

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

October 2022 District and Borough Council 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 meetings of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3 October 2022 and 17 October 2022.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 October 2022

System Pressures – Report and presentation from the Integrated Care System. All partners have a role to play in system flow and the report detailed the operational response for interventions being taken at each point of the pathway. Interventions were grouped in areas: Pre-hospital; In-hospital; Discharge; Learnings and Winter Planning.

Committee welcomed the work being done to mitigate and respond to pressures in the system. Pressures were considered in the system, the prevalent issues were workforce, demand, and acuity of patients compared to pre-covid. There were also significant pressures on domiciliary and care home provision, and it was noted that a discharge review was due to commence.

Integrated Care Board (ICB) Performance - The report provided context and detailed data relating to NHS services performance in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. Senior representatives from ICB commissioning and provider organisations responded to members questions on the eight portfolios based on current priorities: Population Health, Prevention and Health Inequalities; Planned Care; Children, Young People and Maternity; Frailty and Long-Term Conditions; Primary Care; Mental Health; Learning Disability and Autism; and Workforce.

Social Care Performance Update – The report focused on performance against objectives to ensure effective and efficient assessment of needs that offers fair access to services and maintain a market for care and support that offers services at an affordable price. The pressures on domiciliary and care homes were considered, and questions highlighted challenges around recruitment and retention of carers, the cost-of-living issues including cost of energy was putting pressure on care providers, demand for financial assessments over supply and some services may need review and redesign and care market development.

The Future of Supported Living Services in Staffordshire – The report detailed feedback from stakeholders on the future commissioning arrangements for Supported Living Services in Staffordshire. services work closely with NHS and members welcomed the suggestion to work towards integration in the future. Comments were reported back to Cabinet on 19 October 2022.

Clinical Policy Alignment – The report considered the five clinical areas under consideration which had been through prioritisation and involvement processes, technical events, and refining proposals. The clinical areas were: Male and Female sterilisation; IVF; Hearing loss; Breast Reconstruction and augmentation and Removal of Excess Skin following significant weight loss. Local needs were taken into consideration, the Integrated Care Board ICB had now taken over the role of 6 CCGs and provided one policy to implement based on clinical evidence. The Chairman welcomed the pragmatic approach taken by ICB in interweaving this clinical policy alignment work into the Women's Health Strategy.

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Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent ICS Workforce Update – The report and presentation outlined the workforce challenges within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, the appendices provided the ICB People Plan and Annual Report for 2020/21, in addition videos in the presentation highlighted good practice case studies.

Committee understood that demand and acuity of patients compared to pre-covid levels were the prevalent issues impacting on workforce. Staffing capacity and flow had been impacted by Covid spikes, and it was of concern that Covid levels were rising again. Assurance was given that health and care services were working together to address the workforce challenges and to develop the future workforce. Committee welcomed the work being done to mitigate and respond to workforce pressures in the system and the £4 million saving on redundancies in the system.

Workforce Planning - Health and Social Care – The report outlined current challenges on workforce in care, the importance of an attractive recruitment process and retention of staff. The Cabinet Member indicated the need to raise the status of social care and the importance of working together with NHS partners to have coherence and to develop the caring industry. Committee recognised the increasing demand on care resources, the need to make best use of resource, to look at assistive technology and digital technology for records to streamline processes, and to work with care companies on routes and care packages across the County. Members questioned data and information in the report and the action plan that sat behind the data.

Ockenden Report – The report provided an update on progress against the actions arising from the Ockenden report on Maternity Services and outlined areas where there was still work to do. The Committee noted the workforce issues in Maternity services but was re-assured by the progress and pleased that improvements were being made.

Inpatient services in south east Staffordshire for adults and older adults experiencing severe mental illness or dementia – The report provided responses to questions and requests for further information made at Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 August 2022. The Draft Standard Operating Procedure for Transport would be circulated to Members once comments were received from stakeholders. NHS England had provided feedback on the business case for inpatient mental health services in September 2022. A further report was requested once the NHS England Assurance Process had taken place in November 2022. No decision had been made at this point.

To see the reports in full and view the webcast of the meeting see the links below:

[Agenda for Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday 3rd October 2022, 10:00am - Staffordshire County Council](#)

[Agenda for Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday 17th October 2022, 10:00am - Staffordshire County Council](#)

The next meeting will be held on Monday 28 November 2022 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.