

At a meeting of the HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 3rd JULY, 2019 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D. Dixon in the Chair

Councillors Butler, Cunningham, Davison, Essl, Heron, N. MacKnight, McDonough and Mann

Also in attendance:-

Ms. Kathryn Bailey - Locum Consultant, Public Health
Ms Lynne Bennett – Governance Law Specialist, Sunderland City Council
Mr David Chandler – Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Chief Officer, Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group
Ms Debbie Cornell – Head of Corporate Affairs, Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group
Mr Nigel Cummings – Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr David Gallagher – Chief Officer, Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group
Ms Gillian Robinson – Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ms Joanne Stewart – Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

The Chairman opened the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Leadbitter, McClennan and O'Brien

Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 5th June, 2019

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 5th June, 2019 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest made.

Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group 2019/20 Operational Plan

The Deputy Chief Officer of Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated the Committee on the Sunderland CCG's 2019/20 operational plan, ratified by their Governing Body on 26th March, 2019.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Chandler, Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Chief Officer, Sunderland CCG, took the Committee through the plan advising that 2019/20 was year one of a new planning period for the CCG as the previous operational plan had covered a five year strategy from 2014 to 2019.

Councillor McDonough referred to 46.4% of children and young people in Sunderland with a diagnosable mental health condition receiving treatment from an NHS-funded community health service against a target set of 34% by March, 2020 and asked how services intended to improve their current performance, and then maintain that level, given ongoing pressures on resources and funding. Mr. Chandler advised that they were working with the Mental Health Trust to continue to improve access to mental health services, with the aim to having a single point of access to services for children and young people. He also informed Members that they had commissioned the use of the Kooth online counselling service which through the internet based platform allowed young people to have online conversations with counsellors and/or through moderated chat rooms.

In relation to funding for improvements, Mr. Chandler advised that there was an agreement that there would be a standard fixed amount of funding paid into improving mental health services this year and explained that they could always look to direct this towards certain services if the single point of contact was not enough to see the required improvements.

With regards to mental health services in other areas, such as accident and emergency rooms, the Committee were informed that what was in place at present was working well and were advised that the NHS were investing more resources into crisis teams allowing faster responses in key service areas.

Mr. Chandler commented that it would be a challenge to make sure that they were investing in the right areas to ensure improvements in mental health services continued but by listening and working with partner agencies they would continue to ensure that the right level of care was being provided in the right places.

Councillor Mann referred to the diagram showing the challenges to be faced in the context of Sunderland being a village of 100 people and commented on the 38 people which were living in the most deprived quintile, stating that this had to have a link to the obesity prevalence, the estimated smoking prevalence and the inequalities in life expectancy. She asked how they could start to address these issues in local communities. Mr. Chandler commented that services were aware of the challenges they faced and they did not want to see the gaps in health outcomes grow wider. They were undertaking prevention work to look at what could be done to reduce health inequalities and he reassured the Committee it was an area they were passionate and very focussed upon improving.

Councillor Heron commented on the works in relation to implementing the national Enhanced Health in Care Home Framework, specifically around the policies for hydration and nutrition and the sharing of best practices between care home managers and welcomed the continued roll out during 2019/20.

In response to a question from Councillor Butler around the good self-management of medication for chronic and persistent pain, Mr. Chandler advised that a lot of work was going in to that specific area with programmes around self-care and social prescribers such as looking to provide more suitable alternative exercise and rehabilitation programmes. They were looking to simplify the services so they were contained in one area but he assured Members that there would be more self care based programmes offered to patients unless there was a reliance for them to have a medical professional involved.

When asked which services the CCG commissioned in relation to this, Mr. Chandler advised that they commissioned services such as the community physiotherapist and the redesigned integrated musculoskeletal service which GP's could refer patients to for triage, who would then direct them to the most appropriate service.

Councillor Butler advised that in Durham they ran pain management programmes which were promoting more cognitive behavioural therapies to help patients cope better with pain, without giving them false hope of a pain-free lifestyle, and Mr. Chandler commented that Sunderland were looking at a very similar programme. They were actively tackling the issuing of high level opioid prescriptions and had allocated funding to help patients better understand the outcomes they could expect through pain clinic colleagues and their GP's. He advised that the resources that were saved on providing prescriptions could be used to provide alternative therapies for those patients and although it was going to be a challenging journey it was one which had to be addressed as they could not continue to prescribe high levels of medication.

Councillor Davison discussed cancer prevention and how screening was a very effective measure to take but stated that the report did not mention the percentages of people who contract lung cancer but who had never smoked and commented that these patients may not be picked up at regular check up's with their GP until they had symptoms, which by then may be too late. Mr. Chandler advised that there was a lot of work being undertaken to reform and change the way in which screening was offered to patients and advised of one such pilot scheme, whereby they would be approaching people, aged around 50-60, who were attending football matches or shopping precincts inviting them to go for a check-up scan. He advised that this was in addition to the regular cancer screening that was provided and commented that they would continue to look to bring new ways of increasing the numbers of patients being screened. In relation to data around the figures for non-smokers contracting lung cancer, Ms. Bailey advised that she could provide that information to Members.

In response to a query from Councillor Davison regarding the Red Bag Scheme, Mr. Chandler advised that the project was ran in conjunction with care homes across the city to make sure that residents can be easily identified when they are brought into hospital by having all their health related paperwork and personal belongings in a dedicated red bag. The bag stays with the care home resident from the moment they leave the care home in an ambulance and will stay with them throughout their assessment in the Emergency Department, stay on a ward and through their discharge back to the care home.

Councillor Davison referred to the overall goals for 2019-20 in relation to end of life care and asked if the Committee could receive regular updates on this to see how it

was progressing, which Mr. Chandler advised could be provided.

In response to a query from Councillor Davison around waiting times for referral to treatments reducing, Mr. Chandler advised that waiting lists were generally at around eighteen weeks and that they had a trajectory moving forward with NHS England to work to reduce those further. He advised that a consistent workforce was difficult to attract to some specialist areas which could pose a significant challenge to them but that it was an area of patient care that they would continue to work towards improving.

Councillor Davison also requested that she be provided with further information on the deliverable set out on page eleven of the Operation Plan; 'Continue to provide leadership to the statutory Child Death Review Process as the key statutory partner alongside the local authority.'

Councillor Dixon asked if, in terms of the Enhanced Health in Care Homes Framework, this was carried out in association with partners and was informed by Mr. Chandler that they would not work in isolation but very closely with the local authority and care home partners and that it would be more focussed on the level of care to each individual.

Councillor Cunningham commented that the next report on the agenda would highlight the current state of GP practices in the city as being very good and asked how the initial Golden Hello recruitment and retention programme was assessed and reviewed going forward. Mr. Chandler commented that the programme had been successful but commented that it was as part of a suite of measures which had been introduced to recruit GP's in Sunderland and that it should not be looked at in isolation to those other schemes. He reminded Members that the new Medical School would start offering places for study in September, 2019 and along with other schemes they felt that the future was bright.

In relation to a further question from Councillor Cunningham regarding patients engaging with GP's through less than traditional ways, such as email or through an app, and ensuring that the same standards of care were met, Mr. Chandler advised that it was early days in the use of technology. They were aware that there was information available that showed some models did work well and advised that there were a number of pilot sites underway which were being actively supported but advised that it was down to ensuring that they were improving access for patients to GP practices in new ways which fit current lifestyles.

Mr. Gallagher advised Members that the Operational Plan had been submitted to the meeting to allow the Committee to see the key areas of work for the upcoming year ahead but advised that he would be happy to bring back further information around the performance in relation to expected outcomes to a future meeting.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Chandler and Mr. Gallagher for their attendance, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the information within the overview of the CCG's 2019/20 Operational Plan be received and noted.

Care Quality Commission GP Inspection – Annual Report

The Chief Officer of Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an overview of inspections that have been undertaken by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in the NHS Sunderland CCG area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Cornell, Head of Corporate Affairs, Sunderland CCG, took the Committee through the report advising that the outcomes recorded reflected the hard work of GP practices in the city to continue to work towards continual improvements being made.

Councillor Heron commended GP practices in the city for their hard work and praised the CCG for their excellent report. Ms. Cornell thanked the Member and advised that they were undertaking further work to promote what had gone well for those practises which had received good and outstanding outcomes so they were hopeful they would continue to see more improvements over the coming months.

The Chairman agreed that it was an excellent report which illustrated the quality of GP practices in the city and commented that it provided reassurances to the Committee and patients that overall, they were providing good and safe care. He noted that there were a small number of practices that were last inspected in 2015 and asked if it would be expected that these would be due a CQC visit in the near future. Ms. Cornell advised that the process followed by the CQC would be dependent upon the outcome of their inspection and advised that from April, 2019 they had introduced the Annual Regulatory Review (ARR) for practices which were rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' and that for any practices rated as 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate' this would not apply and the CQC would continue to inspect within six or twelve months accordingly.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. Cornell for her report and attendance, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the information within the report be received and noted.

Policy Development & Review 2019/20: Approach to the Review and Setting the Scene

The Director of People, Communications and Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) which established background information and set out an approach to undertaking the review to assess the oral health of the Sunderland population and the case for interventions to improve oral health.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report advising of the overall aim of the policy review, the proposed terms of reference and how it was proposed to gather evidence. He also advised Members of the scope of the review and the expected timescales which the Committee would work towards.

Mr. Cummings advised new Members on the Committee that he would be providing a reading pack of information which would be circulated to them in due course and explained that the first meeting they held would allow them to set the scene in much more detail so that they would have the background of the current position in Sunderland before meeting with expert witnesses and looking to gather more evidence and information.

Ms. Kathryn Bailey, Locum Consultant in Public Health, advised the Committee that she had some information which had been received through an opinion survey in relation to the barriers to people in the city accessing dental services and she could look to provide this to Members. She also advised that she could provide information on the mapping of practises in and around the city.

Members having no further questions or comments, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-
- i) the Committee agree the titles of the review as 'Oral Health in Sunderland';
 - ii) the Committee agree the terms of reference for the policy review; and
 - iii) the Committee agree the proposed timetable for the review.

Annual Work Programme 2019/20

The Director of People, Communications and Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) which set out for Members information the current work programme for the Committee's work during the 2019-20 municipal year.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

6. RESOLVED that the work programme for 2019/20 be received and noted.

Notice of Key Decisions

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from 17 June, 2019.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

7. RESOLVED that the Notice of Key Decisions be received and noted

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

(Signed) D. DIXON,
Chairman.