrutinised proposals to close Whitehall Medical Practice in Shrewsbury. It heard how the existing contractor was closing his practice, and that the CCG had been unable to find a new contractor to take on the practice.

- **Better Care and Improved Better Health Care Funds**

The committee received an update on proposals for the Better Care Fund for 2019-2020. Members were particularly concerned that funding might discontinue, and sought assurance that any cessation of the fund might impact measures to reduce admissions and improve transfers of care.

- **Future of primary care provision and an update on primary care networks**

Members received a report on the eight key areas of delivery of the Primary Care Strategy. Members scrutinised the challenges to deliver more care remotely, including telecare and online consultations. Members expressed concern that greater reliance on online consultations could lead to a consolidation of GP practices throughout Shropshire. Officers assured members that increased recruitment of GPs would strengthen the network of existing practices.

- **Public health outcomes**

Members received an update on proposals to measure funding for public health initiatives that sit outside the council's public health function. Members sought assurance that funding for such schemes was linked to tangible

outcomes, and were measured and considered appropriately.

3.0 2020-2021 planned work

3.1 Significant topics emerging for the coming year include:

- Covid-19 outbreak plan
- Care home support plan
- Better Care and Improved Better Care funds
- 111 commissioning
- Commissioning arrangements in Shropshire
- Public health outcomes update

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