

Notes

of the Informal Meeting of the

Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Monday, 18th October 2021

held on Microsoft Teams

Meeting Commenced: 13:30 Meeting Concluded: 16:34

Councillors:

P Ciaran Cronnelly (Chairman)
P Caroline Cherry (Vice Chairman)

A Marc Aplin
A Andy Cole
A Hugh Gregor
A Karin Haverson
P Sandra Hearne
P Ruth Jacobs
P Huw James
P Ian Parker
A Timothy Snaden
P Roz Willis

A Georgie Bigg (Co-opted Member)

P: Present
A: Apologies for absence submitted

Other Members in attendance:

Councillor Ann Harley

Health colleagues in attendance: Colin Bradbury (BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group); Dr Holly Paris (168 Medical Group).

Officers in attendance: Matt Lenny, Ted Sherman, Finley Kidd (Public Health), Hayley Verrico (ASSH), Leo Taylor, Brent Cross (Corporate Services).

HEA Chairman's Welcome (Agenda Item 1)

The Chairman welcomed Members, officers and health colleagues to the informal meeting.

HEA Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th July 2021 (Agenda Item 2)

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting be noted, for approval at the next formal meeting of the Panel.

HEA Recruitment to and development of the integrated frailty and care home model (Agenda Item 4)

The Panel agreed that this item be taken early.

The Area Director – North Somerset (BNSSG CCG) introduced the Frailty Lead GP for 168 Medical Group, who presented the report on phase 1 of the Care Home Hub model.

The challenges facing Weston-super-Mare's 72 care homes and a set of proposed solutions were discussed, along with some early feedback and the steps leading up to phase 2 of the project.

Members, officers and health colleagues discussed the following:

The model would be a start in developing a better system, and the learning and experience gained in the process would be extrapolated to fulfil wider community need. There was no distinction made between how residents were funded when providing support, and Home First was still the advice from officers when releasing patients from hospital. North Somerset Council was paying care workers Proud to Care bonuses, which included retention bonuses to attract a longer term work force, and all contracts for care work in North Somerset had now changed to allow care workers to be paid for the full hours they were scheduled (as opposed to not being paid when appointments were cancelled at short notice). The funding for the Care Home Hub service would be recurrent.

Concluded: that the report be received, and that comments be sent to officers in the form of minutes.

HEA Planning for winter pressures (Agenda Item 3)

The Area Director – North Somerset (BNSSG CCG) and the Director of Adult Social Services and Housing each presented on plans for addressing pressures on the health and care services over the winter period.

The reports highlighted statistics for local NHS trusts compared to national averages, updates on primary care and Covid-19 vaccinations, workforce challenges and the wider initiatives in place to improve delivery of urgent care during winter 2021/22 including details of the Innovation and Sustainability grant.

Members discussed the following points: the perceived low take-up of the Covid-19 vaccine in some localities; the availability and uptake of the flu vaccine for healthcare workers; the priority list for flu vaccines; how the incorrect Covid-19 tests at the Wolverhampton laboratory had affected Covid-19 rates in North Somerset; that exceptional exemptions for the mandatory vaccination of care home workers would not continue past Christmas; the need to lobby central government for further positive intervention in the care sector.

It was then:-

Concluded: that

- 1) the reports be received, and that comments be sent to officers in the form of minutes; and that
- 2) the Director of Adult Social Services provide an update on the outcome of the Innovation and Sustainability grant bids to a future meeting.

HEA Update on action to address local substance misuse needs and improve outcomes (Agenda Item 5)

The Director of Public Health and Regulatory Services presented the report providing an overview of the support available for people with substance misuse and mental health needs in North Somerset.

Concluded: that the update be received, and that comments be sent to officers in the form of minutes.

HEA Update on action to support local sexual health needs and improve outcomes (Agenda Item 6)

The report was presented by the Director of Public Health, and gave details of the key areas of support available to people in North Somerset in order to support discussion on how best to meet local needs going forward.

The challenges and impacts of Covid-19 were examined, as well as mandatory Relationships and Sex Education in schools, school clinics and support for Weston College, contraception and chlamydia treatment in Primary Care, the Unity specialist level 3 service (whose contract had been extended to March 2024), Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to reduce risk of HIV transmission, and terminations of pregnancy. Next steps for future work were also discussed.

In discussion, Members suggested that doing more to raise awareness of sexual health issues and treatment was important as many people did not seem to be aware of the availability of these. The perceived intimidating nature of the Wish clinic at Weston Hospital was also discussed.

Concluded: that the update be received, and that comments be sent to officers in the form of minutes.

HEA The HOSP Work Plan October 2021 (Agenda Item 7)

The Chairman outlined the current work plan and it was agreed that the work of the Central Weston Estate working group had concluded; that the joint working group with the Children and Young People's Services Panel on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) would continue after the provider, AWP, had come back to the group; and that a working group to look at Weston Hospital's integration with UHB to form UHBWT was in the process of being formed.

Concluded: that the work plan item be updated in accordance with the above.

Chairman
