

**Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Monday 5 July 2021  
District/Borough Digest**

Under the Health Scrutiny Code of Joint Working with District and Borough Councils, Authorities have undertaken to keep relevant Partners informed of their consideration of health matters having regard to the general working principle of co-operation and the need to ensure a co-ordinated Staffordshire approach. Therefore, the following is a summary of the business transacted at the meeting of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 5 July 2021 - link to Agenda and reports pack:-

[Agenda for Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday 5th July 2021, 10.00 am - Staffordshire County Council](#)

The webcast of the meeting can also be viewed following the above link to mod.gov.

Agenda Item	District(s)/Borough(s)
<p><b>Restoration and Recovery</b></p> <p>The Committee received a presentation from CCG and NHS providers to outline the restoration and recovery plans for services across 3 provider organisations UHMN, UHDB and RWT acute Trusts and mental health services. The challenges for restoration were presented highlighting the demand for urgent and emergency care at the front door, capacity in critical care, work force resilience, winter pressures and mental health service demand.</p> <p>The three biggest risks to recovery were workforce resilience, ability to restore activities and widening health inequalities. It was reported that providers were starting to see increased referrals and were tackling the backlog list for procedures. All three provider organisations were looking at services that had been temporarily closed to agree what needed to happen next to stand them back up. In relation to Minor Injuries Units at Leek and Cannock which were temporarily closed due to the pandemic and staffing issues. Leek MiU was now open with limited hours, but Cannock Chase MIU remained closed. Simon Evans gave a commitment to attend Cannock Chase DC to provide an update.</p> <p>It was reported that partners were working collaboratively across various Trusts to facilitate recovery. Work was ongoing to ensure existing workforce and facilities were deployed efficiently. It was important to look after staff, to ensure support mechanisms and communications were in place. Patients in need of care the most were prioritised and communication with patients on waiting lists was ongoing to advise if care could be deployed to independent sector and also to validate that patients still want to proceed with procedures.</p> <p>Additional data was requested from each of the three provider organisations relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People waiting longer than 62 days for procedures</li> <li>• Staff vacancies</li> </ul>	<p>All Districts and Boroughs</p>

- Restoration and recovery action plans
- Specialist services action plan on backlog

It was agreed that a letter be sent to thank the NHS for the work that had been carried out through the pandemic and to congratulate the NHS for being awarded the George Cross.

### **Access to General Practice**

The Committee received a report and presentation to consider access to General Practice. The presentation provided context, activities and actions put in place during the pandemic to support general practice, key activities in June 2021 and a detailed action plan for general practice access updated on 1 July 2021.

It was reported that business continuity plans were upgraded during pandemic to include total triage and extended access hours. There had been a variety of responses to the use of telephone consultations and remote access to services. Members raised issues and concerns relating to equity of remote access for some people, cost of long waits on telephone calls and that that people wanted a face to face appointment with a GP.

In response to concerns raised, members were informed that an additional 100,000 calls a week were currently being made and some practices were struggling to meet demand. It was considered that public expectation was for access to be 'back to normal' and although GPs wanted to do more face to face consultations, there were different issues for each practice to address. Members were advised that some remote access measures would remain, additional telephone lines were being added and some surgeries were moving to cloud based solutions to reduce call waiting times. It was also explained that there were a range of healthcare professionals available to help patients in practices and a training programme for reception staff was progressing to advise patients what was available and how to access services.

Other concerns raised related to impact of GP vaccinating role on GP access, it was confirmed that vaccinations were in addition to the normal GP practice hours, and in relation to specific GP access issues in Rugeley, it was confirmed that this was being addressed and CCG was working closely with practices in Rugeley.

Members highlighted the need to develop GP practice sites to reflect the growth of housing development in the County and that the Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP) should ensure that developers contribute to infrastructure including doctors' surgeries. The Chair encouraged all District and Borough Members to consider statements in local plans and neighbourhood plans with regard to section 106 negotiations. The NHS was appointing to a planning officer role to work on and respond to consultations where more than 250 homes were being proposed to ensure the right capacity and access to primary care.

All Districts and  
Boroughs

Further information was requested about planning s106 agreement re Doctors Surgeries and consultation feedback from work with residents and practices on patient preference - perceptions, challenges and barriers.

### **Covid-19 Vaccination Programme**

The Committee received an update report and presentation from Programme Director on the latest position in the planned COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, the delivery of the first vaccination to be offered to all eligible adults over 18 by 19 July 2021 and the next steps in delivery.

A second CCG Covid-19 Webinar for all Staffordshire Members was taking place on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

### **Future Delivery of Residential Replacement Care Services in Staffordshire (Learning Disabilities)**

The Committee considered a report as pre-decision scrutiny. The Committee endorsed the commencement of an options appraisal for the future provision of replacement care for people with learning disabilities in Staffordshire, including engagement with service users, carers, and stakeholders. The results of will be presented to Cabinet in the third quarter of 2021.

### **Work Programme**

The work programme 2021-22 was presented, there will be an additional meeting 26 July 2021 to consider health impacts arising from Walleys Quarry, the meeting will be held in Newcastle Under Lyme and there will also be an opportunity for Members to see the landfill site.

All Districts and  
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Their next meeting will be held on Monday 9 August 2021 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.