

At a meeting of the HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 6TH JUNE, 2018 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D. Dixon in the Chair

Councillors Beck, Cunningham, Davison, Johnson, Leadbitter, N. MacKnight
McClellan, Middleton, and O'Brien.

Also in attendance:-

Ms Debbie Cornell, Head of Corporate Affairs, Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group

Mr Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

Ms Ann Fox, Director of Nursing, Quality and Safety, Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group

Mr Ben Landon, NHS North of England Commissioning Support Unit

Dr Tracey Lucas, Executive GP and Clinical Urgent Care Lead, Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group

Mr David Noon, Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

Councillor Paula Hunt, Vice Chair Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those councillors who were attending their first meeting as a member of the Committee and a round of introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Elliott.

Minutes of the last meetings of the Committee

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 28th March, 2018 and 11th April 2018 (copies circulated) be confirmed and signed as correct records subject to the reference on page 3 paragraph 2 (28th March) to 'minor injuries' being amended to read 'minor illnesses'.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest made.

Prior to introducing the next item the Chairman advised all present that he would like to acknowledge that some members of the Committee had expressed views on Urgent Care prior to this meeting and that he appreciated that it was a very emotive issue. Nevertheless he wished to emphasise at this point that all members of the

committee should consider the issues being presented at the meeting, with an open mind, listening to the presentation and engaging fully in the discussions before consideration was given to any response.

Urgent Care Consultation

Dr Lucas presented a report (copy circulated) of the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group which outlined the Group's consultation into Urgent Care which was launched on Wednesday 9th May 2018 and which consulted the public on the following issues:-

- Where do you think the Sunderland Extended Access Service should be located;
- What should the opening times be for the urgent treatment centre and the Sunderland Extended Access Service;
- Whether or not the urgent treatment centre and Sunderland Extended Access Service should be joined up;
- If there were any options or ideas that the CCG might have missed.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Appended to the report at appendix 1 for members information was a full stakeholder briefing note and appended at appendix 2 was the public consultation document, 'Making Urgent Care Work Better in Sunderland', for Members consideration.

In addition and to complement the report, Ms Fox provided the Committee with a comprehensive powerpoint presentation which outlined the case for change.

Members were informed that the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee had the opportunity to provide a response to the consultation and provide a written statement to Sunderland CCG before the deadline of 12th August 2018. Feedback from the consultation would take place in October 2018 and a final decision would be made by the CCG's Governing Body in December 2018.

The Chairman then invited questions and comments from Members.

Councillor Davison referred to the consultation mentioned on page 22 of the agenda and asked who, what and where? Mr Landon replied that it included on-line, libraries, community centres, GP practices, supermarkets and street surveys. The team was working across the city with the VCS network as they understood which areas would need targeting and could reach out to communities and hard to reach groups in a way the Team could not. Information on the consultation was displayed on all GP practice screens and on My NHS. The consultation would be an evolving process that was continually monitored to ensure representation across the board.

Councillor Davison advised that she had warned against using the BIC as a venue for a consultation session because of its inaccessibility via public transport. Ms Fox replied that the session had gone ahead as all the arrangements were in place however a session had also been undertaken in the North Area at the Bunny Hill Centre which had better transport links.

Councillor Davison added that she had previously noted that there were no paper information leaflets on the consultation at the Bunny Hill Centre and that this was still the case. She stated that it was essential that they were made available to engage with those people who had no internet access. She further stated that a closure of Bunnyhill would have a disproportionate impact as it was an area which ranked highly on the indices of multiple-deprivation. In conclusion Councillor Davison also expressed concern at the transport impact analysis undertaken as part of the Path to Excellence consultation which she believed had focused too heavily on desktop analysis to the detriment of field testing. She hoped that this consultation would be different in that regard.

Councillor McClellan queried whether the new urgent care centre would be serviced by existing GPs or existing GPs working as Locums, would the budget be greater than that for the current system, how much did the current system of Walk In Centres (such as Bunnyhill) cost to introduce and what would happen to the estate following the introduction of the new system?

Dr Lucas advised that the current system was staffed by Sunderland GPs and run by the Sunderland General Practice Alliance. She did not have the financial details to hand but it would be a deficit budget. With regard to the estate, the urgent care provision did not have exclusive use of the buildings, nor did the CCG own the property, its facilities were leased from NHS Property.

Councillors MacKnight and Johnston highlighted the difficulties residents from the Coalfield would have reaching an Urgent Care Centre based in central Sunderland on public transport especially after 6pm when buses were rare. Councillor Johnston also asked that the specific transport and travel event which had attended was also a feature of the main consultation events.

Councillor Macknight further questioned the long term viability of the Darzi Centres if the CCG withdrew its facilities and asked Dr Lucas to bring back further information to the Committee in this regard.

In response to enquiries from Councillor O'Brien, Dr Lucas advised that Pallion would be able to cope with an increase in demand and that modelling had been undertaken to cover that eventuality. The current waiting time in respect of 111 calls was a matter of minutes however the new system would not go live until October 2018.

In response to enquiries from Councillor Johnston regarding staffing of the new extended hours service and the urgent care centre, Dr Lucas advised that in terms of the extended hours service, including the 40,000 extra appointments, this was fully staffed in terms of GPs to the extent that she was only able to get two shifts herself up until the end of July. There was a full mobilisation plan in place which included Nurse Practitioners. With regard to a new Urgent Care Centre, Dr Lucas informed Councillor Johnston that a full analysis had been undertaken to ensure the workforce would be in the right place and that this would include utilising the expertise available within the current urgent care facilities.

In response to a further query from Councillor Johnston as to whether the Ambulance Service would come under greater pressure following the introduction of the new 111 service, Dr Lucas replied that she suspected the new service would

result in less pressure rather than more. The new 111 service would have a more robust clinician led triage ensuring the patient was given the right treatment and ensuring an ambulance was dispatched only when necessary. The new 111 service would go live in October 2018 with the new urgent care service earmarked to follow in April 2019.

In conclusion Councillor Johnston asked whether any consultation had been undertaken with staff in respect of the proposed changes to the Urgent Care service. Ms Fox advised that no formal meetings with staff had been held as no decisions had yet been taken in respect of the proposals. However staff had been involved in designing the consultation. Councillor McClellan expressed concern that the CCG were taking this approach in respect of staff consultation especially as this was something that had caused a major concern for the Joint Health Scrutiny when considering the Path to Excellence proposals.

Councillor Cunningham referred to difficulties in respect of the recruitment and retention of GPs in Sunderland and asked if this would result in the service ‘paying over the odds.’ Dr Lucas replied that the CCG had the budget it had and would need to spend it in the best possible way. The proposals aimed to increase capacity through integration and improving and expanding the skills mix by involving other healthcare professionals. There was a need to get better at streamlining services, making sure the patient saw the right person in the right place at the right time.

Councillor Cunningham also expressed concern that the proposals were inadequate in that the extended access service would not provide all the services currently provided at the walk in centres. Dr Lucas contended that if anything the service would be enhanced with the only difference being that the service would be located centrally rather than at the three walk in centres.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Hunt, Dr Lucas and Ms Fox advised that they would amend the graph in the presentation showing demand to include the additional appointments data to make it more meaningful. Dr Lucas advised that the bulk of appointments were still undertaken in primary care during normal hours with 6,000 GP appointments compared to 500 in urgent care. In response to a further enquiry from Councillor Hunt as to how many GPs within the GP Alliance operated as Locums, Dr Lucas advised that employment decisions were a matter of choice for the individual GP with regard to how they chose to operate whether as a partner, a salaried employee or as a locum.

There being no further questions for Dr Lucas, Ms Fox or Mr Landon, the Chairman thanked them for their attendance and complimented them on their candid approach to the discussion.

The Chairman stated that the Committee was being asked to provide a formal written response and would do so following the analysis of the consultation feedback in October 2018. If necessary it would submit an interim response by the August deadline.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the information contained in the report and presentation be received and noted;

ii) Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee members be invited to take part in field testing the travel and transport aspects of the proposals, and

iii) the CCG provide the Committee with further information in respect of the following issues:-

- Financial information in respect of the deficit budget
- The long-term viability of the Dazi Centres in the eventuality that the CCG withdrew its Urgent Care Services.

Annual Work Programme 2018/19

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching for Members' information, the draft work programme for the Committee's work to be undertaken during the 2018/19 council year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Davison having questioned when the feedback report on Sunderland Stroke Services was to be scheduled into the work programme, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that approval be given to the draft Annual Work Programme for 2018/19 and that emerging issues be incorporated into the plan as they arose throughout the year.

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 periods from 22nd May, 2018.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

4. 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 contributions.

(Signed) D. DIXON,
 Chairman.