



Committee and Date

Health Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

25 November 2024

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2024

In the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

10.00 am

Responsible Officer: Ashley Kendrick Democratic Services Officer

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Present

Councillor Geoff Elner

Councillors Nicholas Bardsley, Bernie Bentick, Tracey Huffer, Heather Kidd (Vice-Chair),
Ed Potter and Edward Towers

14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Jeff Anderson, Peggy Mullock (who attended remotely) and Gerald Dakin (who attended remotely).

15 Disclosable Interests

There were no disclosable interests.

16 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

17 Public Question Time

There were no public questions received.

18 Members Question Time

There were no members' questions received.

19 Adult Mental Health Services

Members of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee were invited to join the discussion for this item.

Following the presentation slides which had been circulated with the agenda, Cathy Riley, Managing Director (Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Care Group MPFT), Paul Bowers, Head of Operations (Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Care Group), and Jackie Robinson, Senior Integrated Commissioning Lead, discussed the current and future needs for adult mental health services.

Members emphasized the significance of community services in preventing hospital admissions, particularly for older adults, and the need for improved community support for functional mental health.

Challenges in funding for dementia services were addressed, noting the limitations of using mental health investment standards money and the need for prioritization within available resources.

Members discussed the necessity for early diagnosis pathways for dementia, with a focus on preparing for new dementia-modifying therapies and the associated need for mild cognitive impairment pathways.

The Executive Director for Health elaborated on the suicide prevention strategy, highlighting the need for targeted action to support vulnerable groups and the importance of communication in reducing the stigma around suicide. Members raised concerns about the standardised mortality rate for suicide in Shropshire, comparing it to the national average and discussing the implications of the audit on improvement strategies. A case study was presented to illustrate the impact of person-centred approaches in suicide prevention, demonstrating the benefits of small investments in community support services.

Questions were raised about suicide prevention strategies, the resources allocated to it, and how voluntary sector organisations are integrated into the service. The Executive Director of Health reassured members that this topic had not been neglected and was being considered separately, as a report was in the process of being finalised which would be shared with the committee once completed. This work had led to the identification of groups that we can work with to improve the service.

A query was raised regarding mental health ambulances and whether they were solely for mental health. Concern was expressed that the ambulance service was under extreme pressure and that they would be used for other health issues. It was confirmed that Jackie Robinson would forward a report to the Chair from West Midlands Ambulance Service regarding the new mental health ambulances, including details on their deployment and effectiveness following the meeting.

Members raised concerns about the capacity and support in emergency care, particularly at Redwoods, and the impact on patient admissions and discharges. Members were advised that the ICB and MPFT had commissioned an external company to do a bed modelling review and that this could be shared with the committee.

The importance of early intervention in schools to support children and young people's mental health was acknowledged. The discussion emphasized the need for clear pathways and support for young people transitioning from children's services to adult mental health services. Discussion also took place regarding support available to people who have been released from prison and the support available through the rough sleeping team.

A request was received for information on how Shropshire's mental health funding and service provision compare to other rural counties and details on local Key Performance

Indicators specific to rural Shropshire. It was also agreed that information on the number of home visits and virtual consultations conducted in rural areas would be provided.

20 Update from the Health and Wellbeing Board

The Executive Director for Health provided an update from the Health and Wellbeing Board from their meeting on 19 September 2024.

Members noted the main focuses were on the suicide prevention strategy, the inequalities plan, children and young people's JSNA, the cost of living dashboard and women's health hubs.

Members queried the agenda for the HWBB which had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. It was confirmed that the correct documents would be circulated after the meeting.

Members questioned whether statistics on previous suicide attempts being kept, and what interventions or strategies are used to help prevent further attempts. Members noted that detailed work was being undertaken to support individuals who have had previous suicide attempts, including additional funding for support. The effectiveness of interventions will be monitored and reported in future meetings.

In response to a request regarding the children and young people's JSNA report being available to members, particularly for Shrewsbury, members were advised that the thematic JSNA focusing on children and young people was available on the website. The place-based JSNA for Shrewsbury would be checked and reported back.

21 Update from the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC)

Members noted the last meeting of JHOSC focussed on the findings of the CQC report, particularly around urgent and emergency care. Members sought assurance that actions were being taken to alleviate overcrowding and address safety and safeguarding concerns highlighted in both the report and the documentary on Channel 4.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of transparency, communication, and the implementation of robust action plans with clear timelines. Members noted that it was agreed that the committee would work alongside the Integrated Care Board and hospital staff in an informal working group to focus on the trust's progress and the sustainable delivery of the must-use and should-use recommendations from the report.

Members were advised that the committee's next focus would continue to be urgent and emergency care, building on the work already undertaken and new learnings from the August meeting. Meetings had been arranged with West Midlands Ambulance Service to support this work, as well as with the Director of Public Health, Integrated Care Board, and hospital staff to understand work being done within the system on excess mortality.

Members' attention was drawn to the paper from NHS England regarding "transitional emergency spaces", together with concerns about the "freedom to speak up guardians" feeling reluctant to speak up due to their employment and reporting structure within the

hospital management. It was requested that these two areas were considered by the working group.

22 Work Programme

Members noted the work programme.

Suggestions for future topics of discussion included:

- Commissioning investment in local health services
- Housing and its impact on mental health
- A briefing on the children's JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) to understand the outcomes and recommendations.
- Comparisons with other rural areas to understand funding and service delivery better.
- The importance of understanding local KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and their relevance to rural Shropshire in terms of mental health commissioning.

23 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on 25 November 2024.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: