

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee – 1 February 2021

District and Borough Health Scrutiny Activity

Recommendation

1. That the report be received, and consideration be given to any matters arising from the Health Scrutiny activity being undertaken by the Staffordshire District and Borough Councils, as necessary.

Report of the Scrutiny and Support Manager

Background

2. The Health and Social Care Act 2001 confers on local authorities with social services functions powers to undertake scrutiny of health matters. The County Council currently have responsibility for social services functions but, to manage health scrutiny more effectively, they have agreed with the eight District/Borough Councils in the County to operate joint working arrangements.
3. Each District/Borough Council has a committee dealing with health scrutiny matters that have a specifically local theme. The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee will continue to deal with matters that impact on the whole or large parts of the County.
4. The following is a summary of the health scrutiny activity which has been undertaken at the District/Borough Council level since the previous meeting of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee.

Cannock Chase District Council

5. Cannock Chase District Council's Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee met on 17 November 2020 and an update on the matters considered is anticipated to be made at the meeting of Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee.

East Staffordshire Borough Council

6. East Staffordshire Borough Council's Scrutiny Community Regeneration, Environment and Health and Well Being Committee met on 16 December 2020 and an update on the matters considered is anticipated to be made at the meeting of Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee.

Lichfield District Council

7. Lichfield District Council's Community Housing and Health (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee met on 14 January 2021 at which they received a presentation from the County Council's Strategic Delivery Manager for Lichfield and East Staffordshire on progress being made on the construction of a new General Practitioner (GP) facility at the Greenhouse site, Burntwood.
8. The Committee also discussed other health matters which they considered should be raised with the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee including:- (i) news that the George Bryan Centre would not reopen despite previous assurances to the contrary; (ii) the poor performance of South East Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and; (iii) the need for a permanent Health Centre in Burntwood to replace the current temporary arrangements.
9. The use of beds at the two Community Hospitals in the District for Covid-19 patients was also discussed. The Together We're Better (TWB) team had previously assured them that Community Hospitals would continue to operate and it was therefore agreed they should be invited to a future meeting to provide an update.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

10. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's Wellbeing & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee met 7 December 2020 at which they considered a report from Cabinet which included:-
 - Homelessness, rough sleeping and temporary accommodation services - Members were updated on various matters including the work of the Newcastle Housing Advice Service (NHAS) which was due to be brought in-house in April 2021 and the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol;
 - Domestic Abuse services – the weekly Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference had seen fairly consistent numbers of cases but services had seen a rise in more complex cases with greater risk and an increase of abuse from adult children to parent.
 - Work undertaken to ensure visitors feel safe with the reopening of the Town Centres post the first lockdown - Members received information on the provision of Marshals and how the service was resourced.
11. In addition they considered:- (i) the Temporary Accommodation Policy and discussed provision both within and outside the Borough; (ii) the latest digest from Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee; (iii) a report on a meeting with the Clinical Commissioning Group and; (iv) their Work Programme.
12. They agreed that the agenda for the next meeting on 1 March 2021 would include items on:- (i) Domestic Abuse; (ii) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and; (iii) a presentation on a project by the New Vic theatre about how faith and race hate could be tackled.

South Staffordshire District Council

13. South Staffordshire District Council's Wellbeing Select Committee met on 22 December 2020 and an update on the matters considered is anticipated to be made at the meeting of Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee.

Stafford Borough Council

14. At their meeting on 5 January 2021 Stafford Borough Council's Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee considered:- (i) a Members' Item relating to Safeguarding in the Borough; (ii) a Members' Item relating to Bereavement in the Borough; (iii) a Members' Item relating to Council Tax Payments for Vulnerable People in the Borough – which was referred to the Council's Resources Scrutiny Committee; (iv) a report concerning the Community and Health Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/2021 - 2023/2024 and Capital Programme 2020/2021 - 2023/2024; (v) a report concerning the Environment Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/2021 - 2023/2024 and Capital Programme 2020/2021 - 2023/2024; (vi) a report concerning the Leisure Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/2021 - 2023/2024 and Capital Programme 2020/2021 - 2023/2024 and; (vii) a report concerning the Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for forthcoming meetings during the Municipal year.
15. The next meeting of their Committee is scheduled for 2 March 2021.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

16. Staffordshire Moorland District Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel met on 22 December 2020 at which the County Council's Director for Health and Care and Cabinet Members for Health, Care and Wellbeing and Commercial Matters provided an update on Covid-19 and responded to questions from councillors.
17. The Panel had now taken the lead on the scrutiny of the temporary closure of the Leek Minor Injuries Unit so representatives from the Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust attended and listened to Members' concerns, replied to questions and provided the latest information on the temporary closure of this facility.
18. Members also debated the effects of the North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's decision not to provide hearing aids for patients with mild hearing loss. They were concerned for residents of Staffordshire Moorlands with existing NHS hearing aids, who were required to travel to Hanley to access maintenance services. They therefore agreed to write to the CCG's Accountable Officer about this matter.
19. The Panel also considered their Work Programme and added an item on hospital discharge, as they had recently been made aware of instances of patients being discharged without proper care packages in place.

Tamworth Borough Council

20. Tamworth Borough Council's Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee met on 8 December 2020 at which they considered:-
 - Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect - The Committee received a bi-annual safeguarding updates from the Partnership Vulnerability Officer which provided an update on referral statistics received through the borough council reporting procedure for the period 1 April to 30 September 2020. An overview was

also provided on:- (i) the safeguarding service which continued to operate throughout the pandemic; (ii) the Stoke-on-Trent and the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Boards which remained two separate bodies; (iii) safeguarding training – including the development of eLearning modules and the ongoing taxi driving training; (iv) the work of the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Panel; (v) the work underway on a Suicide Prevention Procedure and; (vi) recently issued guidance on the PREVENT agenda.

- Interim Update on Working Group on Young People - The Committee received an update from the Chair of this working group on their progress to date.

21. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 26 January 2021.

Appendices/Background papers

Emails from (i) Lichfield District Council (Christine Lewis) dated 13 January 2021; (ii) Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council (Denise French) dated 13 January 2021; (iii) Stafford Borough Council (Andrew Bailey) dated 13 January 2021; (iv) Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (Sally Hampton) dated 21 January 2021 and; (v) Tamworth Borough Council (Jo Hutchinson) dated 13 January 2021 to Jonathan Lindop, Member and Democratic Services.

Contact Officers

Nicholas Pountney, Scrutiny and Support Manager
01785 276153
nicholas.pountney@staffordshire.gov.uk

Jonathan Lindop, Scrutiny Support Officer
01785 276147
Jonathan.Lindop@staffordshire.gov.uk