

## Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### 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 17 and 29 July 2024.

#### Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

##### SSOT ICB Performance

The Committee considered the SSOT ICB performance and received an overview of key underpinning deliverables in 7 portfolio headings:

- Children and Young People/ Maternity
- Planned Care, Diagnostics & Cancer
- Improving Population Health
- Urgent and Emergency Care
- Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism
- Primary Care
- End of Life, LTCS and Frailty

The Committee noted the report and requested to receive an update on the Dental Strategy to Committee (scheduled on the Work Programme for January 2025) and an update detailing the challenges, financial investment and the ICBs plan to reduce the waiting time for autism assessment.

##### 24/25 System Operational Plan

The Committee considered the 24/25 operational plan.

It was reported that within the plan there were 2 key aims and 5 high level operational priorities:

Aims:

- Safe, timely and sustainable care.
- Meeting the capacity challenge

High Level operational priorities:

- Eliminate delays in access to treatment and long waits for care
- Improving access to high quality sustainable primary care
- Delivering joined up proactive and preventative support and care across all pathways
- Delivering compassionate care of the frail and elderly.
- Supporting Care Home Residents

The ICB had agreed a financial recovery programme which was a core part of the operational plan and was essential in the return to a sustainable financial position for the system. The deficit for 2023/24 was £91million.

The Committee received the report.

## **Urgent and Emergency Care Strategy, Lessons learned from Winter and Urgent treatment Centre designation**

The Committee considered a report from the ICB on Urgent and Emergency Care Strategy, Lessons learned from Winter and Urgent treatment Centre designation

The Committee were advised that as a recurrent part of the ICS Winter Surge Planning process a thorough assessment and review of the plan's effectiveness post winter would take place. It was reported that a system wide lessons learnt workshop event was held on 17 April 2024.

The Committee were also advised that in July 2017, NHS England produced Principles and Standards to be achieved for the formal designation of Urgent Treatment Centres. System partners had developed recommendations for designating Urgent Treatment Centres across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent aligning with the Urgent and Emergency Care Strategy. It was reported that the promotion of engagement activity events would begin in July 2024 for 10 weeks.

As part of the engagement for Urgent Treatment Centres, there would be discussions about the sites which did not meet the UTC specification and the future model of services.

The Committee requested to receive an update on Cannock Chase MIU and received the report.

## **Plan for Commissioning Care Homes and Development of Additional Nursing Capacity.**

The Committee considered the plan for commissioning care homes and development of additional nursing capacity and were informed that there were 250 care homes in Staffordshire and 7950 beds registered with the CQC.

The Committee noted and endorsed the need to replace two current care homes and Meadowrythe and Bracken House and noted the opportunity to do that and provide additional capacity with two new build homes.

The Committee made three recommendations relating to the new build homes and received the report.

## **Maternity Services update.**

The Committee received two reports relating to Maternity services, a general overview and an update to the Intrapartum services previously provided at County Hospital and Samuel Johnson Community Hospital.

The Committee commented that the report was weighted towards the north of the County and requested an update for the whole County.

The Committee were informed that a technical event held in September 2023, clinicians reviewed seven potential proposals to develop a shortlist of viable proposals for the Freestanding Midwifery Birthing Units (FMBU). At the event it was recommended that there was only one viable option which was to make permanent the temporary closure of the FMBUs.

The Committee made a number of recommendations including that the consultation should be for 12 weeks to allow input from District and Borough Councils and that the demographic data relied on in the report be updated due to new and ongoing development in the County.

### **Health Impacts of Walleys Quarry**

The Committee received representations from the County Council's Director of Public Health, the UK Health Security Agency and the Environment Agency.

It was reported that the results for hydrogen sulphide in May 2024 were above the World Health Organisation odour annoyance guideline value for a significant percentage of the time at the monitoring station MMF9 and a considerable percentage of the time at the monitoring station MMF1.

The UKHSA reported that the risk to long term health cannot be excluded, where concentrations were above the long-term health-based guidance value. Currently the risk was likely to be small, but the longer the exposure is above the US Environment Protection Agency RfC, the greater any potential risk.

The Committee endorsed the UKHSAs strong recommendation that all measures be taken to reduce the off-site odours from the landfill site, to reduce the health impacts experienced in the local community and agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to re-highlight local concerns to resolve the issues at the site.

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

[Browse meetings - Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Staffordshire County Council](#)

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23 September 2024 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.

