

WORK PROGRAMME – 1 February 2021

Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee 2020/21

This document sets out the work programme for the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee for 2020/21.

The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee is responsible for:

- Scrutiny of matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the Authority's area, including public health, in accordance with regulations made under the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and subsequent guidance.
- Scrutiny of the Council's work to achieve its priorities that Staffordshire is a place where people live longer, healthier and fulfilling lives and In Staffordshire's communities people are able to live independent and safe lives, supported where this is required (adults).

Link to Council's Strategic Plan Outcomes and Priorities

Be healthier and more independent

A joined up approach to **Health, Care and Wellness** that encourages people to take responsibility for their own health and plan for their future, so that we can support those who really need it.

We review our work programme from time to time. Sometimes we change it - if something comes up during the year that we think we should investigate as a priority. Our work results in recommendations for NHS organisations in the county, the County Council and sometimes other organisations about how what they do can be improved, for the benefit of the people and communities of Staffordshire.

Councillor Jeremy Pert

Chair of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

If you would like to know more about our work programme, please get in touch with Nick Pountney, Scrutiny and Support Manager on nicholas.pountney@staffordshire.gov.uk

In Staffordshire, the arrangements for health scrutiny have been set up to include the county's eight District and Borough Councils. The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee is made up of elected County Councillors and one Councillor from each District or Borough Council. In turn, one County Councillor from the Committee sits on each District or Borough Council overview and scrutiny committee dealing with health scrutiny. The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee concentrates on scrutinising health matters that concern the whole or large parts of the county. The District and Borough Council committees focus on scrutinising health matters of local concern within their area.

| Date | Topic | Background/Outcomes | |
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| Committee Meetings, Reviews and Consultations | | | |
| | | Background | Outcomes from Meeting |
| 15 April 2020 (additional meeting) | Modernising Adult Social Care Programme. An update, containing an evaluation of the introduction of the service (SCC) | | Meeting cancelled |
| May/June 2020 TBC (Informal Meeting) | Staffordshire Health and Care Green Paper - - Informal Workshop | | |
| Scrutiny Review (Public session July 2020 TBA) | Urgent Care and Delayed Transfers of Car. | Item raised at Triangulation meeting. | Currently on-hold |
| 8 June 2020 | Community First Responders – Reconfiguration by West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust | | <p>RESOLVED – (a) That the report/presentation be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That the impact of the above-mentioned changes on the Trusts' performance metrics be monitored closely and that further scrutiny of the Trusts' operations be undertaken at the appropriate time, as necessary.</p> <p><i>Members scrutinised and held West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust to account over their recent decision to make changes to (i) the vehicles used by Community First Responders (CFRs); (ii) range of drugs routinely carried by CFRs and; (iii) the training received, and qualifications attained by CFRs. In addition, they learned of the Trust's expectations for the future of the CFR initiative having regard to these changes and the impact on service delivery to the residents of Staffordshire.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst the Trust were unable to re-visit their decisions, they acknowledged the Committee's criticisms regarding the limited consultation and communication with local communities undertaken prior to implementation of the new arrangements. They therefore undertook to ensure that such measures on future service reconfigurations were robust, meaningful and took account of local concerns. In addition, the Trust gave the Committee assurances regarding the future of the CFR service in general and the contribution they foresaw it would make to the continued provision of an Outstanding service to the residents of the County.</i></p> |

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| <p>6 July 2020</p> | <p>(i) Staffordshire Healthwatch Contract Update (SCC)</p> | | |
| <p>(ii) CCG – Financial Exception Report (CCGs)</p> <p>(i) Mental Health Burden and 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic in Staffordshire (Mental Health Trusts)</p> <p>(ii) Residential Care Provision and 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic in Staffordshire (SCC)</p> | <p>Requested at Committee meeting on 16 September 2019 .</p> <p>Requested following Committee meeting on 8 June 2020.</p> | <p>RESOLVED - (a) That the reports/presentations be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That the contact details of Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation and North Staffordshire Combined Health Care NHS Trusts' 24/7 emergency mental health helpline (to be supplied) be circulated to (i) Members of the Committee; (ii) all Staffordshire County Councillors and (iii) Leaders of all Staffordshire District/Borough Council's for dissemination, as appropriate.</p> <p>(c) That the Chairman highlights the importance of improving links between NHS mental health service providers and schools having regard to the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic, with Staffordshire County Council's Cabinet Members for Learning and Employability and; Children and Young People, as necessary</p> <p>(d) That the mental health burden arising from the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic in Staffordshire be monitored closely and that further scrutiny of mental health service providers be undertaken at the appropriate time, as necessary.</p> <p>They received a joint presentation/report from (i) the Director of Health and Care; (ii) Chief Executive of Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and; (iii) Chief Executive Officer North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust regarding the mental health burden arising from the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic in Staffordshire.</p> <p>Members scrutinised and held the Trusts to account over the various measures they had implemented to deal with the effects of the Pandemic including:- (i) service changes to comply with social distancing guidelines; (ii) forward planning for a potential increase in demand; (iii) ensuring access to services by existing patients were maintained and; (iii) their efforts to reach residents in high risk groups who were not already known to providers. With regard to the County Council's Public Health responsibilities, they heard that whilst the longer-term effects of the pandemic were not yet known, actions to improve mental health in the wider population would require a sustained system-wide, multi-agency approach lasting many years.</p> <p>In response to the above, the Committee identified certain immediate actions aimed at improving access to services in the County.</p> <p>RESOLVED - (a) That the presentation/report be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That the impact of the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic on Care Homes in Staffordshire be monitored closely and that further scrutiny of relevant commissioners be undertaken at the appropriate time, as necessary.</p> <p>They received a presentation/report from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing regarding Residential Care Provision and the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic in Staffordshire.</p> <p>Members learned that whilst approximately 50 % of Care Homes in the County had recorded at least one case of the virus (amongst residents and staff), all Homes had been affected to a degree (i) operationally; (ii) clinically and/or; (iii) financially. However, in line with Central Government requirements, the County Council had implemented a Care Homes Support Plan to provide (i) Advice and guidance; (ii) training in</p> | |

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| | | | <p>infection control; (iii) supplies of Personal Protective Equipment; (iv) surveillance and response to cases and outbreaks; (v) Clinical support; (vi) testing; (vii) intensive support with staffing where required; (viii) arrangements to reduce the movement of staff and; (ix) additional funding. They were pleased to note that the plan had helped to alleviate the position in respect of the above-mentioned areas but agreed to keep Staffordshire's response to the Pandemic under review as the situation both nationally and locally developed.</p> |
| <p>10 August 2020</p> | <p>Backlog of hospital appointments as a result of Covid-19 (Acute Trusts, CCGs).</p> | <p>Requested at pre-Agenda preview on 26 June 2020.</p> | <p>RESOLVED – (a) That the presentation/report be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That the impact of the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic on the backlog of hospital appointments be monitored closely and that further scrutiny of health Partners be undertaken at the appropriate time, as necessary.</p> <p>The Committee received a joint presentation/report from (i) Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG); (ii) University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust; (iii) School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS); (iv) University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust and; (v) Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust regarding the backlog of hospital appointments arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Members were provided with detailed statistical and graphical information relating to:- (i) Capacity; (ii) performance against the NHS Two Week Cancer Wait Target; (iii) progress in reducing the 62 and 104 Days Cancer Pathways backlogs; (iv) Cancer Endoscopy Waits; (v) progress with regard to the implementation of various Cancer Screening Programmes; (vi) Follow-up Appointments; (vii) Routine Surgery Referral to Treatment Pathway Waiting Lists; (viii) Accident and Emergency Unplanned Pathways and; (ix) Inpatient and Outpatient Activity etc.</p> <p>Members scrutinised and held the CCGs, Trusts and SAIS to account over their performance asking questions and seeking clarification where necessary. They learned that whilst the Pandemic initially had a significant impact on the NHS, many of those services which had been halted, were now in the process of being restored. Other services such as routine GP appointments had adapted/been managed remotely during the crisis in order to comply with social distancing guidelines. In addition, they were pleased to note that Staffordshire NHS Trusts/CCGs had robust plans in place for the recovery period until March 2021 and had refreshed their long-term Plans to take account of the significant change in circumstances which had occurred including identification of future risks and challenges and appropriate measures to mitigate their impact. Also, the joint working which had taken place in Health was noted and welcomed.</p> <p>The Committee went on to make various suggestions as to how the recovery phase could be improved for the benefit of residents in the County and undertook to keep the developing situation with regard to Covid-19 under close scrutiny, as necessary.</p> |
| <p>14 September 2020</p> | <p>(i) Winter Plans (Acute Trusts, CCGs, SCC).</p> | <p>Requested at pre-Agenda preview on 26 June 2020.</p> | <p>RESOLVED – (a) That the report/presentation be noted.</p> <p>(b) That the impact of the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic on the implementation of NHS Winter Plans be closely monitored and any further scrutiny be undertaken at the appropriate time, as necessary.</p> <p>The Committee received a joint presentation/report from (i) Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs); (ii) University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust; (iii) University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust and; (iv) Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and (v) County Council regarding the impact of the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic and their Winter Plans for the 2020/21 season.</p> <p>Members were provided with a PowerPoint presentation, in advance of the meeting, setting out detailed information on Health and Care's Winter Plans including:- (i) Phase Three National Restoration and Recovery Priorities; (ii) Restoration and Recovery: Waiting Lists Update; (iii) Assumptions this Winter informed by data relating to Accident and Emergency Attendances, Primary Care Appointments, NHS 111 Analysis; (iv) Areas of Focus; (v) Mental Health; (vi) Planning for Covis-19 Surges; (vii) Communications</p> |

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| | (ii) Hearing Aids (CCGs) | | <p>and Engagement; (viii) Risks and Mitigations; (viii) National Discharge Service: Policy and operating Model; (ix) Discharge Pathways – System Success; (x) additional submitted Trust specific information.</p> <p>Following a brief oral instruction from Staffordshire CCGs Accountable Officer, Members scrutinised and held the Trusts/organisations to account over the scope, timeliness and details of their Plans, asking questions and seeking clarification where necessary. They were encouraged by the extent of the preparations which had been made notwithstanding existing system pressures during the year and continued uncertainty surrounding the course of the Pandemic. They learned that Health and Care's focus would be to restore services previously stood down or curtailed whilst ensuring patients/service users remained safe. In addition, measures were being implemented to maintain capacity in primary and secondary care whilst endeavouring to manage demand by keeping people well through eg implementation of the extended national flu vaccination programme and preparing for a Covid-19 vaccine to become available. However, the Committee noted the various challenges which were likely to continue over the winter period, including recruitment of Doctors to General Practice, waiting times for certain elective procedures and the adverse effects of the outbreak on mental health in the general population. In response to requests for assistance, the Committee stated their willingness to work jointly with system Partners, particularly in area of communication and engagement, as necessary, for the benefit of residents in the County.</p> <p>RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That details of cost savings/cost effectiveness of North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's 2015 policy change relating to NHS hearing aid provision be shared with the Committee, as soon as possible.</p> <p>(c) That the results of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Group's informal 'Difficult Decisions' consultation conducted in January to March 2020 be shared by with the Committee, as soon as possible.</p> <p>(d) That the Committee keep this matter under review and any further scrutiny of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups' policies in respect of NHS hearing aid provision be undertaken at the appropriate time, as necessary.</p> <p>The Committee received an update report from Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCGs) Accountable Officer regarding NHS hearing aid provision in Staffordshire. This followed reconfiguration of the existing service for people with mild age-related hearing loss by North Staffordshire CCG and subsequent County-wide review by all CCGs following publication of the findings of a Cochran review in 2017 and change in guidance from The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Initial consultation and engagement with stakeholders regarding future hearing aid provision had taken place between January and March 2020 as part of the Difficult Decisions programme's Listening Exercise. However, formal consultation had been postponed owing to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the need to support frontline services and adhere to social distancing requirements. Whilst the CCGs could not give an indication, at this stage, when the work would resume, they undertook to recommence it as soon as it was safe to do so.</p> <p>In response to a request, the CCGs Accountable Officer undertook to share the information received during the above-mentioned listening exercise, together with details of cost savings achieved from the revised policy, with the Committee, in the interim.</p> |
| 13 October 2020 | Invitation to attend meeting of Safe and Strong Select Committee for pre-deision scrutiny of Children's Transformation Plan | | |

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| | | | <p>The Committee also considered a report and PowerPoint Presentation from Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups' (CCGs) Accountable Officer updating them on the restoration and recovery of services following the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic including:- (i) The Impact of the Virus; (ii) Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Restoration and Recovery and Financial Plans; (iii) Key Risks and Challenges; (iv) Temporary Service Changes implemented following the outbreak; (v) Locally Driven Changes; (vi) Communications and Engagement; (vii) Next Steps and; (viii) Updates by specific service areas. Members then scrutinised and held the CCGs to account. In the full and wide-ranging discussion which ensued the Committee emphasised Health's statutory duty to consult on substantial variations in service provision, notwithstanding the implications of the pandemic. They were particularly concerned about the implementation of the extended Flu vaccination programme and any shortages of vaccine with might arise. However, they received assurances that current stocks of vaccine were adequate to meet the needs of Phases 1 (over 65-year olds) and 2 (over 50-year olds) in Staffordshire. However, they undertook to notify the CCGs of any difficulties which arose in this respect, in individual localities going forward. In addition, they encouraged Health to build on the lessons learned so far during the pandemic with regard to mental health services, virtual appointments and engagement with local communities and their representatives. They undertook to encourage local residents to present at GP surgeries in their divisions, as necessary and asked for benchmarking data relating to face to face and virtual appointments by practice so that areas of concern could be scrutinised further. They were re-assured that critical services such as cancer care had successfully been restored and went onto seek clarification of the status of various other local health facilities in the County which had been temporarily closed since the outbreak, highlighting the health inequalities which would have arisen as a result.</p> |
| <p>30 November 2020</p> | <p>(i) Community First Responders – Update from WMAS on progress following 8 June 2020 attendance and representatives from Association of Staffordshire Community First Responders</p> | <p>Requested at pre-Agenda preview on 28 August 2020</p> | <p>RESOLVED – (a) That the reports/presentations be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That further details of West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust's performance in respect of response times by area be provided to Members on request.</p> <p>(b) That the Trust consider:- (i) including Community First Responders (CFRs) in future Staff Satisfaction surveys and; (ii) reviewing the existing four mile radius from incident for deployment of CFRs following consultation with volunteers.</p> <p>(c) That the Staffordshire CFRs be thanked on behalf of the Committee for their valuable contribution to the work of the Trust in delivering essential health services to the residents of Staffordshire.</p> <p>(d) That further informal consultation and engagement meetings between Staffordshire CFRs and WMAS be brokered by the Committee, as required, in order to promote dialogue, co-operation and more effective working relationships between the parties.</p> <p>The Committee received a presentation/report from representatives of West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust updating them on the operation of the Community First Responders (CFR) Service in the County. This followed scrutiny of decisions taken by the Trust in April 2020 to make changes to the:- (i) vehicles used by CFRs; (ii) range of drugs routinely carried by CFRs in their voluntary capacity and; (iii) training received, and qualifications attained by CFRs, at their meeting in June 2020.</p> <p>The meeting was also attended by representatives of Staffordshire CRFs who outlined the impact of the changes from their perspective.</p> <p>Members heard that whilst 37 CFRs had resigned since implementation of the above-mentioned changes, further applications had been received from prospective participants, 97 of which had been shortlisted. The Trust re-affirmed their commitment to the scheme which they said would continue to be an integral part of their service to Staffordshire residents. In addition, they highlighted their performance against national key indicators which had been maintained notwithstanding the changes and additional pressures arising from the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic. However, they sought assistance from Members in providing evidence where service standards had been compromised as a result of the changes.</p> |

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| | (ii) Digital Exclusion (SCC) | Requested at pre-Agenda preview on 28 August 2020 | <p><i>The representatives of the Trust went on to re-assure the Committee of their willingness to improve dialogue with all stakeholders (including CFRs) and that the operation of the Scheme would be kept under review so that any further changes found to be necessary would be made in the interests of improving patient care.</i></p> <p>RESOLVED – (a) <i>That the report/presentation be noted.</i></p> <p>(b) <i>That further engagement with Members of the Committee be undertaken during the development of the County Council's Digital Exclusion Action Plan having regard to their knowledge of issues in the health arena.</i></p> <p><i>The Committee gave scrutiny to the work of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources in tackling digital exclusion and promoting digital inclusion to health services by residents in Staffordshire. The County Council had compiled a digital Exclusion Action Plan containing practical measures to promote greater connectivity, accessibility, skills and communication for delivery during 2020/21 and 2021/22.</i></p> <p><i>Members highlighted the need for closer scrutiny of the various initiatives included in the draft Digital Exclusion Action Plan 2020/21 to ensure that they were fully aligned with the County Council's aims and objectives. They also drew attention to changes announced in the Government's Spending Review which might impact on the roll out of Broadband connectivity to those communities not currently served. The Committee recognised that connection speed and Broadband width were key to ensuring digital inclusion in the health and care. However, whilst both factors were not always within the County Council's control, wider digital infrastructure requirements had been included in the Plan for co-ordination with Partners, as necessary. Members also expressed concern about the level of intergenerational support available for residents who were not currently IT savvy, during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. They recognised the valuable contribution that the younger generation could make in sharing skills and knowledge and looked forward to a time when schools could re-engage for the benefit of the wider community. These issues were acknowledged by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources who reassured them of his commitment to the on-going development of the Action Plan. In addition, an all Member virtual seminar would be held during the early part of 2021 in which they could contribute further having regard to their health remit. The Cabinet Member also spoke of the County Council's participation in 'NHS X' which involved the trialling of mobile portals in residential care settings in order to support the digital transformation of care and reduction of social isolation.</i></p> |
| 1 February 2021 | (i) Staffordshire Integrated Care System (CCG). (ii) Covid-19 Vaccinations Roll-out (CCG). | At the request of the Chairman on 9 January 2021 Ditto | |
| 16 March 2021 | (i) Care Homes - (a) Future Demand and; (b) Critical Issues. (ii) Digital Exclusion/Inclusion (CCG). (iii) Covid-19 Vaccination Roll-out – Update (CCG). | At the request of the Chairman on 9 January 2021 | |

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| 2021 (date to be confirmed) | Wider Determinants of Health – Inquiry Day (CCGs and SCC). | Requested at pre-Agenda preview on 28 August 2020 | |
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| Suggested Items | Background | Possible Option |
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| Role of Community Hospitals | The Committee wish to explore the role of the Community Hospitals within the wider Health Economy | North of the County – Part of the consultation with the Joint Committee with Stoke on Trent South of the County – Part of the STP consultation |
| Consideration of the range of approaches to sharing information between PCTs (Now CCGs) and education. | Referral from the Education Scrutiny Committee Closing the Gap Scrutiny Review. Scrutiny and Support Manager to undertake further work and report to the Committee | |
| 'Long' Covid-19 - Reponse by Health | Agreed at Committee meeting on 14 September 2020 to be scheduled into programme following discussion between Chairman and Vice-Chairmen | |
| Health Dashboard | Requested by Chairman at Committee meeting on 14 September 2020 | March 2021 proposed. |
| Workforce Planning | Requested by Chairman at Committee meeting on 26 October 2020 | |
| Difficult Decisions (including Hearing Aids update) (CCG). | Requested at Committee meeting on 14 September 2020. | |
| SCC Mental Health Strategy | Requested by Richard Deacon 21 October 2020 | June 2021 (indicative) |

| Chairman's Activity | Date | Issues for Committee |
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| Attendance at Outbreak Control Board Meetings | Various | |
| Meeting with Healthwatch Staffordshire | 19 October 2020 | |

Membership

Jeremy Pert Chairman)
Paul Northcott (Vice-Chairman)
Charlotte Atkins (Shadow Vice-Chairman)

Philip Atkins
Tina Clements
Janet Eagland
Ann Edgeller
Phil Hewitt
Dave Jones
Kath Perry
Jeremy Pert
Bernard Peters
Ross Ward

Borough/District Councillors

Ann Edgeller (Stafford)
Maureen Freeman (Cannock)
Richard Ford (Tamworth)
Barbara Hughes (Staffordshire Moorlands)
Adam Clarke (East Staffordshire)
Janet Johnson (South Staffordshire)
David Leytham (Lichfield)
Ian Wilkes (Newcastle-under-Lyme)

Calendar of Committee Meetings

at County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford. ST16 2LH
(at 10.00 am unless otherwise stated)

15 April 2020 (additional meeting) – Meeting Cancelled
8 June 2020
6 July 2020
10 August 2020
14 September 2020
26 October 2020
30 November 2020
1 February 2021
16 March 2021

NB: In considering their work programme for the year, Members are advised to have regard to the likelihood of referrals from Corporate Review Committee arising from the Covid-19 epidemic.